

Lesson No. 6

What Does the Bible Say About Mankind from Adam to Moses

1. What are the main events in the early history of mankind?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Genesis, Numbers, chapters 1-20, 32-34.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF BIBLICAL HISTORY FROM ADAM TO MOSES.

The Origin, Fall, and Spread of the Human Race. (Creation to about 2,000 B.C.)

The creation, Adam and Eve are holy and happy in the Garden of Eden.

Tempted by the devil, Adam and Eve fall into sin. God gives them the first promise of the Savior. They are driven out of Paradise.

Eve believes her firstborn to be the promised Savior and calls him Cain. Cain kills his brother Abel. As the human race multiplies, men become so wicked that God decides to destroy them.

God sends a world-wide flood, or deluge. Only righteous Noah and his family, eight souls, survive in the ark which Noah built at the direction of God.

Of Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Shem, the father of the Semitic races, is chosen as ancestor of the promised Savior. In spite of the flood, sin has not been wiped out. With the growth of the world's population, wickedness again increases and comes to a head when men attempt to build a great city (Babel) and a tower reaching to heaven, in order to make a name for themselves. God confuses their tongues--until now there was only one language-- and scatters men over all the earth.

The Age of the Patriarchs. (About 2000 to 1700 B.C.)

God calls Abraham, a descendant of Shem, directs him to go to a land (Canaan) which He has chosen for his descendants, and tells him that the promised Savior is to come from his seed. Abraham and his wife Sarah are childless. Years later God repeats His promise and announces to the ninety-nine-year old Abraham and the ninety-year-old Sarah that within a year they are to have a son. Circumcision, from now on a pledge of God's covenant with His people, is instituted by God. At this time the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed by fire and brimstone. Lot, a nephew of Abraham, escapes, but his wife perishes when she disobeys God's command and looks back.

Isaac is born to Abraham and Sarah and God declares that his son is to be the ancestor of the promised Savior. Later God tests Abraham's faith by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham does not hesitate and is about to slay his child when the Angel of the Lord (Christ before His birth) intervenes. Abraham, the "Father of the faithful," is blessed by God and once more receives the promise of the Savior.

Isaac's wife, Rebekah, gives birth to twin sons. Of these, Jacob is chosen by God to be the ancestor of the promised Savior. The father prefers Esau, the firstborn, but Rebekah and Jacob deceive the blind and aged man with the result that Isaac unknowingly gives the blessing, which includes the promise of the Savior, to Jacob.

Jacob flees before his incensed brother to his uncle Laban at Haran. On the way he has a vision of a heavenly ladder, from the top of which God Himself repeats the promise of the Savior. After serving Laban for twenty years, Jacob, now a rich man and the father of a large family, returns to Canaan. As he nears his homeland, he wrestles with the Angel of the Lord until he obtains the victory

and with it a blessing and the name of Israel.

Joseph, one of Jacob's twelve sons, is sold by his jealous brothers into slavery in Egypt. He spurns the advances of his master's wife and is imprisoned. Later he is not only freed, but raised to the governorship of all Egypt. A prolonged famine sets in, but under Joseph much grain has been stored during the preceding good years. Jacob's family, having no food, is brought to Egypt and given the rich land of Goshen. Before Jacob's death his son Judah is designated as the ancestor of the promised Savior.

Israel's Bondage and Deliverance. The Giving of the Law. (About 1700 to 1490 B.C.)

After years of peace and growth a Pharaoh, or ruler, who does not remember Joseph, seeks to weaken the rapidly increasing Israelites by making them slaves, cruelly overworking them, and finally ordering every male child killed. At this time Moses is born, placed by his mother into a basket, and hid among the reeds near the river bank Pharaoh's daughter finds the babe and adopts him. Through Moses' sister, his own mother is hired to nurse and rear him for the princess. Later he is brought to the royal palace and trained in all the learning of the Egyptians. One day, while trying to protect one of his countrymen, Moses, now forty years old, kills an Egyptian and flees to Midian.

When Moses is eighty, God appears to him in a burning bush and commands him to lead Israel out of Egypt. Accompanied by his brother Aaron, Moses goes to Pharaoh and demands the release of his people. After God has sent ten plagues the king consents. Before the final plague God institutes the Passover. In every Israelite household a male lamb is killed, its blood is painted on the doorposts, and its flesh, roasted whole in the fire, is eaten with unleavened bread. (The Passover, hereafter celebrated annually, pointed forward to "***Christ, our Passover, sacrificed for us.***" - ***1 Corinthians 5:7***) During the observance of the first Passover, the Angel of the Lord passes over the blood-marked homes of the Israelites, but kills the firstborn son of every Egyptian family. Pharaoh now begs Israel to leave.

Numbering about two million people, the Israelites begin their journey towards the Promised Land. God guides them in a pillar of cloud and fire. When Pharaoh pursues them, God opens a dry lane for them through the midst of the Red Sea and drowns the Egyptian army. Feeding His murmuring people with manna from heaven and quails, He leads them to Mount Sinai. Here God, amid thunderings and lightnings, gives His Law to Moses: the *Moral Law* which is binding upon all men; the *Ceremonial Law* pertaining to the forms of Jewish worship; and the *Civil Law* by which the Jewish state was to be governed. The Moral Law had been written into man's heart at creation (Rom. 2:14,15). But the writing was blurred by sin. Therefore God now writes the Moral Law on the two tables of stone in the form of Ten Commandments. Returning from Sinai where he had been with God for forty days, Moses finds his people worshipping a golden calf. He casts the tables of the Law to the ground so that they break, burns the calf, grinds it to powder, strews that upon the water and makes the Israelites drink it. After three thousand idolaters have been executed, God once more writes the Ten Commandments on two tables and gives them to Moses.

The Main Prophecies Concerning the Coming Savior in this Period.

Genesis 3:15. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

Genesis 12:3. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 22:18. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice. (See also Gen. 18:18; Gen. 26:4; Gen. 28:14. Compare Gal. 3:16)

Genesis 49:10. The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Job 19:25. For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The two outstanding factors in the early history of the world are man's sin against the Law of God, and God's grace as revealed in the Gospel of the promised Savior. (Law and Gospel are the two great doctrines of the Bible.)

2. What is the Law?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- *(a) *Leviticus 19:2*. You shall **be holy**, for I the LORD your God am holy.
- (b) *Exodus 20:3,7*. You **shall**...You **shall not**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The Law is that doctrine of the Bible in which God tells us (A) how we are to be, and (B) what we are to do and not to do.

3. What is the Gospel?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- 1 John 4:9*. In this the **love of God** was manifested toward us, that God has **sent His only begotten Son** into the world, that we might **live through Him**.
- * *John 3:16*. For **God so loved** the world that He **gave His only begotten Son**, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but **have everlasting life**.
- Romans 1:16*. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is **the power of God to salvation** for everyone who **believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The Gospel is that doctrine of the Bible in which God tells us the good news of our salvation in Jesus Christ.

4. What is the difference between the Law and the Gospel?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *Luke 10:28*. **Do** this and you will live.
- (a) *John 19:30*. It is **finished!**
- (a) *1 Peter 1:5*. (**You**) who **are kept** by the power of God **through faith for salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.
- (b) *Romans 3:20*. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the **knowledge of sin**.
- (b) *Romans 1:18*. For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
- * (b) *John 1:29*. Behold! The **Lamb of God** who **takes away the sin of the world!**
- (b) *Ephesians 2:8*. For by **grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift of God**.
- (c) *Matthew 19:16,17*. Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life? ... If you want to enter into life, **keep the commandments**.
- (c) *Acts 16:30,31*. Sirs, what must I do to be saved?...**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and you will be saved, you and your household.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) The Law teaches what we are to do and not to do; the Gospel teaches what God has done, and still does, for our salvation.
- (B) The Law shows us our sin and the wrath of God; the Gospel shows us our Savior and the grace of God.
- (C) The Law must be preached to all men, but especially to impenitent sinners; the Gospel must be preached to sinners who are troubled in their minds because of their sins.

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 6

MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (*).



READ Genesis, chapters 36-42

Work Sheet No. 6

1.

Name the **ancestors of the Savior** mentioned in the "Brief Outline of Biblical History from Adam to Moses."

- (A) (B) (C)
(D) (E) (F)

2.

- (A) **When** and **how** did God give His Law the first time?
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- (B) **How** and **through whom** did God give His Law later?.....
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3.

Check each of the following Bible passages, indicating whether it is **Law** or **Gospel** -

- (A) *1 John 1:7* The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. Law. Gospel.
- (B) *Matthew 5:48* Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Law.
Gospel.
- (C) *1 Timothy 5:22* Keep yourself pure. Law. Gospel.
- (D) *Matthew 18:11* For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. Law. Gospel.
- (E) *1 Timothy 6:8* And having food and raiment with these we shall be content. Law. Gospel.
- (F) *Habakkuk 2:4* The just shall live by his faith. Law. Gospel.
- (G) *Romans 6:23* For the wages of sin is death. Law. Gospel.
- (H) *Isaiah 58:7* Share your bread with the hungry. Law. Gospel.
- (I) *Mark 16:16* But he who does not believe will be condemned. Law. Gospel.
- (J) *Mark 16:16* He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Law. Gospel.
- (K) *Isaiah 43:1* But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine."
Law. Gospel.
- (L) *James 4:11* Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. Law. Gospel.
- (M) *Matthew 11:28* Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Law. Gospel.