

Bethlehem, PA - Bible Class
Wednesday, January 12, 2011

The Story of the Bible
Connecting the Dots

The Goal of this Class...

- ◉ The goal of this class will be to help us learn the “big picture” of the Bible and then to understand where each event we know fits into it.
- ◉ By understanding how each event and person is intertwined, we will also improve our abilities to study individually and with others.
- ◉ To accomplish these goals, we will examine the Bible as seventeen major time periods.

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The Time Periods...

- Before the Flood
- The Flood
- Scattering of the People
- The Patriarchs
- The Exodus
- Wandering in the Wilderness
- Invasion and Conquest of the Land
- The Judges
- The United Kingdom
- The Divided Kingdom
- Judah Alone
- The Captivity
- Return from Captivity
- Years of Silence
- Life of Christ
- The Early Church
- Letters to Christians

The Time Periods...

Before the Flood

The Flood

Scattering of the People

The Patriarchs

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Invasion and Conquest of the Land

The Judges

The United Kingdom

The Divided Kingdom

Judah Alone

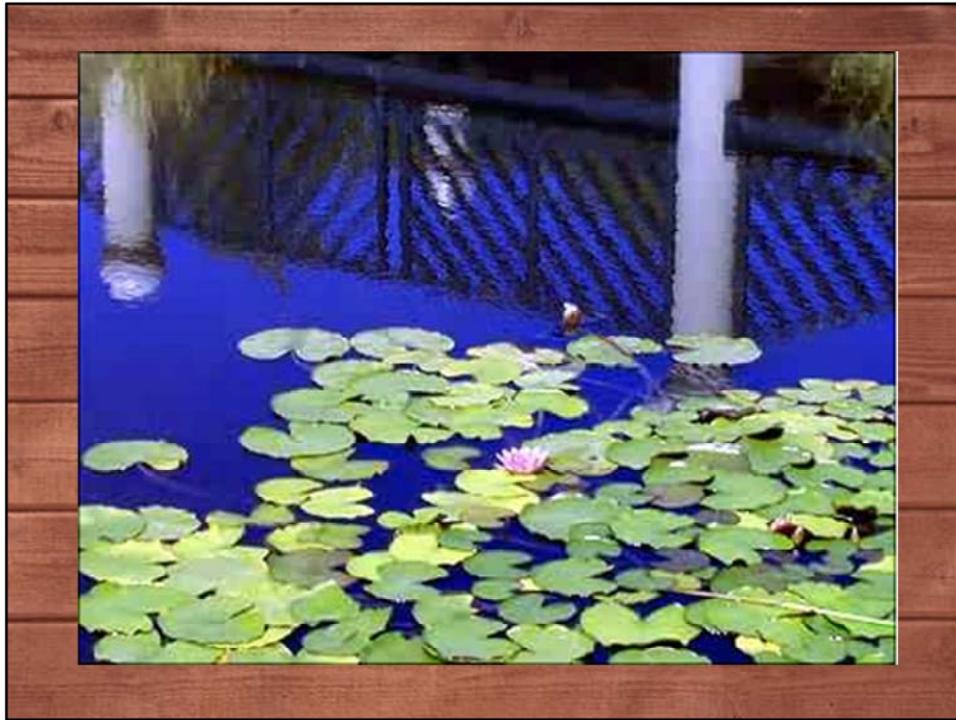
The Captivity

Return from Captivity

Years of Silence



When doing the puzzle, you first dump out all of the pieces onto your table
What's the next thing? Look at the box top...



Then what do you do? Build the edges out...



This is the approach we will use to better understand the Bible story

Consider how well you would complete a puzzle if you...

- Dumped all of the pieces on the table
- Picked up one piece at a time, examined it thoroughly, and then put it back in the pile

Most likely, we would never complete the puzzle, and never really know what the whole picture was of

This is exactly how too many people study the Bible

Think of each piece of the puzzle as one story of the Bible...

The Bible as a Jigsaw Puzzle...

- There are a myriad of pieces that make up the Bible and its story.
- The first thing to do in order to be able to study and understand the Bible as a whole is to understand what the “big picture” is.
- The second thing to do is to lay a basic framework for the events in the Bible so that further study can be placed within it.

The Bible as a Jigsaw Puzzle...

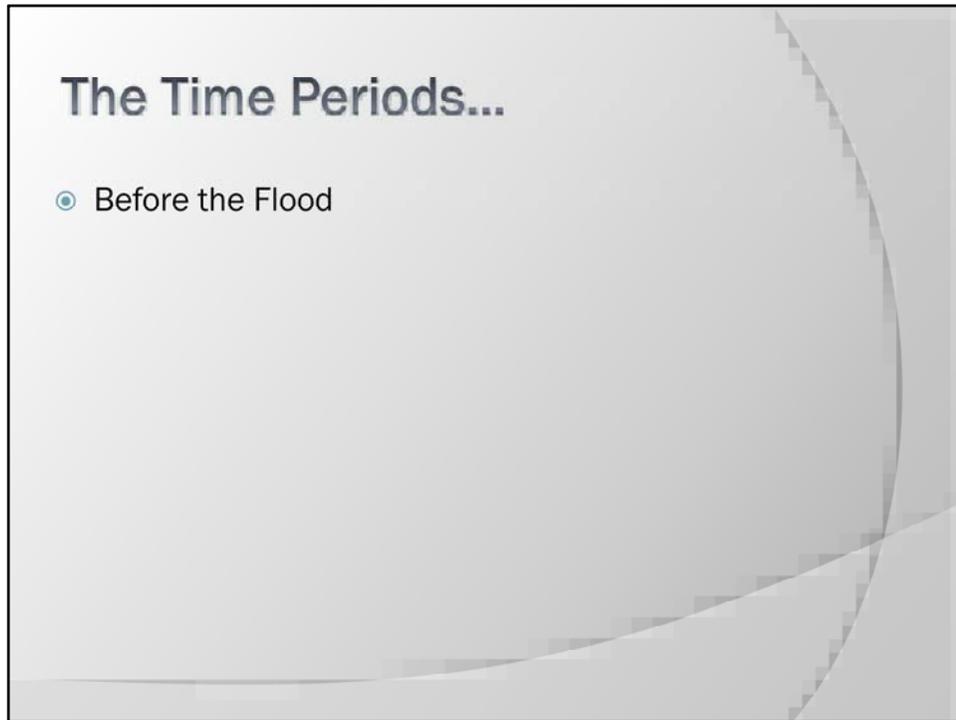
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The first thing to do in order to be able to study and understand the Bible as a whole is to understand what the “big picture” is.

The second thing to do is to lay a basic framework for the events in the Bible so that further study can be placed within it.

As we go through the first time period, we will be able to identify what the “big picture” of the Bible is. Then we will continue our study, building the framework of the history of the Bible in our minds, using the seventeen time periods as our foundation.

Before we do that – what are some of your ideas about what the message of the Bible is? What is the “big picture?” What is its significance to us?



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Before the Flood...

- This time period encompasses the first five chapters of the book of Genesis
- However, it is one of the longest time periods (time-wise), lasting about two thousand years
- It describes the time between the creation of the world and the birth of Noah.

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Before the Flood...

- Genesis 1
 - Creation of the universe in six days
 - Day 1 - Light
 - Day 2 - The Firmament (Sea and Sky)
 - Day 3 - Land and Plants
 - Day 4 - Sun, Moon, and Stars
 - Day 5 - Birds and Fish
 - Day 6 - Land Animals, Man
 - God rests on the seventh day
 - At first, the earth was “without form” and “void”

Before the Flood...

Genesis 1

Creation of the universe in six days

Day 1 – Light

Day 2 – The Firmament (Sea and Sky)

Day 3 – Land and Plants

Day 4 – Sun, Moon, and Stars

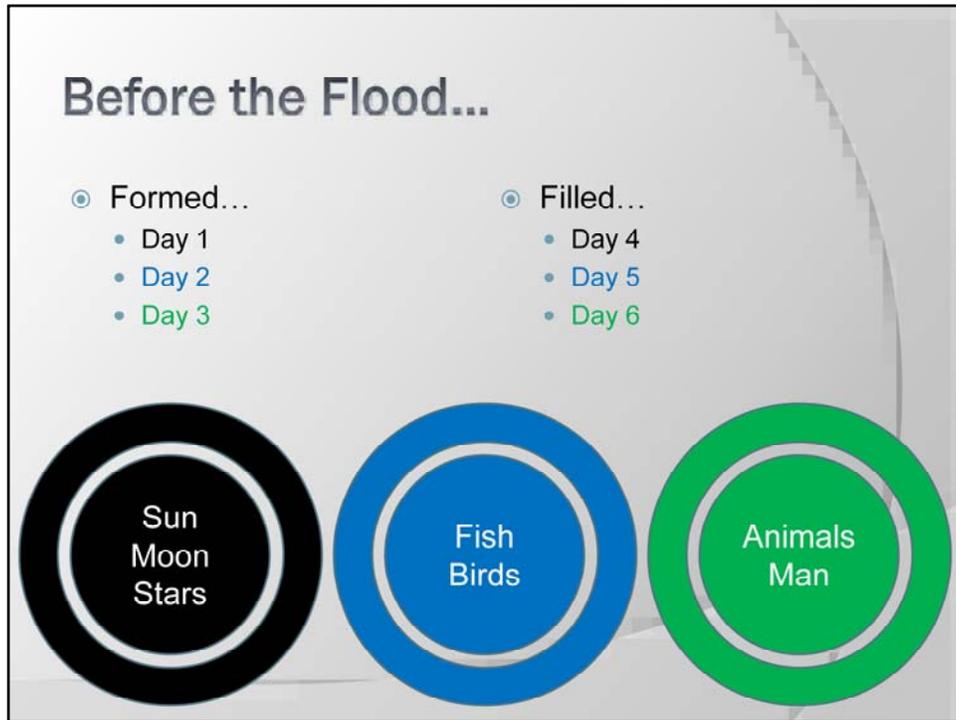
Day 5 – Birds and Fish

Day 6 – Land Animals, Man

Everything is good in God’s sight

God rests on the seventh day (though not literally – Colossians 1:17)

At first, the earth was “without form” and “void”



Formed

Day 1 – Space/Light

Day 2 – Firmament (Sky/Sea)

Day 3 – Land/Plants

Filled...

Day 4 – Sun, Moon, Stars

Day 5 – Fish, Birds

Day 6 – Animals, Man

Before the Flood...

- Genesis 1
 - “Let Us...” – Three beings are One God
 - Man was made in God’s image
 - A spiritual essence
 - A free will and intelligence
 - Ability to love
 - These characteristics allow man to worship God
 - Creation in God’s image does not mean we are automatically like God in character, but that God has made man with the capacity to be like Him
 - Everything is good in God’s sight

Before the Flood...

Genesis 1

“Let Us...” – Three beings are One God

Man was made in God’s image

A spiritual essence

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These characteristics allow man to worship God

Creation in God’s image does not mean we are automatically like God in character, but that God has made man with the capacity to be like Him

-God wants His creation to willingly serve and love Him for what He has done and who He is. One way that man can worship his Creator is by emulating Him.

Everything is good in God’s sight

- Everything is perfect, just as God intended for it to be. Man is, for the moment, enjoying a perfect relationship with God.

Before the Flood...

- Genesis 2
 - Specific account of the creation of man
 - Adam is created from the dust of the earth
 - Eve is created from the rib of Adam
 - Adam gives names to all of the animals
 - Adam and Eve are united in marriage
 - Both were naked but were not ashamed – sin had not corrupted the creation
 - They had access to the Tree of Life
 - Could eat anything except one tree – the tree of knowledge of good and evil

Before the Flood...

Genesis 2

Specific account of the creation of man (specific to the Garden of Eden, perhaps)

Adam is created from the dust of the earth

Eve is created from the rib of Adam

Adam gives names to all of the animals (recall that he is put in dominion over them, Genesis 1:28)

Adam and Eve are united in marriage

Both were naked but were not ashamed – sin had not corrupted the creation

They had access to the Tree of Life

Could eat anything except one tree – the tree of knowledge of good and evil

Note – for now, Adam, Eve, and God are enjoying a perfect relationship with one another, free from sin. Adam and Eve will also enjoy eternal life, for as long as they have access to the Tree of Life. They are able to be unified in this way because there is no sin to separate them from one another.

Before the Flood...

- ◉ Genesis 3
 - The Fall of Man
 - Serpent deceives Eve into eating from the tree from which they are forbidden to eat
 - Eve gives Adam some fruit to eat
 - The two realize that they are naked – innocence has left them, and they begin to recognize “good” and “evil”
 - The Lord confronts Adam and Eve about their sin, and they are punished by being forced to leave the garden
 - Separation from God
 - Separation from the Tree of Life

Before the Flood...

Genesis 3

The Fall of Man

Serpent deceives Eve into eating from the tree from which they are forbidden to eat

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The two realize that they are naked – innocence has left them, and they begin to recognize “good” and “evil”

The Lord confronts Adam and Eve about their sin, and they are punished by being forced to leave the garden

Two significant consequences:

Separation from God

Separation from the Tree of Life

Before the Flood...

- Genesis 3
 - God's "good" creation has been corrupted, and something must be done to bring it back to that state
 - A prophecy is made: "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
 - Here, in the third chapter of Genesis, we see a sliver of the "big picture" of the whole Bible.
 - Tree of Life lost in Genesis 3
 - Tree of Life regained in Revelation 22

Before the Flood...

Genesis 3

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Tree of Life lost in Genesis 3:22-24

Tree of Life regained in Revelation 22:14

Consider what we have seen in just these first 3 chapters and how it all ties together with the "big picture"

God creates the world – it is completely good

Man is created to be able to be like God

God dwells with His creation intimately (walking around the garden, etc.) – He desires to be with His creation.

Man is able to live forever with God

BUT – what happened? Man sinned... and lost his relationship with God

Before the Flood...

- Genesis 4
 - Cain and Abel
 - Cain is a farmer – offers fruits
 - Abel is a shepherd – offers sheep
 - Evidence that God had given further commands after the Garden of Eden incident
 - Cain kills Abel out of jealousy, since Abel was favored
 - Abel is replaced by Seth
 - “Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.”

Before the Flood...

Genesis 4

Cain and Abel

Cain is a farmer – offers fruits

Abel is a shepherd – offers sheep

Evidence that God had given further commands after the Garden of Eden incident

Cain kills Abel out of jealousy, since Abel was favored
Abel is replaced by Seth

“Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.”
(Genesis 4:26)

-Seems to mark a time when there was a differentiation between those who followed God and those who followed idols.

-Jewish scholars traditionally view this passage to mark the beginning of idolatry

Before the Flood...

- Genesis 5
 - The genealogy of Adam through Noah
 - While there is no plot in this chapter, it fast-forwards the story to the days of Noah
 - An easy way to remember the genealogical chapters is by remembering that you need only count by 5's
 - Chapter 5 – the descendants of Adam
 - Chapter 10 – the descendants of Noah (Shem)

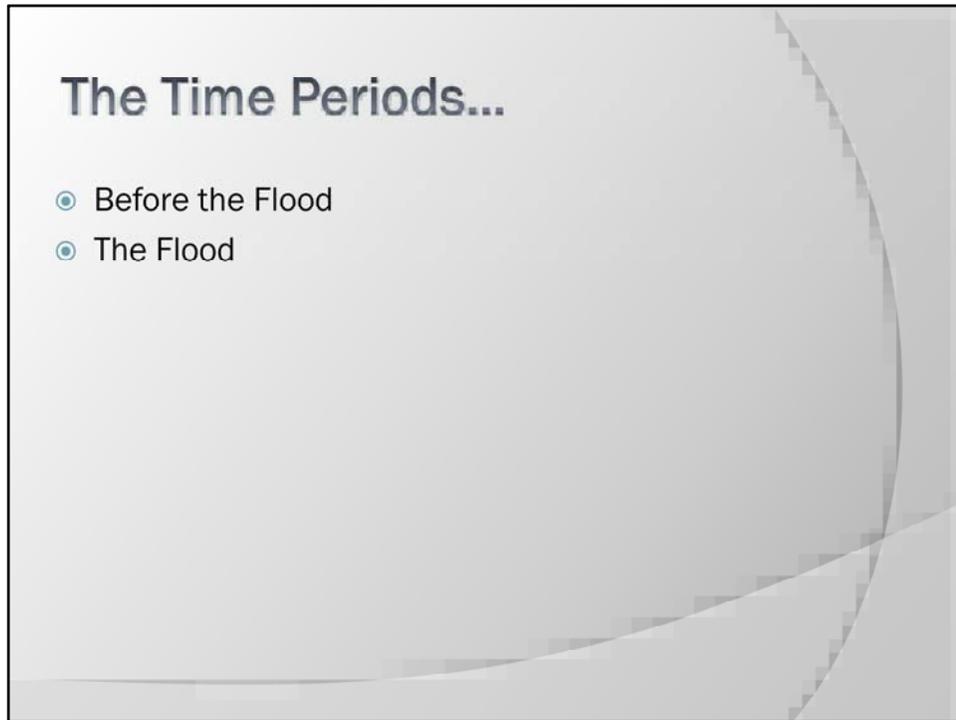
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