

Monday Night Discipleship: Week 1

Introduction:

1. What is the Bible and what is its purpose?
 - a. It's a unified book, a collection of writings, that is uniquely inspired and authoritative.
 - i. Collection of writings-
 - ii. Uniquely inspired- 2 Timothy 3:16
 - iii. Authoritative-
 - b. ...what is the Bible's purpose?
 - i. 2 Tim 3:15 explains that the purpose of the Bible is to make a person "wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ."¹
 - ii. Plummer comments on this passage, "the prophecies, promises, longings, and anticipations under the old covenant find their fulfillment, meaning, and culmination in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. [...] So, under divine superintendence, the goal of the Bible is to bring readers to receive the forgiveness of God in Christ and thus to possession of eternal life in relation with the triune God (John 17:3)."²
2. Why is the Bible divided into two sections (the Old Testament and the New Testament)?
 - a. Testament- "an agreement" or "covenant"
 - b. The Bible contains two covenantal relationships that exist between God and man.
 - i. The old covenant (the first covenant) was made official at Mount Sinai between God and the Jewish nation (Ex. 19-31).
 - ii. The new covenant was a fulfillment of the old covenant, hence the New Testament.

¹ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Tim 3:15. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

² Robert L. Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 18.

3. Chronology of Biblical Events/Books

FIGURE 1: TIME LINE OF BIBLICAL EVENTS AND BOOKS	
Adam and Eve	<i>l.t.a.</i> ⁴
Noah	<i>l.t.a.</i>
The calling of Abraham	2000 B.C.
The exodus	1446 B.C. (first books of the Bible written by Moses)
The monarchy begins	1050 B.C. (God chooses Saul)
King David	1010–970 B.C.
King Solomon	970–930 B.C.
The divided kingdom	931 B.C. (Israel and Judah divided)
The Assyrian exile	722 B.C. (destruction of Samaria)
The Babylonian exile	586 B.C. (destruction of Jerusalem)
The Persian period	537 B.C. (return of Jews under Cyrus)
Second temple finished	515 B.C.
Nehemiah/Ezra	mid-400s B.C.
Malachi (last Old Testament book)	430 B.C.
Intertestamental period	430 B.C.–A.D. 45
Jesus' birth	7–4 B.C.
Jesus' ministry	A.D. 27–30
Jesus' crucifixion	A.D. 30
First New Testament book(s) written	A.D. 45
a. Revelation written	A.D. 90 (last book of the New Testament)

3

Discussion:

Chapter 1

1. According to the author, why do many Christians ignore the Old Testament (OT)? Why should Christians study the OT?

³ Plummer, 21.

2. Each chapter will discuss the content, authorship, date, genre, and the gospel connection. Why are these elements important in understanding the OT?

Chapter 2

1. Content: What Is Genesis About?
 - a. Genesis - The book of “Beginnings” or “origins
 - b. “Genesis is the first part of what is really a five-part literary composition known as the _____ or the _____.”⁴
 - c. What are the first five books of the Bible about?
 - i. “The main story of the Pentateuch concerns the _____ of _____ as a nation emerging from Egypt and traveling toward the Promised Land. Genesis is the _____ or introduction to this great story.”⁵
 - d. Genesis can be broken into three major sections:
 - i. Primordial History (Genesis 1-11)
 1. Creation of the world and man (Genesis 1-2)
 2. Sin and death came into God’s good creation (Genesis 3)
 3. A pattern of sin and grace (Genesis 4-11)
 - ii. The Patriarchs (Genesis 12-36)
 1. Abraham (Genesis 12-25)
 - a. Why is he known as “the father of the chosen people”?
 - b. In what ways does Abraham struggle in his faith in God?
 - c. In what way did Abraham display his faith in God?

⁴ Tremper Longman III. *Introducing The Old Testament: A Short Guide to its History and Message* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2012), 11.

⁵ Longman, 11.

2. Isaac (Genesis 26)
 - a. Promises made to Abraham are passed down to him and then to his son, Jacob
 - b. Not much is said about Isaac
 3. Jacob (Genesis 27-36)
 - a. “Colorful” character-
 - i. Tricked his father to bless him (Genesis 27)
 - ii. He gets tricked into a marriage (Genesis 29)
 - iii. Spends a portion of his life in fear that his brother will kill him
 - b. Struggled with his relationship with God,
 - iii. The life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50)
 1. This section of Genesis “serves as a _____ between Genesis and Exodus since it explains how the descendants of Abraham make their way down to Egypt.”⁶
 2. Outline:
 - a. The sin of Joseph’s family (Genesis 37-38)
 - b. God is glorified in Joseph’s life (Genesis 39-41)
 - c. God saves Jacob’s family (Genesis 42-50)
 3. Genesis ends with Joseph’s death, “but it _____ the continuation of the story in the book of Exodus when Joseph makes his brothers promise that they will take his embalmed body back to the Promised Land in the future (50:22-26).”⁷
2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Genesis and When?
- a. What are the two major positions of authorship?
 - i. Moses wrote the whole Pentateuch
 - ii. Moses wrote no part of the Pentateuch- but instead “the Pentateuch is the result of a long history of composition that may have begun as early as [the 10th century BC] but did not end until the postexilic period.”⁸
 - b. What are the strongest reasons supporting Moses’ authorship?
 - i. Moses is described to have a writing capacity⁹

⁶ Longman, 13.

⁷ Longman, 14.

⁸ Longman, 14.

⁹ Longman, 14.

- ii. Genesis is referred to as the “Book of Moses”
 - iii. Jesus and the gospel narrative authors associated the Pentateuch with Moses
 - c. What are some arguments against Moses’ authorship?
 - i. He couldn’t have recorded certain texts. (ie. his death)
 - d. Why should these authorial arguments matter little to the Christian?
3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Genesis?
- a. Historical - “recounting of past events”¹⁰
 - b. “The creation narratives clearly have a theological, and not scientific, interest. Since the creation accounts [...] use a high degree of figurative language and interact extensively with ancient Near Eastern literature, it is an _____ to read these chapters to discover how God created the universe.”¹¹
4. Connections: How Does Genesis Connect to the Gospel?
- a. “The connections between the book of Genesis and the New Testament are _____”¹²
 - b. Christ the second Adam- Romans 5:12-21
 - i. The first Adam (Adam)-
 - ii. The second Adam (Jesus)-
 - c. Jesus and Abraham- Galatians 3:15-22
 - i. “Paul reminds his readers of the promises God made to Abraham, especially the promise of ‘_____.’ He emphasizes the fact that God’s promised seed is singular and therefore does not point to many descendants, but rather to only one, whom he identifies as none other than _____.”¹³
 - d. Jesus and Joseph- Acts 2:22-24
 - i. “Joseph’s life illustrates God’s _____ to bring about salvation. In Joseph’s case, God used his brothers, Potiphar’s wife, and others to put him in a place where he could provide for his family during a famine. In the case of Christ, God used the actions of evil men who nailed Jesus to the cross in order to bring salvation to the world (Acts 2:22-24).”¹⁴

¹⁰ Longman, 17.

¹¹ Longman, 14.

¹² Longman, 18.

¹³ Longman, 18.

¹⁴ Longman, 18.

R.E.A.P.

Genesis 12:1-3

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”¹⁵

1. **Read** aloud together
2. **Explain** by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about ____?
 - a. God:

 - b. Man:

 - c. Christ:
3. **Ask**- What question/s would help you understand the text more fully?

4. **Pray**- Using some of your observations and questions, write out a prayer to God.

¹⁵ Genesis 12:1-3.