

Lesson 2 – Before the Flood, the Flood, Scattering of the People

Text: Genesis 1-11

Significant Figures and People: God, Satan, Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth, and Noah

Key Passages:

- Genesis 3:22-24 – God sent Adam and Eve out from the garden and the Tree of Life because of sin.
- Genesis 4:4-5 – God respected Abel and his sacrifice, but He did not respect Cain's.
- Genesis 5 – Contained in Genesis 5 are the generations from Adam to Noah.
- Genesis 6:5-7 – Almost everyone in the world was evil, so God decided to destroy the evil people.
- Genesis 9:1 – God commanded Noah and his sons to multiply and fill up the whole earth.
- Genesis 11:4-9 – Because the people did not want to follow God's plan, God forced them to do so.

Before the Flood (Genesis 1-5):

God spent seven days creating a beautiful world. He created Adam and Eve and made a lovely garden for them to live in. There was a tree called the Tree of Life; eating from it would allow them to live forever. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was the only tree from which they were not allowed to eat. The first sin was committed when Adam and Eve ate from this tree, contrary to God's commandments. Satan (the serpent) had convinced them that eating from the tree was actually a good thing to do. Because they had sinned, God sent them away from the garden and the Tree of Life in order to prevent them from living forever in their sin.

After being sent away, Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. These two sons both offered sacrifices. God respected Abel's sacrifice, but He did not respect Cain's sacrifice (most likely because it was not what God had commanded him to do or it was not done in the proper way). Cain became jealous of Abel and killed him. God punished Cain by sending him away from his family. Adam and Eve had another son named Seth who had many children and grandchildren. In Genesis 5, the generations from Adam to Noah are recorded.

The Flood (Genesis 6-10):

Eventually, almost everyone in the world became evil, and God was sorry that He made man. They were so evil that God decided to destroy all of the evil people on the earth by flooding it. There was one man who still loved God and wanted to do what was right, Noah. God told Noah to build an ark in order to save himself from the flood. Noah believed God and obeyed; as a result, he and his family were saved from the flood. When Noah and his family left the ark, God told them that they needed to multiply and fill up the whole earth. After Noah's sons had children, there were many people in the world again (Genesis 10 contains these generations).

Scattering of the People (Genesis 11):

The people did not obey as God had commanded; rather many of them decided to stay together in one place and build a large city and tower. God saw what they were doing, and forced them to obey by making them speak different languages so that they could not understand each other. The people stopped building the city and tower and were forced to scatter across the earth.

Transition to the Patriarchs:

At the end of chapter 11, there is another list of generations. This list follows the lineage of Shem, one of Noah's sons, until a man named Abram. From that point, the Bible is primarily focused on him and his family.

The Days of Creation:

1. Light
2. Separation of the Heavens (Sky/Water)
3. Land, Plants and Trees
4. Sun, Moon, and Stars
5. Fish and Birds
6. Animals and Man
7. Rest