

God's Eternal Plan

Purpose of Lesson

- 1.) To present the Bible as the **eternal** plan of God
- 2.) To show Jesus as the **foundation** of God's plan from Genesis to Revelation
- 3.) To stress the importance of knowing and obeying Jesus

Eph. 3:11 God's eternal plan was carried out in Christ Jesus

Eph. 1:3-14 All spiritual blessings are in Christ Jesus

(cf. Jn 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12)

Jn 5:46 Moses wrote about Jesus

Jn 1:45 Philip understood this very important purpose of the Law and Prophets i.e. to identify the Christ and Savior of mankind
(cf. Gal. 3:24)

Seeing Jesus in The Law and Prophets

Genesis

cp. Gen. 1:1 w/Jn. 1:1-3 and Col. 1:16; Gen. 12:3 w/Gal. 3:28,29;
Gen. 26:1-4; 28:10-14 cp. Jn 1:49; Gen. 49:8-10

Exodus

cp. Ex. 12:3ff. w/1 Cor. 5:7; Ex. 14:21, 22w/1 Cor. 10:2 and Heb. 3:5,6;
cp. Ex. 24:7,8 w/Mt. 26:28

Leviticus

cp. Lev. 16:29-34 w/Heb. 9:11,12,24

Numbers

cp. Num. 20:8-13 w/Ex. 17:6; Isa. 53:5,10; 1 Cor. 10:4
cp. Num. 21:9 w/Jn. 3:14

Deuteronomy

~Deut. 18:15 w/Acts 3:22; Heb. 1:1,2; Mt. 10:40

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS FROM GENESIS ONE

By Dempsey Collins

1. Genesis 1 is not an _____ of God, it is a _____ of God.

(Romans 1:20).
2. “In the beginning” refers to the _____ (2:1 – A six day process) God has no beginning (Gen. 1:33; Isa. 40:28).
3. GOD (Elohim - 2,250 times in Old Testament, 32 times in vv. 1-31)
 - Compound unity 1:26; 3:22
 - Cp. Deut. 6:4 – Elohim is Echad (one) with Gen. 2:24 – one flesh
4. “Created” – Bara (The word is used three times in 1:27). “It is rare in the Old Testament and always used of an act of God. It does not necessarily mean out of nothing (ex nihilo) but this is clearly implied” (O.T. Allis, God spoke by Moses) cp. Heb. 11:3; Ps. 33:6
5. The initial creation included three main spheres of activity:
6. Genesis 1 follows a simple pattern of forming and filling:
First 3 days God forms: Heavens, earth, water, expansion in midst of waters, separation of land and water (vv. 1-10)
Days 4-6 God fills: vegetation (part of 3rd day), stars, planets, water creatures, animals, man.
7. Each day of creation typically follows a pattern of seven facts in slightly varying order: announcement, command, separation, result, naming, evaluation, chronological framework.

Note this pattern in successive days:

Day One

- vv. 1, 2 – Announcement
- v. 3 – Command
- v. 3 – Result
- v. 4 – Evaluation
- v. 4 – Separation
- v. 5 – Naming
- v. 5 – Chronological framework

Day Two

- v. 6 -
- v. 6 -
- v. 7 -
- vv. 6, 7 -
- v. 8 -
- v. 8 -

Day Three

v. 9 –
v. 9 –
v. 9 –
v. 10 –
v. 10 –
(Repeat of process)
v. 11 –
v. 11 –
vv. 11, 12
v. 12 –
vv. 11, 12 –
vv. 11, 12 –
v. 13 –

Day Four

v. 14 - Announcement
v. 14 - Command
v. 14, 15 - Separation
v. 15 - Result
v. 16 - Naming
v. 18 - Evaluation
v. 19 – Chronological framework

8. There is a logical order to creation – habitation, water, air (expanse), land, plants, stars, planets, fish, birds, animals, man.

9. There is fixity of the kinds: each living thing reproduces after its own kind, yet it possesses natural variation so it can adapt to its environment (1:11, 21, 24ff)

10. Genesis 1:1 immediately denies

11. Events of Genesis 1 and 2 are literal events. *Provide proof from other Scriptures*

12. The days of Genesis 1 are literal days.

Genesis 1:1-25 is preparatory

Genesis 1:26, 27 – The creation of man in the image of God.

1:26ff – Being in the divine likeness we are accountable creatures. We cannot truly understand or appreciate the terribleness of sin and our desperate need for redemption until we see our true nature and what we once were.

The primary purpose of Genesis 1 and 2 is not to explain the creation of the world, but to show the events leading up to man's creation and his lofty status before sin.

Chapters 3 and 4 – Man's fall

Chapter 5 – Setting aside a family in each generation *a terrible reality of death.*

Chapters 6 and 9 – Man's depravity

Chapter 12 – Promises to Abraham – Deut. 7:7,8

THE IMPORTANCE OF GENESIS

The book of Genesis lays the foundation for understanding the entire Bible. Without Genesis we know nothing of the simplest yet most profound questions of life. What is man? What is his origin, purpose and destiny? There are no reasonable answers to these questions outside of Genesis. The Scriptures are as one interwoven fabric and Genesis is the beginning thread. (cp. Gen. 1:1 with Rev. 21:1 and Gen. 3:9 with Gen. 22:1,2) Many teachings in both the Mosaic and Christian covenants find their roots in Genesis and cannot be understood without a study of this book. Most New Testament writers rely heavily on the book to sustain their teaching.

Genesis In God's Eternal Purpose

- 1.) Gen. 2 – We see God and His creation in perfect harmony. Man is righteous through a sinless life created by God.
- 2.) Gen. 3:7ff – Man's fall into sin and unrighteousness (cp. Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:1,2; 64:6).
- 3.) Gen. 3ff – We see death and the fear of death.
- 4.) In Rev. 1:18 and chapters 21, 22 we see Jesus as Victor over death and perfect harmony between God and man restored. Man is declared righteous once again. But on what basis? How does man who is “filled with all manner of unrighteousness” (Rom. 1:29), become righteous once again? How do we get from Gen. 2 to Rev. 22?
- 5.) God's “eternal purpose” (Eph. 3:11) revealed in the Bible is the answer and Genesis is the foundation of that plan.
- 6.) “Righteousness through faith” (Hab. 2:4) is the way revealed by God. Faith in the perfect life, sacrificial death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. (Rom. 3:22)
- 7.) This righteousness was “witnessed by the law and prophets.” (Rom. 3:21) Gen. 15:16; Isa. 51; 53:11; 61:1-3; Jer. 23:5,6; Dan. 9:24; Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:16,17; 3:21-26; 10:1-3; Phil. 3:9

8.) Genesis explains how God introduced a Savior into the world on behalf of man. In Gen. 3:15 He would come “through the seed of woman.” A family line in each generation would be set apart. Adam, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Shem, Terah begin that family line. Three great promises are made to Terah’s son Abraham. A nation is set aside through Abraham’s family. To this nation God entrusted His oracles, promises, prophecies and a record of the coming “Righteous One” (1 Jn. 2:1). Through His perfect life and death “the many will be made righteous” (Rom. 5:19). Thus, our righteousness will once again be the “creation of God” (Eph. 2:10; 4:24). To God be all the glory (Eph.3:21).

THE BIBLE UNIT

	GENESIS		REVELATION
<u>2:17; 3:19</u>	Death		<u>21:4</u> No more death
<u>3:8</u>	Man loses close fellowship with God		<u>21:3</u> Close fellowship restored
<u>3:17</u>	Earth is cursed		<u>21:1</u> New heaven and new earth
<u>3:23</u>	Cast out of the garden		<u>22:14</u> Restored to the garden
<u>3:24</u>	Man loses access to the tree of life		<u>22:2,14</u> Constant access to the tree of life

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