

The Essential 100

A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. The passages are usually one to two chapters in length and can easily be read in 10 minutes or less.

One-page plan: Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit e100challenge.com. Our Sunday school website is stuartheights.org/sundayschool.

The Schedule: In the Beginning

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
January 2	Creation	Genesis 1:1	Genesis 1-2	Jim Fleming
January 9	The Fall	Genesis 3:1	Genesis 3	Jim Fleming
January 16	The Flood	Genesis 6:17	Genesis 6-7	Barry Cole
January 23	God's Covenant with Noah	Genesis 9:8-11	Genesis 8-9:17	David Barber
January 30	The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:5-7	Genesis 11:1-9	Jim Fleming

Sunday school class timeline

8:50: Breakfast ready (January 9: open, January 16: open, January 23: Goble/Archer, January 30: open)

9:07: Announcements (let me know prior to a Sunday if you have an announcement)

9:10: Lesson

9:40: Prayer requests at each table

9:45: Dismiss

9:50: Room cleared

In the Beginning: Creation

Preview: Meet the Author

Hebrew literature is often written irrespective of time—making it difficult to follow from a timeline perspective. There are two perspectives on creation: The big picture (**Genesis 1:1-2:3**) and the human-interest story (**Genesis 2:4-25**). However, the focus is not the timeline; the focus is introducing us to God. This is the happiest story in the Bible because everything is made perfect and complete (no sin).



Things to look out for that tell us about God: (1) He sets the stage for the rest of the Bible (“**and it was so**”), (2) He takes the **initiative**, (3) He **fills**, (4) He **inspects**, and (5) He is pleased

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 1-2 (Author = Moses)

Genesis 1

1 In the beginning God [the Hebrew is *elohim*—a plural name for God indicating multiple persons] **created** [*ex nihilo*—out of **nothing**] **the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form** [formless, chaotic, a wasteland], **and void** [empty]; **and darkness was** [in the NKJV, KJV, and NASB, words in italic type have been **added** for clarity—they are not found in the original languages)] **on** [hovered over] **the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4 And God saw [looked at, inspected] **the light, that it was good** [good, pleasant, agreeable, beneficial]; **and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening** [only used of one night] **and the morning** [only used of one day] **were the first day.**

6 Then God said, “Let there be a firmament [an extended solid surface that supported the heavens] **in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.**

9 Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass [grass, vegetation], **the herb** [herbs, green plants] **that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its**

kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*. **13** So the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; **15** and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. **16** Then God made two great [intense] lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made the stars also* [estimates say there are 10^{24} stars; there are only 10^{19} grains of sand in the earth (according to the University of Hawaii), so there are ~**10,000** stars for every grain of sand on the earth]. **17** God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, **18** and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was good*. **19** So the evening and the morning were the fourth day. [David Guzik: Many have great difficulty on how the sun, moon, and stars could be created on the fourth day, when light (including day and night) was created on the first day. . . . Revelation tells us of a coming day when we won't need the sun, moon, and stars any longer (Revelation 21:23). There's no reason why God couldn't have started creation in the same way He will end it.]

20 Then God said, “Let the waters abound [teem with, swarm] with an abundance of living creatures [insects, animals, small reptiles, quadrupeds], and let birds [birds and winged insects] fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” **21** So God created great sea creatures [literally, dragons] and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*. **22** And God blessed them [pronounced a blessing over them], saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” **23** So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle [representative of domesticated animals] and creeping thing and beast [literally, ‘alive’] of the earth, *each according to its kind*”; and it was so. **25** And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*.

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image [image, likeness, resemblance—the Hebrew root word is, ‘shade,’ so the idea is that man is a **shadow** of God], according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” [Note that God did not give us dominion over anything outside the earth] **27** So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful [imperative #1: **reproduce**] and multiply [imperative #2: **multiply**]; fill the earth [imperative #3: **fill**] and subdue it [imperative #4: **subdue**]; have dominion [imperative #5: **rule**—we (man) is to win/dominate over nature] over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

29 And God said, “See, I have given you every herb *that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food* [man was originally designed to be vegetarian—this was modified after the Flood]. **30** Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is life, I have given every green herb for food*” [animals were originally designed to be vegetarian]; and it was so. **31** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very* [exceedingly, abundantly] good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Genesis 2

1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. **2** And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested [active abstaining from work] on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. **3** Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it [set it apart], because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

4 This *is* the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, **5** before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD [first use of the tetragrammaton] God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was no man to till* [laboriously work] the ground; **6** but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

7 And the LORD God formed man *of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils* [nose, face] the breath of life [literally, ‘the spirit of being alive’]; and man became a living being [soul, self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion].

8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden [‘pleasure,’ ‘luxury,’ or ‘delight’], and there He put the man whom He had formed. **9** And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. **11** The name of the first *is* Pishon [‘increase’]; *it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.* **12** And the gold of that land *is* good. Bdelium [gum resin] and the onyx stone *are* there. **13** The name of the second river *is* Gihon [‘bursting forth’]; *it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush.* **14** The name of the third river *is* Hiddekel [‘rapid’]; *it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates* [‘fruitfulness’]. [Note: It is useless to try to determine the exact location of the Garden of Eden because the Flood changed everything—these rivers may or may not even exist today]

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend [work] and keep [protect, guard] it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

18 And the LORD God said, *“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper* [one who helps] *comparable to him.”* **19** Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. **20** So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. **22** Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought [led] her to the man. [David Guzik: We also know the Bride of Christ comes from the wound made in the side of the second Adam, Jesus Christ]

23 And Adam said:

“This is now bone of my bones

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man.” [The first recorded words out of Adam’s mouth were **poetry**]

24 Therefore a man shall leave [let go and leave] **his father and mother and be joined to** [stick with and join] **his wife, and they shall become one flesh** [one body]. [Note: Marriage is **becoming** what God has already **created**—very similar to the related concept involved in salvation where God declares us righteous at the moment of salvation, but in reality we are becoming like Jesus Christ during the process of sanctification (becoming what God has already created).]

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Apply (What is the point?)

1. Our words should be trustworthy
2. Taking initiative is being like God
3. Emptiness is not part of God’s design
4. Inspecting good work is pleasing

Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Acknowledge that God created it all and that it is all about Him
2. Understand that I am not God
3. Realize that if I want to know God, I must **know** His book

In the Beginning: The Fall

Review of last week: Meet the Author

Review of last week: God set the stage for the rest of the Bible by showing us that He was trustworthy, He takes initiative, He fills, He inspects, and He is pleased.

Preview: Eyes Wide Open (to sin)

The key thought for today's lesson: **Sin** has a profound effect on our relationships with God and others.

Things to look out for that tell us about God: (1) He **leaves** man alone (free will), (2) He **questions**, (3) He judges, (4) He intervenes, and (5) He **provides**. This is one of the saddest Biblical accounts—an epic fail.

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 3 (Author = Moses)

1 Now the serpent [snake; **Ezekiel 28:13-19**, **Revelation 12:9** and **Revelation 20:2** tell us that this was, in fact, the Devil/Satan] **was more cunning** [subtle, shrewd, prudent, crafty, sly, sensible—this word is used both positively and negatively in the Bible, but **2 Corinthians 11:3** tell us that this was why he was able to deceive Eve] **than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said** [no 'hidden' Hebrew meaning—the snake just talked—makes me wonder if other animals could speak at this time] **to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"** [This is not questioning God's word in order to prove it is true, this is questioning in order to deceive]

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden [this tree had a name—why did she not use it?], **God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"** [Eve **added** to what God said.]

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [False] 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [True]

6 So when the woman saw [saw, inspected, perceived] **that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant** [pleasant, desirable] **to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise** [insightful, prudent, comprehend things; this is the same order as the sin presented in **1 John 2:16b: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**], **she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked** [result of sin: **innocence lost**]; **and they sewed fig leaves together** [they tried to work to compensate for their sin—some things have not changed] **and made themselves coverings** [girdles or loincloths].

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool [literally, windy part] **of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves** [literally, to draw back, then to draw together, then to harden—they stuck together, but it was to avoid God and not to go to God; result of sin: **hiding**] **from the presence of the LORD God among** [in the middle of] **the trees of the garden.** [Man used trees to try to save himself. It is interesting that 4,000 years later God would use trees to save man by way of Jesus on the cross. The only way we can save ourselves is not to save ourselves—Jesus already did that.]

9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” [In Hebrew, the question is literally one word—ah (pronounced: eye'-yu), which means, “Where?”]

10 So he [Adam] said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid [result of sin: **fear] because I was naked; and I hid myself.”**

11 And He [God—notice the capitalized word—some translations do this] said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

12 Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” [result of sin: **avoidance**]

13 And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?”
The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” [result of sin: **blame**]

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: [David Guzik: God didn't ask Satan any questions, because there was nothing to teach him.]

**“Because you have done this,
You *are* cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go [which implies that the serpent did not go on its belly before],
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.** [result of sin: lower **status** (to the animal, not the Devil)]

**15 And I will put enmity [hatred]
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed [Seed (capital ‘S’) of a woman—this will be important later];
He shall bruise [bruise, crush, strike] your head [a mortal wound],
And you shall bruise [bruise, crush, strike] His heel.”** [a flesh wound, to the Devil, not the animal]

**16 To the woman He said:
“I will greatly multiply your sorrow [labor, pain] and your conception [pregnancy];
In pain you shall bring forth children; [result of sin: **pain**]
Your desire [desire, longing, craving] shall be for your husband [a woman’s desire for her husband is from God putting it in her by nature, a man’s desire for his wife is from God putting it in him by grace],
And he shall rule [rule, have dominion, reign] over you.”**

17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

“Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; [result of sin: cursed **earth]
In toil [labor, pain—same word used in **Genesis 3:16**] you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.**

**18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.**

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread

**Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.”** [result of sin: **death**]

20 And Adam [man, root word means, red] **called his wife’s name Eve** [life, living], **because she was the mother of all living.**

21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics [long, shirt-like undergarments] **of skin, and clothed** [dressed] **them.** [The skin of what? An animal. Result of sin: when I sin, something has to **bleed.**]

22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” — 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till [work] **the ground from which he was taken.**

24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim [ends in ‘im,’ so there are multiple beings fulfilling this; cherubim are angelic beings that surround the throne of God and are also modeled on top of the ark of the covenant] **at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way** [road, way, path] **to the tree of life.** [result of sin: **separation**; **David Guzik: In mercy, God was protecting Adam and Eve from the horrible fate of having to live forever as sinners by prohibiting them from eating from the tree of life.** For more on what really happened in this chapter, read **Romans 5**—but it will break your heart.]

How does Jesus deal with the results of sin? He takes care of all of them.

Result of sin (not a comprehensive list)

- Innocence lost
- Hiding from God
- Fear
- Avoidance
- Blame
- Lower status
- Pain
- Cursed earth
- Death
- Something has to bleed
- Separation

Jesus’ action

- Innocence restored (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)
- Hiding in God (**Colossians 3:3**)
- No fear (**Luke 12:7**)
- Acceptance (**Matthew 11:28**)
- Blameless (**1 Corinthians 1:7-8**)
- Raised status (**1 Corinthians 15:52**)
- No pain (**Revelation 21:4**)
- New earth (**Revelation 21:1**)
- Newness of life (**Romans 6:4**)
- Jesus’ blood being shed (**Luke 22:20**)
- No separation (**Ephesians 2:14**)

Apply (What is the point?)

1. **Sin** changed everything
2. God intervenes
3. Jesus **saves**

Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Acknowledge that I am a sinner
2. Acknowledge that God is still intervening
3. Trust Jesus (say no to sin and yes to Jesus)

In the Beginning: The Flood

Preview: Eyes Wide Shut (to God)

This story is one of the most talked-about stories in the entire Bible.

The key thought for today's lesson: **Sin** has a profound effect on our relationships with God and others.

Things to look out for that tell us about God: (1) He **leaves** man alone (free will), (2) He **questions**, (3) He judges, (4) He intervenes, and (5) He **provides**

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 6-7 (Author = Moses)

6:3 God was **fed up** (**Leviticus 18:1, 6-26**: this is a short list of things that God said He would destroy land over—the overall theme is sex)

6:5 God saw that man was **evil**

All was corrupt. Religion was gone. The wickedness continually increased so that the whole earth was corrupt before God, and was, "**filled with violence**" (**Genesis 6:11b**). All thoughts and imaginations were evil with no mixture of good. Every perception, conception, and ideas that formed were all evil and they were evil all the time.

6:6 God was **sorry**

This ("**it grieved his heart**") is one of the saddest comments made in the Bible. To be sorry, one has to have certain expectations. Did God expect man to be any different from the wicked? Did God not see this coming? The Bible was not written for God, it was written for man and so it is written from the perspective of man's understanding. **1 Corinthians 13:12a: For now we see in a mirror, dimly.** God uses language that we understand and that man was doing grieved the Holy Spirit. He was not sorry he made us, he was sorry for what we chose to become.

6:8 Noah was **different**

Question: Who were Noah's contemporaries? We are not sure as they are not named.

The scripture referring to Noah walking in faith is also in **Genesis 6:9: This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.**

To answer the question, "What does it mean to walk with God?" look at **Hebrews 11:5-7: 5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. 7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.** You walk with God by faith.

Enoch and Noah believed (had faith in) God and what He said. Anyone who believes and obeys God walks with Him. Obedience is evident when one lives by God's commandments. If we do not obey, we do not have faith and are not walking with God. The following verses make it abundantly plain about what it takes to know, love and walk with God:

1 John 2:3-6: 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

1 John 5:2-3: 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

But remember, God picked Noah because God wanted to pick Noah. It was divine grace, not man's effort. Noah was a sinner. This was a work of grace.

6:13 God told Noah **it's all over**

God told Noah that everything must die, save Noah, his family, and a few animals. God gave Noah some very precise instructions. What would we do if in our prayer time God gave us some instructions like this: **Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks (Genesis 6:14-16).**

Some fun facts about the ark: (from Christian Information Ministries)

1. **Construction material:** The Bible says it was to be built of gopher wood. Gopher is the actual Hebrew word. Some translate it as cypress or even teak. Nobody really knows.
2. **The design:** The Biblical word for "ark" is "tebah." The only other time that word is used is for the container in which Moses was hidden among the bulrushes. The longest wooden vessel ever built was 360' in length and was not seaworthy. God gave the measurements in cubits. There are two types of cubits, Egyptian Royal and Hebrew. The Egyptian cubit is about 3" longer than a Hebrew cubit. Noah's ark was approximately 450' long x 75' wide x 45' tall. Modern day ship builders use a 6x1 ratio. For every 6' of length, a boat must be 1' wide for seaworthiness and a safe righting arm. By these measurements the Ark would have to have been tilted over 90 degrees in order to capsize. According to God's instructions, Noah's ark was built to these specifications. The ark had three stories and only one door. It was coated inside and out with pitch to waterproof and prevent decay. In addition, to build "rooms."
3. **The volume:** With the size of the ark, the internal volume would have been in the neighborhood of 1,518,750 cubic feet, or about 569 railroad boxcars.

4. **The cargo: 2 Peter 2:5 says eight souls were saved. In Genesis 6:19, Noah is told to bring mated pairs of every kind of bird, every kind of animal, and every kind of creature that moves along the ground. In Genesis 7:2, God is more specific by telling Noah to bring seven mated pairs of clean animals and seven pairs of all birds. Today there are less than 18,000 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. If we double this to allow for extinction and add for the clean animals, we get something near 75,000 animals. The average size of life on earth currently is the size of sheep. The ark's volume could hold 125,000 sheep. God also told Noah to bring enough food for everyone and everything.**

6:14 Noah said **yes Lord**

Noah did not ask for a sign. Noah did not wait for some sort of confirmation. Noah did not take it to a committee. He did not even ask Mrs. Noah.

7:5 Noah **did everything** God commanded

7:13 God **shut the door**

There was only one door. There was only one way in to be saved from destruction. In **John 10:9**, Jesus says, **I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**

7:17 It **rained**

After seven days of being on the ark, it started to rain for 40 days and nights. Not only rain but also, **“the fountains of the great deep were broken up” (Genesis 7:11)**. Not only did it rain but also the landscape drastically changed. The perfect earth the God had created for the enjoyment of man changed all because of that little three-letter word: sin.

Why did God pick Noah?

How did Noah respond to God?

Luke 17:26: when it is like this, Jesus is coming back

Apply (What is the point?)

1. Sin **corrupted** everything
2. God intervenes
3. Jesus **saves**

Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Like Noah, are you surrounded by sin?
2. How do you resist temptation?
3. Does God still judge today?

For further reflection

Despite the world devolving into horrendous evil so wicked that His only recourse is destruction, “God remembers Noah.” The, “**Seed of woman,**” (**Genesis 3:15**) will not be completely annihilated, an event that would render God’s promise of a Savior void.

Chiasmus (inverted parallelism)

A little Hebrew poetry, chiasmus, to which Jim frequently refers:

A Noah (**6:10a**)

__ B Shem, Ham, and Japheth (**6:10b**)

___ C Ark to be built (**6:14-16**)

_____ D Flood announced (**6:17**)

_____ E Covenant with Noah (**6:18-20**)

_____ F Food in the ark (**6:21**)

_____ G Command to enter the ark (**7:1-3**)

_____ H 7 days waiting for flood (**7:4-5**)

_____ I 7 days waiting for flood (**7:7-10**)

_____ J Entry to ark (**7:11-15**)

_____ K YHWH shuts Noah in (**7:16**)

_____ L 40 days flood (**7:17a**)

_____ M Waters increase (**7:17b-18**)

_____ N Mountains covered (**7:19-20**)

_____ O 150 days water prevail (**7:21-24**)

_____ **P God remembers Noah (8:1)**

_____ O’ 150 days waters abate (**8:3**)

_____ N’ Mountain tops visible (**8:4-5**)

_____ M’ Waters abate (**8:5**)

_____ L’ 40 days (end of) (**8:6a**)

_____ K’ Noah opens window of ark (**8:6b**)

_____ J’ Raven and dove leave ark (**8:7-9**)

_____ I’ 7 days waiting for waters to subside (**8:10-11**)

_____ H’ 7 days waiting for waters to subside (**8:12-13**)

_____ G’ Command to leave ark (**8:15-17, 22**)

_____ F’ Food outside ark (**9:1-4**)

_____ E’ Covenant with all flesh (**9:8-10**)

_____ D’ No flood in the future (**9:11-17**)

_____ C’ Ark (**9:18a**)

_____ B’ Shem, Ham and Japheth (**9:18b**)

A’ Noah (**9:19**)

Additional Resources

Safety investigation of Noah's Ark in a seaway

(<http://www.answersingenesis.org/tj/v8/i1/noah.asp?vPrint=1>)

The Flood (<http://bible.org/print/book/export/html/4837>)

Noah's Ark and the Flood - Bible Story Summary

(<http://christianity.about.com/od/biblestorysummaries/p/noahsarkflood.htm>)

Was there rain on the earth before Noah's Flood? (<http://www.biblestudy.org/question/was-there-rain-on-the-earth-before-the-flood.html>)

Was Noah's Ark big enough to hold all the animals? (<http://www.biblestudy.org/basicart/was-noah-ark-big-enough-to-hold-all-animals.html>)

Facts on Noah's Ark (<http://dolphins.org/cisflood.html>)

Enoch Walked with God (<http://www.puritansermons.com/sermons/griffin6.htm>)

The Global Flood of Noah's Day (<http://www.icr.org/article/global-flood-noahs-day/>)

Noah's Ark - A Generation Lost (<http://www.harvestbaptistcincy.org/biblical-look-at-current-events/37-a-generation-lost>)

The Flood (http://www.westmissionarychurch.com/Bible_Study8.pdf)

Bible Study: The Chiasm in Noah's Flood (<http://www.momblognetwork.com/spiritual-religion/bible-study-chiasm-noahs-flood-0>)

In Defense of . . . the Genesis Flood [Part 1] (<http://apologeticspress.org/articles/104>)

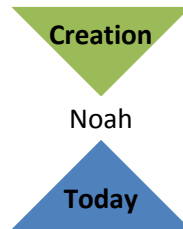
In Defense of . . . the Genesis Flood [Part 2] (<http://apologeticspress.org/articles/106>)

In the Beginning: God's Covenant with Noah

Preview: Never Again

Key Thought: God's **love** overcomes our sin (**Genesis 8:1-9:17**)

Overview: Noah and his family were free from the smelly **ark**, but were they free from the stench of **sin**? Unfortunately the answer is no, as Noah seems to understand (**Genesis 8:20**). God knows the reality of sin, but that is what makes His promise to Noah even more poignant (**Genesis 9:8-17**). "Even though" God knows human beings are hopeless sinners (**Genesis 8:21**), "never again," will He consider destroying them (**Genesis 8:21; 9:11, 15**). At this point, a **rainbow** would be the symbol of His love. Later He would say it in **Person**. The fact that Noah gets two lessons in the Essential 100 should relay the importance of Noah's life. Noah's family was the funnel through which God pared down the human race.



Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 8-9:17 (Author = Moses)

Genesis 8

1 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that *were* with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. **2** The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. **3** And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. **4** Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. **5** And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

6 So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. **7** Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. **8** He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. **9** But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. **10** And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. **11** Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf *was* in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. **12** So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

13 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first *month*, the first *day* of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked,

and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. **14** And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, **16** "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. **17** Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that *is* with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." **18** So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. **19** Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, *and* whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. **21** And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

22 "While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease."

Genesis 9

1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. **2** And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move *on* the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. **3** Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. **4** But you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood. **5** Surely for your lifeblood I will demand *a reckoning*; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.

6 "Whoever sheds man's blood,
By man his blood shall be shed;
For in the image of God
He made man.

7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;
Bring forth abundantly in the earth
And multiply in it."

8 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: **9** "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, **10** and with every living creature that *is* with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every

beast of the earth. **11 Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."**

12 And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. 14 It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; 15 and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17 And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Covenant Basics: (covenant = legally binding contract)

1. Covenant Theology: just **one way** to organize scripture (roots in Calvinism)
2. There are **four** major covenants (see reverse side of the handout)
3. Two types of covenants: conditional and **unconditional** covenants (Noahic Covenant is unconditional)

Pre-Covenant:

1. Population estimate at the time of the flood: **10** billion
2. Sin is still very **real**. Noah recognized sin's existence and sacrificed (**Genesis 8:20**)
3. God recognized the **sinfulness** of man (**Genesis 8:21**)—the flood was God's confrontation of sin
4. Sinfulness of man associated to the **Earth**

Noah and his family had almost 400 days on the ark to think about what had happened.

Noahic Covenant:

1. Blesses/Commands Noah and his sons to be **fruitful, multiply**, and populate (**Genesis 9:1-7**)
2. Places all **plants** and **animals** under human command (**Genesis 9:2-3**)
3. Forbids eating **meat** with the blood still in it (**Genesis 9:4**) (an emphasis on blood exists from here on to the end of the Bible—this continues to set the stage for the coming Messiah, eventually being fulfilled in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ)
4. Forbids **murder** (**Genesis 9:5**)
5. Says that violent men will be repaid by **violence** (**Genesis 9:6**)—God is drawing a line in the sand regarding blood
6. Promises that he will never again destroy all life on earth by **flood** (**Genesis 9:11**)
7. Creates the **rainbow** as the sign of this covenant for all ages to come (**Genesis 9:12-17**)
8. **Challenge:** God **promised** it (the covenant standard). Jesus **accomplished** it (the covenant standard). No Old Testament believer could fulfill this.
9. **The Greatest News:** The **New** Covenant in **Jesus Christ** (compare this covenant with the massive system God implemented to deal with sin)

- a. **Jesus'** sacrifice: our new covenant (**Matthew 26:26-28**: **26** And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." **27** Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **28** For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.)
- b. **Jesus** is the fulfillment of all covenants (**Hebrews 8:6-13**: **6** But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. **7** For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. **8** Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— **9** not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. **10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **11** None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. **12** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." **13** In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.)

Application (what does it mean?) & Personalization (what do I do with that?)

1. Biblical history is a massive example of the insufficiency of man to meet God's **standards**. The clear implication is that we will not make it on our own—we must have Jesus and the cross.
2. Some believe that all would **believe** if we could just find the Ark, but this is not true. See **Luke 16:19-31**, specifically **Luke 16:24-31**: **24** "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' **25** But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. **26** And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' **27** "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, **28** for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' **29** Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' **30** And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' **31** But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets [i.e., the Bible], neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

Major Covenants – Basics of Covenant Theology

1. Abrahamic Covenant ([Genesis 12:1-3](#))

Parties: God, Abraham and Abraham's "seed"

Promises: Land, "seed," blessing; "I will" type covenant

2. Mosaic Covenant ([Exodus 19:1-8](#))

Parties: God and the nation of Israel (the descendents of Abraham)

Purpose: set them apart as a kingdom of priests—fill them with His glory again ([Exodus 19:6](#))

Promises: Blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience ([Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19](#))

Nature: Conditional and binding—Not "I will" but "if, then"

Ten Commandments = summary or "table of contents" for the hundreds of specific instructions

What commands? [Exodus 20:1-4, 7, 8, 12-17](#) (these are the foundation of the second covenant)

3. Davidic Covenant ([2 Samuel 7:8-16](#))

Parties: God, David, David's descendents

Purpose: Build a house and lineage for David, establishing his kingdom and throne forever

Promises: House (Davidic descendents), throne (right to rule), kingdom (a nation to rule)

Nature: irrevocable and everlasting promise—"I will" covenant—v 16 "forever"

We still have this overarching problem: enjoyment of the promises requires obedience, but no one wants to obey. Therefore, God adds a fourth and final covenant.

4. New Covenant ([Hebrews 8:8-1](#))

Parties: God, Israel, Judah

Purpose: Redemption of man. The Old Testament saints looked forward for the Messiah who would bring it. The New Testament saints looked backward. When does it begin? Death of Christ

Promises: spiritual enablement and physical blessings. Spiritual: New heart; sprinkled clean; God's Spirit; perfect obedience (ability and desire to obey). Physical: similar to Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenant promises

Nature: irrevocable and everlasting promise—"I will" covenant. [Ezekiel 37](#) calls it an "everlasting covenant." His blood inaugurates the New Covenant—celebrated in communion. All of the covenants set a standard and man falls short of all of the standards. The Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic covenants all look forward to the sacrifice of Christ. It is all about Jesus!

New Relationship to:

Abrahamic: Provides desire to obey and receive Abrahamic Covenant promises—problem fixed!

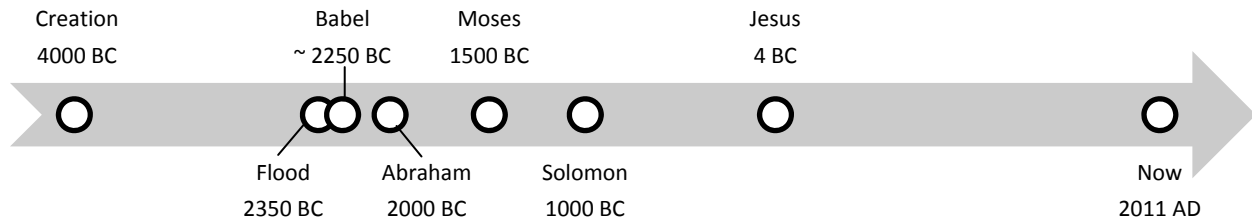
Mosaic: [Galatians 3:13](#): Christ's death fulfilled all of the Mosaic Covenant—He took all of its curses in our place—took one covenant and replaced it with the other. It is not a surprise, with New Covenant, we no longer need Mosaic Covenant!

Davidic: New Covenant provides a descendent of David to sit on the throne forever—the person who brings the New Covenant will be the eternal Davidic King (Jesus)

In the Beginning: The Tower of Babel

Review

So far, we have had lessons about Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and God's Covenant with Noah. Big thanks to Barry Cole and David Barber for teaching the past two weeks. Assuming a literal interpretation of the dates in the Bible, the following timeline is close.



Today's lesson probably takes place approximately 100 years after the Flood.

Preview: Can we talk?

Key Thought: The greatest of all sins is **pride**

Overview: Ever since the Fall, humans had increasingly chosen to go their own way instead of God's way. The Tower of Babel became a defiant expression of pride. However, pride is not just a problem for "them." It infects us all. As we go through today's text, see if you see any parallels to your own life.

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 9:1-11 (Author = Moses)

As with prior passages in **Genesis**, **Genesis 11** probably did not follow **Genesis 10**, but is likely a sidebar to help make sense of **Genesis 10** (much like **Genesis 1, 2, and 3** are intertwined).

1 Now the whole earth had one language [literally, lip/edge] **and one speech** [speech, but also more broadly can be used for business/occupation]. **2 And it came to pass, as they** [they = all of humanity] **journeyed from the east, that they found a plain** [valley, plain] **in the land of Shinar** ['country of two rivers,' Babylonia or Chaldea], **and they dwelt there.**

Note: **Genesis 9:1** is still in effect ("**Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth**")—they were commanded to fill the **earth**, not to centralize in one place. However, I can relate to wanting to be around others for protection, community, etc. I want protection and cities bring a sense of that for me personally. The problem with that thinking, though, is that man is the source of our protection instead of God.

In retrospect, one would think that humanity would be passionate about following God seeing He wiped out the face of the earth about a hundred years prior. Sadly, this is not the case.

3 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

Their determination to build this city and tower are illustrated by the fact that they decided to build it in a place without the appropriate natural resources. They, in effect, dug in where they were and decided to overcome their circumstances (e.g., lack of stone for building). Resolve is generally admirable, but in this instance it is entirely wrong. **Coffman:** [comparing the Fall and Babel] **The story is basically the same in both cases: “man’s defiance of God.” The setting, however, is different. The first Fall occurred among the flowers and fruits of Eden; the second one came in the bricks and asphalt of the city.**

4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens [perhaps a literal goal, but this is more likely a figurative Hebrew expression meaning very tall (see **Deuteronomy 1:28; 9:1**)—many commentators feel that the tower was mankind’s attempt to secure protection against another flood, but this seems illogical to me given that they were building in a plain—if you want to protect yourself from a flood, build on a mountain]; **let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”** [The real issue is that God was **never** considered or consulted. Many of us still make plans like this today. Man is not to make a name for himself, but to make a name for **God**—to reflect His glory, not to build monuments to our own.]

5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. [This, in my opinion, is hilarious as some commentators joke that the implication is that God could not even see the tower from heaven and this was God mocking man (i.e., it was so small in His eyes).] **6 And the LORD said, “Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.** [This does not mean, obviously, that humanity could have built a tower to heaven (we know that to be impossible)—it is *probably* referring to the reaches to which their moral decay could get to.] **7 Come, let Us go down** [God was talking to God, not talking to the angels—He takes only His own counsel] **and there confuse** [mix, mingle—we call a party where the goal is to meet people a, ‘mixer’] **their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”** **8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.**

Because they did not finish and because this was over 4,000 years ago, we cannot prove the location of the Tower of Babel. There are many claims, but there is simply no way to prove the location.

9 Therefore its name is called Babel [‘confusion’ (by mixing)], **because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.**

Step back for a moment: Have you ever wondered how humanity got all over the world? This is the answer. This is why there were people in America when the Europeans came over. This is why there are people on islands. God put them there. He will accomplish His plans—with our help or without it.

Jessie Lewis: Can you imagine everybody panicking as they realized they no longer knew what their neighbors, or managers, or mothers, or just wandering the streets looking for anyone who might

Speak the same language? Frustration, humiliation, and pain are always the result of **ignoring** God.
Proverbs 13:15: Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.

Have you ever wondered why there are so many languages on the earth? This too, is the answer. So, how did God mix up the languages? **Coffman: Regarding the wonder of HOW God confounded the languages, we simply have no information whatever. The will of God alone was sufficient to produce the conditions that He desired to appear.**

It is interesting to note that the phrase, 'Tower of Babel' does not appear anywhere in the text ("a city, and a tower," appears).

Application (what does it mean?)

1. **Unity** without proper direction is unprofitable (and unity at the expense of truth is worthless—we are called to be unified around the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ)
2. Planning without God's input is futile (**Genesis 11:3-4**)
3. Rebellion can occur anywhere (**David Guzik: Time, progress, government, and organization have made man better off, but not better**)
4. God **inspects** our work (**Genesis 11:5**)
5. A unified humanity is powerful (**Genesis 11:6**)—but with great **power** comes great responsibility
6. God **intervenes** (**Genesis 11:8-9**)

Personalization (what do I do with that?)

1. Challenge: Turn your back on pride and turn in humility to God
2. Get unified around the things that **please** God. Two examples:
 - **Acts 2:4-11** seem to 'undo' what is done in **Genesis 11**—it brings people together again for a common understanding—this time around the truth of the Gospel of Jesus and not pride
 - EM: HE (extremevisionhomes.com): Our role: Extreme **Prayer** Partnership

Preview: Next series

Genesis 1-11 marks the first great division of **Genesis** and the conclusion of our first of twenty five-week series. In our Essential 100 overview of the entire Bible, we will alternate every **five** weeks between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The first New Testament series begins next Sunday and will focus on, The Living Word—the early life of Jesus up to the point where He begins His ministry. Once we finish that series, we will come back to **Genesis** to look at Abraham, Isaac, and **Jacob**.