A People of the Book 8-Year Curriculum Year 1, Quarter 2

A Study of Selected Texts from The First Book of Moses, Genesis

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Introduction

The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. We read of the beginning of the world, the beginning of man, the beginning of sin, and so forth. The book is filled with some of the most famous personalities of history: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Both children and adults often cite the events recorded in Genesis as some of their "favorite Bible stories."

Much of what you will study in these thirteen lessons will be a review; hopefully, though, you will be forced to think more deeply about some of these familiar events and seek application in your life as a child of God.

Scripture quotations come from the New King James Version.

<u>Recommended Study Aids</u>

Harrell Davidson, Davidson's Notes on the Pentateuch

James Burton Coffman, Genesis

Joe Slater, In The Beginning – A study of the book of Genesis

Guy N. Woods, Biblical Backgrounds of the Troubled Middle East

The schedule for this class is listed below. Students are encouraged to read the texts prior to class and study the worksheets provided.

<u>Schedule</u>

- 1) <u>April 8</u> "In The Beginning..." (Genesis 1-2)
- 2) <u>April 15</u> The Fall of Man & The Seed Promise (Genesis 3)
- 3) <u>April 22</u> Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)
- 4) <u>April 29</u> Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6-9)
- 5) <u>May 6</u> Babel Through Terah (Genesis 11)
- 6) <u>May 13</u> The Call of Abram (Genesis 12:1-5; 15:1-21; 17:1-19)
- 7) <u>May 20</u> Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 16; 17:20-22)
- 8) <u>May 27</u> Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:16-33; 19:1-38)
- 9) June 3 The Birth of Isaac & The Casting Out of Ishmael (Genesis 21:1-21)
- 10) June 10 Abraham's Great Faith (Genesis 22)
- 11) June 17 Jacob Receives Esau's Birthright and Blessing (Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-46; 28:1-5)
- 12) June 24 Joseph's Early Life (Genesis 37; 39:1-41:36)
- 13) July 1 Joseph's Later Life (Genesis 41:37-50:26)

"In The Beginning..." Read: Genesis 1 & 2

Review of the Reading

- 1) What did God do on each day of the creation week?
 - a) First day:
 b) Second day:
 c) Third day:
 d) Fourth day:
 e) Fifth day:
 f) Sixth day:
 g) Seventh day:
- 2) "Then God saw ______ that He had made, and indeed it was very ______."
- 3) What are the names of the four rivers in Genesis 2?
- 4) What could be found in the land of Havilah?
- 5) Man was forbidden to eat the fruit of which tree?

Thought Questions

1) God said that the fruit tree "yields fruit according to its kind," and He "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." How can these facts be used to disprove the theory of evolution?

- 2) There are two theories created by man in an attempt to make the Bible respectable to an unbelieving world. The first is called the "gap theory," stating that a number of millennia are found in Genesis 1:2 creating a gap between the creation of the earth (Genesis 1:1) and the rest of God's work (Genesis 1:3 and following). Some subscribe to this theory because they think the Israelites were uneducated and could not understand the truth. How would you respond to this theory?
- 3) Another theory is called the "day-age theory," claiming that each "day" of the first chapter represents a long period of time. How can this theory be refuted? Is II Peter 3:8 applied properly when it is applied to this theory?
- 4) What role did Jesus play in creation? Refer to John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:16.
- 5) Were Adam and Eve commanded to keep the Sabbath? Consider Deuteronomy 5:2-3 and Nehemiah 9:13-14 as you answer.

Your Questions...

The Fall of Man & The Seed Promise Read: Genesis 3

Review of the Reading

- 1) What type of fruit was on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
- 2) What did Adam and Eve use to cover their nakedness?
- 3) Who did the man blame for his sin? Who did the woman blame for her sin?
- 4) What did God use to clothe Adam and Eve?
- 5) What was placed at the east of the garden to protect the tree of life?

Thought Questions

- 1) What one word did the serpent use to change the Word of God? Can you think of other examples in which this is done today in the religious world?
- 2) Read I John 2:16 and compare to Eve's perception of the fruit in Genesis 3:6. Match what Eve saw with what John wrote.

a) Lust of the flesh	
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b) Lust of the eyes	

- c) Pride of life
- 3) The seed promise of Genesis 3:15 is often viewed as the first Messianic prophecy recorded in the Scriptures. In what way did Christ bruise Satan's head? In what way did Satan bruise Christ's heel?

4) What is the significance of God clothing Adam and Eve in coats of skins rather than the fig leaves they were using? Consider Leviticus 17:11 as you answer.

5) Contrast man's life before the fall to man's life after the fall. What changed?

Your Questions...

Cain & Abel

Read: Genesis 4

Review of the Reading

- 1) What was Abel's occupation? What was Cain's occupation?
- 2) What was Cain's offering? What was Abel's offering?
- 3) What was Cain's attitude toward the Lord's rejection of his offering?
- 4) When God asked Cain where Abel was, what was his response?
- 5) What was the name of Cain's son?

Thought Questions

1) Using your Bible's footnotes or center-column references, or a Bible dictionary, what is the meaning of each of the following names?

a) Cain

- 2) Why was Abel's offering to God acceptable, but Cain's sacrifice was not? Consider Leviticus 17:11 as you answer.
- 3) What role did faith play in Abel's offering? Refer to Hebrews 11:4.

- 4) What is the proper answer to Cain's question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Think about the commands issued to us today through the New Testament in relation to this question.
- 5) The Hebrew writer said Abel "being dead still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4). Explain what is meant.

Your Questions...

Noah and the Flood

Read: Genesis 6-9

Review of the Reading

- 1) Who were Noah's sons?
- 2) How many windows did God command Noah to include in the ark?
- 3) How old was Noah when the flood started?
- 4) "While the earth remains, ______ and harvest, ______ and heat, ______ and summer, and ______ and night shall not cease."
- 5) What was the reason given for the death penalty?

Thought Questions

1) Who were "the sons of God" in Genesis 6:2?

2) Many in the religious world teach that the necessity of obedience contradicts the grace of God. How would you answer such, using Noah as at least one example?

3) How important was it for Noah to follow God's building instructions precisely?

4) Why did Noah take so many clean animals with him on the ark?

5) Often in the debate over the death penalty, those in favor will refer to Genesis 9:6. Is this appropriate? Why or why not?

Your Questions...

Babel Through Terah

Read: Genesis 11

Review of the Reading

- 1) Where did the people find a plain in which to dwell?
- 2) What did God do to the language of the people?
- 3) What were the names of the three sons of Terah?
- 4) What was the name of Nahor's wife?
- 5) "And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from ______ of the ______ to go to the land of ______; and they came to Haran and dwelt there."

Thought Questions

1) What would have been some of the benefits of speaking the same language?

2) Why did God not want the people to build the tower in Babel? Consider Genesis 8:15-17 as you answer.

3) Why do you think God preserved these genealogical records for us here as in other Scriptures?

4) Approximately how many years passed between Shem and Terah?

5) What is significant about the land of Canaan, as we will learn later in the Scriptures?

Your Questions...

The Call of Abram

Read: Genesis 12:1-5; 15:1-21; 17:1-19

Review of the Reading

- 1) How old was Abram when God called him out of Haran?
- 2) "I will make you a great _____; I will bless you and make your ______ great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who ______ you, and I will curse him who ______ you; and in you all the ______ of the earth shall be blessed."
- 3) What was the name of the servant who was to be Abram's heir before Isaac's birth?
- 4) How long would Abram's seed be afflicted in a land that was not theirs?
- 5) What reason did God give for changing Abram's name to Abraham?

Thought Questions

1) What was so remarkable about Abram's obedience in Genesis 12:4-5? Bear in mind Hebrews 11:8-10 as you answer.

2) What does it mean that Abram "believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness" (Genesis 15:6)?

3) What is the land that God speaks of in Genesis 15:13-14? When would this occur?

4) What was the significance of the name changes, Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah?

5) What was Abraham's reaction to God's promise that Sarah would bear a son to Abraham? Was this a reasonable reaction?

Your Questions...

Hagar and Ishmael

Read: Genesis 16 & 17:20-22

Review of the Reading

- 1) How many years had Abram been in Canaan when Sarai gave Hagar to him?
- 2) Where did the angel of the Lord find Hagar after she fled from Sarai?
- 3) "He shall be a _____ man; his hand shall be _____ every man, and every man's hand _____ him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his _____."
- 4) What was the well between Kadesh and Bered called?
- 5) How old was Abram when Ishmael was born?

Thought Questions

1) Considering the culture in which they lived, was it reasonable and rational for Abram to try and conceive a child by Hagar?

2) What was Sarai's reaction when she saw that Hagar had conceived a child with Abram?

3) What does Hagar symbolize, according to Paul in Galatians 4:24?

4) The phrase "Beer Lahai Roi" means "Well of the One Who Lives and Sees Me." Is this an appropriate description of God? Consider the psalmist's words in Psalm 139:7-12.

5) What prophecies and promises were made concerning Ishmael? Can you point to the fulfillment of these, Biblically or otherwise?

Your Questions...

Sodom and Gomorrah

Read: Genesis 18:16-33 & 19:1-38

Review of the Reading

- 1) Abraham asked God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah if fifty righteous were found there, but kept lowering that number. What number did he get down to?
- 2) What did the angels do to the men that surrounded Lot's house?
- 3) How did Lot's sons-in-law react to the news that the city was about to be destroyed?
- 4) What was the name of the city to which Lot escaped?
- 5) What were the names of the children born to Lot's daughters?

Thought Questions

1) How does the account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah demonstrate the Lord's mercy and longsuffering?

2) What did Lot offer to the men of the city if they left his visitors alone? Was this an appropriate suggestion?

3) How would you respond to someone who suggested the grave sin of the Sodomites was their lack of hospitality?

 New Testament writers point to Sodom and Gomorrah as examples for us today. In what context can these cities serve as an example to us? Refer to Luke 17:28-32; II Peter 2:6; and Jude 7.

5) What lessons did Lot's daughters fail to learn from Sodom and Gomorrah? Read Genesis 19:30-38 again.

Your Questions...

The Birth of Isaac & The Casting Out of Ishmael

Read: Genesis 21:1-21

Review of the Reading

- 1) How old was Isaac when he was circumcised?
- 2) How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?
- 3) What did Sarah say to Abraham concerning Hagar and Ishmael?
- 4) In which wilderness did Hagar wander with Ishmael, and in which wilderness did Ishmael dwell after he was grown?
- 5) What did Ishmael become?

Thought Questions

1) What promises were fulfilled in Genesis 21:1-2?

2) What was the significance of Isaac's circumcision? Refer to Genesis 17:9-14.

3) Using a Bible dictionary, what does the name "Isaac" mean? When did Abraham and Sarah laugh?

4) What does the casting out of Hagar and Ishmael signify to us spiritually? Consider the apostle Paul's words in Galatians 4:28-31.

5) What characteristics of God are displayed in Genesis 21:17-20?

Your Questions...

Abraham's Great Faith

Read: Genesis 22

Review of the Reading

- 1) Where did God tell Abraham to take Isaac?
- 2) What three things did Abraham and Isaac take with them?
- 3) "And Abraham said, 'My son, God will ______ for Himself the ______ for a burnt offering.' So the two of them went together."
- 4) Where did Abraham find an animal to sacrifice, and what kind of animal was it?
- 5) "In your ______ all the nations of the earth shall be ______, because you have ______ my voice."

Thought Questions

1) The King James Version says "God did tempt Abraham" in Genesis 22:1. In what sense is the word "tempt" used in this context, considering what James wrote in James 1:17-19?

2) How did Abraham's vocabulary in verse 5 demonstrate his faith? Consider the words of Hebrews 11:17-19 as you answer.

3) How do Abraham's actions reflect upon our willingness to sacrifice things of much lesser importance today? Also think of the rich young ruler's attitude in Matthew 19:21-22.

4) In Genesis 22:14, what does Abraham call the place? What is the significance of this?

5) How important is obedience?

Your Questions...

Jacob Receives Esau's Birthright and Blessing Read: Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-46; 28:1-5

Review of the Reading

- 1) What did Esau receive in exchange for his birthright?
- 2) "And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, 'Look, Esau my brother is a ______ man, and I am a ______ man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a ______ to him; and I shall bring a ______ on myself and not a _____.'''
- 3) What did Rebekah do to disguise Jacob?
- 4) What did Esau want to do to Jacob when he discovered his deception?
- 5) Where did Isaac send Jacob to find a wife?

Thought Questions

1) What is the difference between a birthright and a blessing?

2) What was wrong with Jacob's objection to Rebekah's plot to deceive Isaac?

3) What were the components of the blessing Isaac bestowed upon Jacob?

4) Was Esau's hatred toward Jacob justified? Explain.

5) Explain Rebekah's statement, "Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?" Refer to Genesis 9:5-6.

Your Questions...

Joseph's Early Life Read: Genesis 37; 39:1-41:36

Review of the Reading

- 1) How old was Joseph at the beginning of Genesis 37?
- 2) Which of Joseph's brothers wanted to save him from death? Which suggested selling him to the Ishmaelites?
- 3) Joseph was made overseer of whose house?
- 4) What two men had dreams in prison? Which one had a good dream, and which one had a bad dream?
- 5) How many years of plenty and how many years of famine were to come upon Egypt?

Thought Questions

1) How serious is jealousy, according to the Bible? Read Galatians 5:19-21. How seriously do we actually take it?

2) Jacob believed Joseph was dead, and felt an enormous amount of grief. However, Joseph was alive. Jacob's feelings were based upon a lie that he was misled to believe. Relate this to the feelings of deeply religious people who are sincere in their belief, but that belief is based upon error. Does their sincerity make them correct?

3) Against whom did Joseph believe he would sin if he gave in to Potiphar's wife? Explain.

4) Does God still send dreams that need interpretation today?

5) What did the butler fail to do when he was released from prison?

Your Questions...

Joseph's Later Life Read: Genesis 41:37-50:26

Review of the Reading

- 1) What was Joseph called by Pharaoh, and who was he given as a wife?
- 2) What were the names of Joseph's sons?
- 3) In whose sack was the silver cup found after the second trip to Egypt?
- 4) Where did Jacob and his sons dwell when they moved from Canaan?
- 5) How old was Joseph when he died?

Thought Questions

1) Using your Bible's footnotes or center-column references, or a Bible dictionary, what do the names of Joseph's sons mean and what is the significance of each?

2) Discuss the role guilt played in the brothers' reaction to Joseph's demands. What lesson can we learn from this?

3) Joseph tested his brothers in several ways before revealing himself to them. What were some of these tests, and how did his brothers fare?

4) Why did Joseph tell his family to say they were shepherds? What were the advantages of doing this?

5) What stood out most to you in Jacob's descriptions of his sons in chapter 49?

Your Questions...

A People of the Book 8-Year Curriculum

	January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
2007	Matthew	Genesis	Galatians & Ephesians	Isaiah
2008	Exodus	I & II Timothy, Titus	Hebrews	Minor Prophets I (Hosea-Obadiah)
2009	Mark	Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	Romans	Jeremiah and Lamentations
2010	l and II Thessalonians	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	James, I & II Peter	Minor Prophets II (Jonah-Habakkuk)
2011	Luke	Samuel, Kings, Chronicles	I, II, III John & Jude	Daniel
2012	Acts	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	I Corinthians	Minor Prophets III (Zephaniah-Malachi)
2013	John	Job	II Corinthians	Psalms
2014	Philippians, Colossians & Philemon	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Revelation	Ezekiel

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