

St. Margaret's Zoom Bible Study 2024

The Book of Genesis

Chapters 2, 3 & 4

Background

Genesis chapter 2 describes the completion of creation and the creation of man and woman. It also explains the sanctity of rest and the inception of marital companionship. The first verses of chapter 2 explain the seventh day, in which God rested from His work. The remainder of chapter 2 focuses on the creation of the first man, the garden God placed him in, and the job God gave him to do.

Genesis 3 is about the fall of man. Satan, in the shape of a serpent, tempted Adam and Eve to sin, which separated them from God. The story shifts abruptly from the woman's introduction to the appearance of a talking serpent. It's unclear where the serpent comes from, why it talks, or its intentions. It questions the woman about what God has told her and offers hints about what God might really have meant by his prohibition.

Genesis 4 describes life immediately after the fall of humanity, and when Cain murdered his brother Abel. The chapter begins with the birth of Cain and Abel, and their offerings to the Lord. Abel's offering was accepted, but Cain's was not, which led to Cain killing Abel. The chapter ends with the birth of Seth, who was born to Adam and Eve after Abel's death.

Text

Genesis 2:1-3 – The Sabbath

Genesis 2:4-25 – The Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:1-24 – Expulsion from Eden

Genesis 4:1-16 – Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:17-26 – Descendants of Cain and Seth