

*THE BOOK OF GENESIS:
CHAPTERS 1 -6
Creation and the "First Family"*

BIBLE STUDY. JANUARY 9 – 13, 2023

What begins in the Book of Genesis is developed during the course of biblical history and is fulfilled in the Book of Revelation.

Source: "Be Basic: Believing the Simple Truth of God's Word" by Warren W. Wiersbe

Book of Genesis

- The first heaven and earth
- Garden of Eden
- Tree of Life guarded
- First marriage (Adam and Eve)
- Satan tempts man to sin
- Death comes from sin
- Creation is polluted by sin
- Babylon built
- Abrahamic covenant given
- Children of God's kingdom scattered into nations
- The Redeemer promised

Book of Revelation

- The new heaven and earth
- "Garden city" of New Jerusalem
- Tree of Life available
- Last Marriage (the Lamb and His Church)
- Satan cast into lake of fire and his followers condemned
- No more death
- New and perfect creation
- Babylon destroyed
- Abrahamic Covenant completed
- People of all nations included in God's kingdom
- The Redeemer Reigns

The Six Days of Creation

- Day 1: God creates the heavens and the earth (earth is not yet fully formed). He creates light and darkness, separates them into what He names "day" and "night". Fun fact: The sun and moon will not be created until Day 4. The light shining for the first three days is the light of God's glory.
- Day 2: God separates the waters above into a vault and calls it the "sky".
- Day 3: God creates bodies of water and dry ground. He calls them "seas" and "land". He then covers the land with all forms of plant life, containing seeds so that they can reproduce and sustain life.
- Day 4: God created the stars to mark sacred times, the days, the weeks, the years. Put two great lights in the heavens. The light for day He called the "sun"; the light for night He called the "moon".
- Day 5: God created the creatures of the seas and the birds of the sky, and He blessed them to be fruitful and multiply. This is the first time God blesses anything in the Bible.
- Day 6: God creates livestock, wild animals, creatures on the ground. He creates man and woman (Adam and Eve). To man and beasts, He commands them to be fruitful and multiply. To man, God also gave authority to subdue the earth and hold dominion over nature, animals, fish, and birds. This authority was to be wielded with love and respect for God's creation. God gave all living things the plants for food (we were vegetarians until after the Great Flood).

The Seventh Day (the Sabbath) and Why “Work” is not a Four-Letter Word (if you catch our meaning)

- God rested on the seventh day and declared it holy, not because He was tired (the Isaiah 40 tells us the Lord does not grow weak or weary) but because His work was complete. He was pleased and satisfied with His creation. God sanctified the seventh day, which means He set it apart to be holy, for His special purposes. The Sabbath rest wasn't meant to end, but it was interrupted with God was forced to deal with the sin of Adam and Eve.
- God recognized the need for rest from labor (both for man and beast and for nature as well). He would later give the nation of Israel specific instructions for honoring the Sabbath as a day of rest. There would also be Sabbatical years in which they would not plant or harvest crops (so man, beast, and land could have respite). Farmers still rotate fields that they plant each year to give the land time to replenish itself.
- Jesus said that the Sabbath was created for man, not vice versa. He was speaking to the Pharisees and scribes, who had added so many of their parameters and traditions to observing the Sabbath that God's rest had turned into a burden for His people. It became religious bondage. Jesus made a point to deliberately work on the Sabbath (picking and eating wheat, performing miracles. See Mark 2:27).
- Christ released us from bondage to the Law of Moses by His death on the cross. He personally fulfilled all the requirements of the law; we, too, are considered to have fulfilled the law when we yield to Christ as our Savior. In the eternal kingdom, man will finally experience the respite of the Sabbath as God intended.

The Seventh Day (the Sabbath) and Why “Work” is not a Four-Letter Word (if you catch our meaning)

- In our modern society, it is not very easy for a person to stop, rest, and enjoy a day.
- Adam was a worker, but he was a worker TOGETHER with God. He was the steward of God’s creation blessings; his task was to care for the garden.
- God gives each of us skills that we are to use in our daily lives to bring Him glory. This is not meant to be a burden to us. We are coming alongside God to model His love, His ways, His righteousness, justice, mercy, and grace in all things that we do, whether at home, in the community, or in the workplace. We are to help and serve one another as brothers and sisters and images of God. It is not enough that we receive Christ and believe on Him; true faith should be transformative and inspire us to do good works not for our glory but for His (1 John 5:3, James 2:26).

Consider this: There are many joys and privileges that come with being chosen by God to the family of Christ. Believe it or not, work is one of those opportunities for joy when we put our abilities to use for God’s glory. What an honor it is to be chosen by God to be used as a means to achieving His purposes (He certainly could manage without our help, but He wants us to come alongside Him). Remember as a child watching your parent(s) work at a task like cooking, home repairs, craft projects, or such things and wanting desperately to participate with them? Remember the joy you felt when you tried the task and they approved your work? Did it feel like work then? This is the joy of the work that God sets before us, for it is work worth doing, especially when it brings others to salvation in Christ.

It is SIN that causes work to become a burden, to feel like toil (just as sin forced Adam to toil to cultivate the earth).

God is Triune

- God is called the Holy Trinity because He is actually three distinct personalities in one entity. There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We see all three present at the baptism of Jesus Christ, for example. Beyond the fact that Christ the Son is physically there, the voice of God the Father is heard, and the Holy Spirit alights on Jesus in the form of a dove.
- There is no ranking system within the Trinity. Depending upon His purposes, a particular entity will manifest and the other two personalities will be in temporary submission and cooperation. For example: At Pentecost, it is the Holy Spirit who comes upon the apostles to fill them with the knowledge and power they need for their missionary work. God the Father is the personality who passes judgement in the form of the Great Flood and sets the waters upon earth.
- The relationship within the Holy Trinity is a constant flow of mutual love, cooperation, submission to one another as needed, shared knowledge, and peace. It is this relationship that God desired to share with man before the fall caused separation between the Lord and His image. God still intends to share this relationship with believers in the eternal kingdom.

WHAT DOES THE CREATION NARRATIVE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Genesis 1 - 2

- In Genesis 1, which recounts the creation of the heavens and earth, God is called “Elohim” (“power”). This denotes His **omnipotence** and His **transcendent** nature, His separation from the things of creation. This chapter emphasizes the cosmology of creation. God speaks things into existence with His illimitable **power**.
- Everything the God created was made from His **omniscience** or **wisdom**, with meticulous attention to detail right down to the atoms and molecules of all matter or the DNA of every plant. He knew how every part of nature would interconnect to sustain life. He placed the heavenly knowing that they would help man track the days, months, and years and so they would know the seasons so that they could plant and harvest. God is the **sustainer of life**. He was **patient** in His work.
 - God is able to impart wisdom to mankind, for example the gift of wisdom that He gave Solomon or the insight He gave Peter to recognize Christ as the Messiah

WHAT DOES THE CREATION NARRATIVE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Genesis 1 - 2

The creation narrative shows that God is **eternal** and **infinite**. God existed before creation. The fact that there is a Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) that imparts immortality and that God describes eating from it as making man “like Us” also implies that God is eternal.

God is **Holy**. When He surveys all that He created, He pronounces it as being very good.

God is **righteous** and **just**. He sets forth principles of integrity which evidence His morality. He shows His righteousness through those who serve Him. In the case of Adam and Eve, they cared for the garden and its creatures with gentleness. There was no violence or enmity between man and animals prior to the fall of man. God’s image was reflecting His own concern and caring for His creation. Man’s dominion over nature before the fall was not oppressive.

As Creator, God had dominion and **Sovereign** authority over man and nature. He was just to punish Adam and Eve’s disobedience and their attempts to hide and deny their sins.

WHAT DOES THE CREATION NARRATIVE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Genesis 1 - 2

- In Genesis 2, which recounts the creation of mankind, the emphasis is anthropological. God is called YHWH (Yahweh), which is a more intimate term indicating God's **closeness, nearness**, or **immanence** and relationship with His creation, specifically with man, who is made in God's image.
 - In describing God's creation of man, the descriptive verbs are comparable to those used describing the work of a potter crafting a vessel. God formed mankind from the dust with His hands. Where God had caused the animals, fish, and birds to come to life by speaking a command, God breathed His own breath into man's nostrils. This hints at God's intentions for fellowship with His image on earth and demonstrates that He is truly the **giver of life**.
 - More than the giver of life, His care in forming man, breathing life into man, giving man dominion to rule in God's authority, and creating Eve to be a partner, helper, and companion when Adam was alone demonstrates God's **love** and **mercy**.

The Angelic Realm and the Angelic Rebellion: What does it mean for mankind?

- *In the (real) beginning, God's kingdom was the heavens. His subjects were the created angelic beings. Those in the kingdom were called to praise Him.*
- *There were Seraphim ("burning ones") who reflected God's glory. There were Cherubim who worshipped God on His throne and were protectors and stewards of God's glory. They are depicted on His Ark of Covenant and in His temples as protectors of His glory. They also became guards in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were cast out.*

Lucifer was one of the cherubim, said to be the wisest of the created angelic beings, very beautiful, and holding a seat of glory in the kingdom. Unfortunately, he became prideful (even taking credit for the attributes which God had given him). He continuously set his will against God's will. This passage is addressed to the king of Babylon, but it reflects Lucifer's rebellion:

"I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon, I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High"
(Isaiah 14:13-14).

With this rebellion against God's authority, Satan set out to make a counterfeit copy of God's kingdom over which he would rule. He began a "counter-kingdom" program. His kingdom, however, is characterized by darkness, deceit, lawlessness, rebellion, denial of truth, ungodliness, unholiness, and disobedience of God.

- *The kingdom battle between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan underscores God's plans for mankind, His covenants with mankind, and the purposes of all that He does in biblical history. Most of all, it is the reason for the first and second advents of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. You will see throughout Biblical history that Satan is at work in the hearts of certain men and nations to set them against God's chosen people. He did all in his power to prevent the advent of the Messiah. He still seeks to subvert God's purposes and claim God's throne today. The final battle will be examined in the book of Revelation.*

The Fall of Man and God's Response

- God pronounced that: The ground would no longer yield to Adam's cultivation, but rather he would have to labor hard to bring forth food.
- Women would have multiplied pain in childbirth. Their desires would be towards their husbands, who would rule over them.
- There would be enmity between the descendants of Eve and the serpent (Satan). Her descendant (the Messiah) would crush the serpent's head and the serpent would strike his heel.
- The serpents would now crawl in the dirt on their bellies because Satan had used them as his vessel in tempting Eve.
- It would also seem that, despite their fall into an existence of labor, sin, and death, Adam and Eve still remained in relationship with God. Eve praised God for giving her a son (Cain, whose name means "acquired", denoting that life comes from God). Though Cain and Abel's story ends in tragedy, they are first seen in the Bible bringing sacrifices to God. They surely learned this from their parents.
- The point is this: The Bible story is one of man's repeated failures of fidelity to God, descent into sin, and for the faithful repentance and restoration to relationship with God until Jesus ultimately paid the penalty of our sins. God is faithful from love, grace, and mercy to forgive us. Never feel you are so far gone that God does not want you or will not accept you when you come to Him in sincere repentance, remorse, and open renouncement and acknowledgement of your sins.

What is the Adamic Covenant? Genesis 3:14-19

- The first of God's covenants with mankind. The first part of this covenant is the Edenic Covenant (innocence). The second part is the Adamic Covenant (grace).
- The Edenic Covenant states that man and woman are made in the image of God. They are given dominion to rule over animals. They are commanded to reproduce and inhabit the entire earth. They are to eat of the plants (eating of meat is first mentioned in Bible in the Noahic Covenant in Genesis 9). It also forbade Adam and Eve to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil under penalty of death.
- The Adamic Covenant is the result of Adam's sin and the fall of man, when God pronounced punishments on the serpent, Eve, and Adam but also promised a Redeemer to save mankind from sin. This covenant states that there will be enmity between Satan and Eve's descendants, one of whom will be the Redeemer who will crush the head of the serpent (meaning Satan). Women would now have painful childbirth. There would be strife in marriage. The soil was cursed and would resist man's attempts at cultivation, including the introduction of thorns and thistles. Survival would be a struggle; death would be the inevitable fate of all living things.
- God's Word that the descendant of Eve would crush the head of Satan is the first Gospel message of the Bible (First Gospel, Proto-Gospel, or Protevangelium). It also states that Eve's descendant would be wounded by the serpent in the process. Still, the curse on the serpent is a blessing of hope for man.

The Fall of Man and Marriage

- It must be noted that God's pronouncement that women's desires would be towards their husbands, who would rule over them was NOT a mandate for husbands to be domineering or abusive of their wives.
- The family is a microcosm of God's kingdom. In that kingdom, animals are submissive to man's authority, and man is submissive to God's Sovereign Authority. In the household, children submit to their parents (per the ten commandments), who in turn submit to God. The husband is to manage the household with holiness and righteousness as God's image. Wives were meant to be partners of the husband.
- Part of the microcosm is for familial relationships to mirror the relationship of the Holy Trinity. The Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct personalities, but one entity. For specific purposes, one of those personalities emerges to take authority and the other two personalities are submissive out of love, agreement, and mutual cooperation. All three consistently work towards the same goals. There is never a power struggle or concern for domination between any of the three personalities of the Holy Trinity, nor should the desire for domination and control motivate any familial relationship.

WHAT DOES THE FALL OF MAN TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Read Gen. 3

- God's **mercy, love, anger,** and **grace** is displayed again in the narrative of the fall of mankind. "Anger" and "wrath" would superficially seem to be traits unworthy of God, but to allow sin and wickedness to continue unchecked and uncorrected would also contradict God's righteousness and justice. **A better description of God's anger towards man would be "discipline", as a parent corrects a child.** His anger is motivated by love and desire to bring men back into right relationship so that He can continue to bless them and plan for their salvation and redemption, a path to life rather than eternal death and separation from God.
- God is long-suffering, but eventually His righteousness and justice require Him to discipline His people. In Scripture, we will see that mankind is repeatedly disobedient and even blasphemous towards God. Though He disciplines them, **His discipline is always preceded by the offer of hope and a path towards restoration to right relationship and life.** His response to Adam and Eve's sin exemplifies this truth.
- It is God's love that prompted Him to form a plan of redemption for mankind; it was His mercy that inspired God to form a plan of forgiveness and repentance and to establish a path to the Messiah. His Messianic plan would satisfy God's requirements of righteousness and justice while allowing His **forgiveness** when man's sins should have earned a sentence of death. It is not God's will that any soul be lost. Our salvation demonstrates His great grace.

WHAT DOES THE FALL OF MAN TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Read Gen. 3

- Genesis 3 details the temptation of Eve by the serpent, who was Satan in disguise. He tempted her to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil after God had forbidden Adam and Eve to eat of its fruits. **The end result of their disobedience (sin) was shame, fear, guilt, and discipline from God.** They attempted to hide themselves from God, they tried to disguise their sin by making coverings of fig leaves, and when confronted by God, they **lied and cast blame on others for their disobedience.**
- Guilt, shame, and the blame games are natural reactions when we sin. God knows our every thought and deed; it is futile to attempt to hide our sins from Him, yet it is people's inclination to do so. God had to seek out Adam and Eve, just as Jesus had to come to earth to seek out lost sinners. Because of God's holiness, He must deal with sin...not just for the glory of His own name but for the good of the sinner. By His grace, He gives us a chance to confess, repent, ask forgiveness, and return to faith and obedience.
- God has given men a conscience, which is there to convict us when we do wrong and approve when we do right. **Though it is shameful when we sin, our best response is to own it, confess it, and repent it so that God can forgive it so that we can be restored to right relationship with God.**

THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR UNTRUTHFUL ENEMY.

- “Satan” means “adversary”. “Devil” means “slanderer”. “Abaddon” means “destroyer”.
- John 8:44 calls him a “murderer” and the “father of lies”.
- Ephesians 2 calls him “ruler of the world system”.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 calls him “god of this age”
- First caution: Satan can disguise himself. He can masquerade as an angel of light. In the Garden of Eden, he used the body of the serpent. In Revelation, he will be a dragon. Thus the expression “devil in disguise”.
- Check out Revelation 22:19, Proverbs 30:6
- Second caution: Satan is an imitator of God. He has false ministries, false prophets, and believers who preach a false Gospel. In Revelation, he is going to send the greatest deceivers he will ever create: The beast and the false prophet. He will deny God’s Word, question God’s Word, twist and misinterpret God’s Word. If anyone preaches you a message about God or His Word that contradicts what is in Scripture, it is a false message. [Check everything you are taught against the truth in the Bible.](#)

*THE TRAGEDY
OF THE FALL OF
MAN, WHY
ADAM TAKES
THE BLAME,
AND THE ONLY
TIME THAT GOD
HAS CURSED
ANYTHING.*

- How did Satan tempt Eve? By promising that she would be like God. By questioning God's commands to her (therefore questioning God's Word). By denying God's Word when God warned that eating of the tree would lead to death. God is the God of truth. He does not lie. (Romans 1:18-32).
- Satan tricked Eve into altering God's Word by adding to it when she answered the serpent's questions.
- Satan made the fruit appealing visually to Eve. Some things which Satan still uses to tempt people to disobey God include our vanity, pride, ambition, lust (for food, flesh, money, etc.). In Eve's case, she and Adam had no concept of evil. They were innocent. This does not excuse disobedience of God's commands. They might not have known evil, but they did know the boundaries God had placed.
- Why does Adam take the blame? Adam was created first, and God held him as responsible to protect the garden and to protect Eve (who was created to be his suitable helper in his responsibilities in the garden). He should have cast out the serpent when it questioned God's commands. When he took the fruit Eve offered, he chose to submit to her instead of submitting to God's commands.

CAIN, ABEL, AND SETH

A Tale of Three Brothers and Two Spiritual Kingdoms

Read Genesis 4-5

- Cain was firstborn but lost that birthright because of his sin in murdering his brother Abel.
- Scripture reveals that, quite often, God's messianic plans are not passed down through the firstborn children. Isaac was not the firstborn of Abraham (though he was the firstborn of Abraham's wife, Sarah). Jacob was the younger son of Isaac. Judah was not the firstborn of Jacob, but it was his line from whom Christ would descend.
- Scripture states that God was not pleased with Cain or his offering. Afterwards, God cautions Cain against wrath, saying that if Cain does right, he will be accepted, but if he does not do right then sin waits to consume him.
- It is possible that Cain already harbored jealousy or resentment towards Abel and this caused God to reject Cain and his offering. Scripture tells us not to come to worship God when we have a grudge against another human. We are instructed to go make peace with that person and then to come to God in worship afterward.
- Jesus goes so far as to equate anger with actual murder (Matthew 5:21-26). Hate and envy are signs that our hearts and our spiritual walk are not right with God but rather signs that we are in peril of being drawn to the darkness of Satan's kingdom. Murder is mentioned as an abomination to God in Proverbs 6, along with pride, lying, false witness, feet that run towards evil, and hearts that devise wickedness, and sowing discord among brothers (and all humans are brothers and sisters).

CAIN, ABEL, AND SETH

A Tale of Three Brothers and Two Spiritual Kingdoms

Read Genesis 4-5

- As we read in Genesis, Cain failed to heed God's warning and murdered his brother, Abel. Like His parents, Adam and Eve, Cain tried to hide his sin from God and then lied about it. God gave Cain a chance to confess and repent of his sins, but Cain is never said to have repented or to have asked God's forgiveness, only to have expressed regret and expressed fears that he himself would be killed in retaliation. In God's **mercy**, He placed a mark on Cain to prevent anyone from killing him in retribution (most likely, it would have been Cain's own family avenging Abel).
- Satan is called a murderer and a liar. Cain showed himself to be more an image of Satan than of God. Abel's blood spilled on the ground meant the earth would no longer yield crops to Cain the farmer. His actions closed the door to His relationship with God and
- Afterwards, God cautions Cain against wrath, saying that if Cain does right, he will be accepted, but if he does not do right then sin waits to consume him. his family. Jude 11 calls self-will and unbelief "the way of Cain".
- Cain would go on to build civilizations and have off-spring, but the Bible records his cities as centers of wickedness (marking them as being of the kingdom of Satan). Those civilizations and descendants would be wiped away by the Great Flood.
- Cain (never repenting) experienced the pain of separation from God and a future without hope of forgiveness or a place in God's kingdom. Jesus briefly experienced this same pain while on the cross, when God temporarily had to forsake His Son to death. As Jesus was restored to God, so, too, will those who believe on Him be spared the agony of separation from God.
- The death of Abel and Cain's fall from the kingdom of God endangered God's covenant that Eve's descendant would be the Messianic Redeemer. God's purposes will never be thwarted by man's sinfulness. God gave Eve another son, Seth (meaning "granted"), who would continue the Messianic line. His descendants would include Noah. He and his family would be the only humans spared during the Great Flood.

Parallel Families

There are 10 generations between Adam and Noah, then 10 generations between Noah and Abraham. This was the Messianic line through Adam's son Seth. Examination of the descendants of Cain and the descendants of Seth reveal that their children often shared similar (or identical) names...but very different spiritual natures. Seth's family was deeply, spiritually connected with God, while Cain's descendants were very much under the influence of the kingdom of darkness.

Cain's lineage

- His descendants included Enoch, Mehujael, Lamech. Their names are similar to the names of some of Seth's descendants. Satan can imitate the names of true believers, but he can't produce a true believe in God.
- Lamech is noted for being the Bible's first bigamist. He also composed a song for his two wives detailing how Lamech had killed a man for injuring him, then saying as God avenged Cain seven times, so would he avenge Lamech seventy-seven times (though he never actually uses calls name, repents, or calls on the Lord for help). Apparently, he believed God's protection of Cain extended to him.
- Cain's great-grandson Jamel was the founder of "those who live in tents". His brother Jubal established the music of the pipes and harps. Their brother Tubal-Cain was creator of tools of copper and pipes.

Seth's lineage

- His descendants included Enosh, Mahalalel, Lamech, Methuselah, Enoch, and Noah.
- Seth's son Enosh was born in an era where people collectively gathered to worship God and proclaim His name and pray. Sethites were glorifying God while the Cainites were glorifying their own accomplishments. There is always a segment of man who will remain faithful to God and keep His light burning. For the descendants of Seth, this remnant would ultimately trickle down to just Noah and his family.
- Methuselah was famous for his long life (969 years. He died the year of the Great Flood).
- Enoch was Methuselah's father. He is famous for walking faithfully with God. He and the prophet Elijah are the only people documented in Scripture as not having died but rather been taken up alive into heaven. The book of Jude states that Enoch had announced God's ultimate judgement at the second coming of the Redeemer.
- Noah was the son of Lamech (different Lamech). His name means "comfort" As we will see in the next lesson when we study the Great Flood and the Noahic Covenant, he plays a prominent role in preserving the line of the Redeemer as well as herald new changes in worship of God.

The Evolution of Theocratic Administration (a.k.a. How God Adapts Spiritual Leadership to Resistant Humankind)

Adam as Theocratic Administrator

- Adam was given the mandate to have authority over all creatures. Nature itself would serve him obediently. In turn, he was to exercise authority according to God's ways and God's requirements as the Lord's appointed viceroy. Anyone whom God has placed in a position of authority is expected to use that authority justly and righteously for the Lord's purposes, not abusively or selfishly. They are also to care for others (to harm another is to harm God Himself) and to care for God's creation as the gift that it is. When Adam sinned, he no longer held authority over nature and animals. Nevertheless, he and other humans are still expected to walk in the care of man and nature as God's creation and images.

The Law of Conscience

- After the fall of Adam, God put the ability to discern right from wrong within mankind (a conscience that would convict their wrongdoing or approve their right or just behavior). This was the form of theocratic authority for the generations between Adam and Noah. Scripture tells us that the corruption of sin overwhelmed mankind and their wickedness grew all-consuming, resulting in the judgement of the flood.

...and while
we're on the
subject.

- Some theologians, in discussing the intermarriage of Sethites and Cainites, state that the intermarriage meant that the Sethites were defying God, became unholy, and could no longer be part of God's redemptive plans (ergo, they perished along with the Cainities in the flood).
- Consider this: The lineage of Jesus Christ (post-flood) includes Rahab, a prostitute in Jericho. We'll meet her later when we examine the book of Joshua. In short, Rahab knew of God, feared God, and submitting to God's will by helping His people. She then married into the line of Abraham's descendants. She was a pagan by birth, and certainly one of disrepute, but that didn't stop God from recognizing her submission to Him and using her for His plans. Another matriarch of the Messiah was Ruth. She was born a Moabite but married into the nation of Israel. She was faithful to her mother-in-law, Naomi, so much that she renounced her pagan people and their ways and received God, marrying into the Messianic line. Again, her origins did not preclude God from using her in His plans.
- While it's true God passed laws against the Israelites intermarrying with the pagan nations (post-flood), primarily so they would not be lured into idolatry and fall from grace, the Bible does not specifically say that Sethites were forbidden to marry Cainities. The people who perished in the flood were lost to their own all-encompassing wickedness and unrepentance. Noah found grace because he alone walked in faithfulness to God (as we will see). One should never feel that their origins are so sordid that they cannot be accepted if they come to God in genuine faith through Jesus Christ. One should never presume that birth into any family (atheist or even satanic) automatically condemns them if they are walking in true and right relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Next lesson:

Please read
Genesis
Chapters 6-11.

- **REFERENCES FOR THIS LESSON:**

- “*Be Basic: Believing the Simple Truth of God’s Word*”, Warren W. Wiersbe; Victor Books, 1998
- “*Everlasting Dominion*”, Eugene H. Merrill; B&H Academics; 2006
- “*Thy Kingdom Come*”, J. Dwight Pentecost; Kregel Publications; 1995
- USEFUL INFORMATION, READ THEM!