

DAILY BIBLE READING; GENESIS 1- 4

GENESIS ONE: the bible begins answering the great questions of man by teaching the fact of God and his miraculous creation of our world.

1. **GOD:** neither God the Father, God the son nor God the Holy Spirit was created. God has always existed and never had a beginning. Notice that the word translated "God" has a capital "G" often referencing the Hebrew word "Elohim," which is a plural noun. This may convey something of the nature of the triune God of the Bible. The best scholars can determine it means the "all powerful one." There are a number of names for God in the Scriptures; this one is used more than 2,000 times.
2. **CREATED:** this Hebrew word [Bara, "to create"] is done by divine activity; everything God created was good; the high point of God's creation was man (Gen. 2). He brings matter into being out of nothing as only God can; matter cannot create itself nor is matter eternal. In other words, the world had a beginning (1:1).
3. **WAS WITHOUT FORM AND VOID:** was without form, lacking material substance and definition
4. **SPIRIT OF GOD:** the Holy Spirit, was moving over the surface
5. **LIGHT:** on day 1 God created light and darkness/day and night
6. **DAY:** the Hebrew word "yom" (day) has seen a great deal of discussion. Like the English word it can be used in a variety of ways. It can mean a 24-hour period and it is used as a period of time as in 2:4 (the creative period). Here, the word is preceded by first day or second day, which is not in keeping with an extended period of time, but rather a 24-hour period.
7. **FIRMAMENT:** on day 2 God created the earth's atmosphere (the firmament; the expanse, "that which is spread out")
8. **LIGHTS:** the lights of day four were appointed for signs (14) and years (14) and to give light (15). They therefore serve the purpose for the division of time and the lighting of the earth. The greater light, the sun (16) and the lesser light (16) the moon and it was good, met with God's divine approval.
9. **US:** the plural pronoun indicates the triune nature of the Godhead more clearly given in the New Testament (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 1:2; Heb. 1:2) active in the creation process.
10. **CREATED:** as you read through this section look for "create," "formed" and "made" all of which are distinct words yet used interchangeably. The Hebrew word "bare" (to create) is used of divine activity only.

11. **IMAGE:** man and woman are created in God's likeness. This phrase sets man apart from the animal world. It establishes him as being in a special relationship with God and not that of angels. Even though man sinned he still remains a rational, free, moral, creative creature of God.

GENESIS TWO: By chapter two he leaves the cosmic creation of the universe and begins a discussion of things to be created on earth.

1. **RESTED:** on the seventh day God finished or "rested" his creative work, which calls to mind the "Sabbath" and the command for Jews to observe it (Exod. 20:8-11). God blesses the seventh day (2:3).
2. **LORD GOD:** now the Hebrew word Yahweh is used. Many translations translate this Jehovah. Here it is combined with "elohim," which is the word that identified God in chapter one.
3. **TREE OF LIFE and the TREE OF KNOWLEDGE:** the tree in the midst of the garden, which refers to the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which like the tree of life (2:9).
4. **Eden:** viewed as the Tigris River though Eden cannot specifically be located perhaps the best theory is that which regards it as having been located in the Mesopotamian valley. Piston (11) means springer and Gihon (13) which means "the gusher" probably were lesser streams; their modern identity is not known. Havilah (11) possibly a region south of Mesopotamia in the Arabian Desert.
5. **MAN:** chapter two focuses on man. The Hebrew word "Adam" means man and becomes his proper name in the Bible. God plants a garden in Eden in the east, where man is to live.
6. **COMMANDED:** the fact that God commanded reveals the fact that man was free to make a choice. The giving of the command assumes man's ability to choose between obedience and disobedience.
7. **NAKED:** they were both naked and not ashamed (16). They were not aware of evil nor did they know that the body and the sexual appetite might be directed toward evil purposes. However, now due to sin innocence has been transformed into shame.

GENESIS 3 This perfect life is disrupted by the appearance of the serpent. Woman eats the forbidden fruit and gives to her husband.

1. **SERPENT:** the serpent questions what God as said, then calls God a liar. The woman sees the enticing fruit; there is the desire to have knowledge like God himself, against God's plan command. The

decision man makes is deliberate and fatal. Man chose to go his own way and disobeyed God, rejected his authority and desired to become a god himself.

2. **"YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE"**: the tempter does not hesitate to deny the divine decree, but instead uses the denial of the word of God to enforce the temptation.
3. **TOOK OF THE FRUIT**: the tree was good for food having the ability to satisfy physical hunger (6) and could make one wise (the crux of the matter, read 1 John 2:16, which seems to point back to the garden) and they ate.
4. **FIG LEAVES**: due to eating of the forbidden fruit man realizes his nakedness (7) and he sews or plaited fig leaves together to partially guard against his nakedness. Such a covering was inadequate. All of man's attempts to cover sin are also inadequate; the only true covering for sin is Christ.
5. **Genesis 3:15**: the curse is aimed at the serpent. Hostility between the serpent and the offspring of the woman. The offspring of Eve will strike the serpent on the head (Jesus, the descendant of Eve who defeats Satan, Gal. 3:16). Adam and Eve face God's punishment for sin, he will work the ground in difficulty because now the tending will be outside the garden; Eve's pain is greatly increased in having children.
6. **EVE**: the man named his wife Eve, mother of all life, a play on words.
7. **COATS OF SKINS**: even though man faced the punishment of God due to sin God still cares for man by providing adequate covering for him. Perhaps implied in this is the idea that animals were for man's use.
8. **CHERUBIM**: the word seems to refer to a guardian; if this is the original meaning then it fits the context as the cherubim (plural form) as the cherubim guard Eden.

DAILY BIBLE READING; GENESIS 5-8

GENESIS 5: By now there is conflict between brothers a theme that we will see again between Jacob and Esau (25:19-34; 27:1-45) and again between Joseph and his brothers (37:1-35).

1. **OWN LIKENESS**: this language sounds similar to the language God used about humanity being in his image (1:26, 27).
2. **YEARS**: Everything we know of these phrases indicates they are actual years.

3. **AND HE DIED:** Paul peaks to the matter in Romans 5 as does the writer in Hebrews 9:27; see 1 Cor. 15:20-28; 1 Thess. 4:13-18. Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying and Elijah was taken in the whirlwind.

CHAPTER 6

1. **SONS OF GOD:** some assert that this refers to angels and Job 1:6 does use it in that fashion. Some hold that these were fallen angels who took on human form [Expositor's Bible Commentary]. Others hold that angels are created spiritual beings that do not have physical bodies. Jesus made clear that the angels neither marry nor are given in marriage (Matt. 22:30). Such look at this verse as telling us that the descendants of Seth, who had been worshippers of God and believers in him, began to take wives from the descendants of Cain, who were wicked and did not fear God.
2. **MIGHTY MEN:** Most take the Hebrew term "nephilim" to refer to men of great stature, however, the term is not a common one and may refer to men who were reckless and ferocious, those who spread devastation far and wide.
3. **ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY:** This took place in only a few generations; it shows how man's heart apart from God can sink to such depths.
4. **IT REPENTED THE LORD:** Repent means to change. Though God does not change as to his nature (James 1:17) he does change in his dealings with man as can be seen over and over again based on man's response to Him.
5. **ARK:** A rectangular box or chest [Hebrew "tayvah," a box like structure]; shaped somewhat like a boat, not designed to go anywhere but to float and protect from the flood. The word is also used with reference to the basket holding baby Moses, which floated on the Nile (an interesting parallel).
6. **LENGTH:** An 18 inch cubit gives the measurements as 450 x 76 x 45 feet or 137 x 34 x 14 meters.
7. **A WINDOW SHALT THOU MAKE:** The ark had only one window though the common misconception of the ark has multiple windows. The window would give ventilation to the ark and its inhabitants. There are many interesting parallels with the church, the ark of safety today.
8. **TWO...MALE AND FEMALE:** Scholars hold that not every kind of animal was needed to start animal life again after the flood. For example, it is possible to breed every kind of chicken from just two of any kind.

CHAPTER 7:

1. **CLEAN:** a distinction, which was clearly given by the time of the law, however, this instruction was given much earlier. Moses by inspiration gives the distinction by revealing that Noah was given instruction regarding animals appropriate and inappropriate for sacrifice.
2. **SHUT:** God shut the door behind man and not Noah, which puts in full view for us that God saved man by his grace, which was made available to Noah through his obedient faith.
3. **FORTY DAYS:** The flood came on time just as God said it would, it was not merely a natural anomaly.
4. **Everything living perished:** both human and animal.

CHAPTER 8

1. **ARARAT:** The exact location of the mountain is unknown as there is an entire range of mountains known as being in Armenia and Turkey. Therefore, it is not necessarily referring to one mountain named Ararat.
2. **BUILT AN ALTAR:** Noah with gratitude for deliverance from the flood worships God, which is Noah's first recorded act after leaving the ark. This is the first reference to a sacrificial or worship altar in the Bible.
3. **A SWEET AROMA:** A way of saying that Noah's sacrifice pleased God as pleasing odors delight men. It is at this point God expressed the covenant that is made with Noah (21). This phrase appears a number of times in Leviticus and Numbers.

DAILY BIBLE READING; GENESIS 9 – 12

GENESIS 9:

1. God makes a covenant with Noah. A covenant is an agreement between two parties. This does not mean the two are equals. Obviously, covenants between God and man is not made between equals. God has made promises to his creation (man) and certain stipulations are required. This is typical of covenants. God promises there will be no deluge and a bow (13) is given as a sign of the covenant.
2. **Noah's Drunkenness (9:18-29)** – The world receives a fresh start but Noah's problem is sadly given. Ham dishonors his drunken

father and Noah curses him through his descendants. The Canaanites – descended from Ham through Canaan, did indeed become subjects to Shem's descendants, the Israelites.

GENESIS 10 - 11:

1. The nations are now mentioned and generations listed from their relationship to the sons of Noah. The people of the earth are descendants of Noah's family.
2. The account includes a time soon after the flood that only one language was used (11:1).
3. Shinar would be the region of ancient Babylon in Mesopotamia part of modern Iraq.
4. They build out of pride and God comes down to see what they were doing. A figurative expression conveying the omniscient nature of God, he knows all that can be known and nothing is hid from his sight (11:4, 5).
5. The lord scattered them (11:8).

GENESIS 12: This chapter relates God's call and the journey to Canaan (1-9); famine (12:10-20).

1. This is an important historical record where God calls one man, Abram and Abram obediently responds, "So Abram went..." He had already left Ur a prosperous city for ancient times with a high standard of living. Now he sets off with Sarai and Lot. God promises to make a great nation through him, the people of God (18:18), the Hebrew nation. God promises to bless Abram and that he would be a blessing.
2. Canaan (5) first time it is mentioned in the Bible
3. The Lord appeared to Abram (7)
4. He learns from God while at Shechem that this land will be for the descendants of Abram. He continues south to the Negev.
5. Hunger drives Abram to Egypt. Here he adopts a pretense that his wife is his sister motivated out of stress and insecurity. She was his half sister, the daughter of Abrams father Terah but not of his mother (20:12). This deception could have put God's whole plan at risk but God responds with plagues (17) and Abram is deported (18). God is protecting Abram and his family.