

10 Week Introduction To The Study of Joshua & Judges

Week One – The Creation

The following is offered to assist the teacher in thinking of Joshua and Judges in the broader context of the scriptures.

James Jordan’s model of the biblical “Creation – Recreation” story (Peter Leithart, *House For My Name*, p. 38).

Creation	Fall	Initial Judgment	Decline	Final Judgment	Recreation
Creation	Fall	Gen. 3	Gen. 4	Flood	Noah
Exodus	Kadesh	No Entry	40 Years	Death 1 st Generation	Conquest
Conquest	Failure to Conquer	Nations Remain	Judges	Capture of Ark	Return of Ark
David/Solomon	Solomon	Division	Divided Kingdom	Exile	Return
Return	Jews Reject Jesus	Turn to Gentiles	Jews Reject Apostles	Jerusalem, A.D. 70	Church

World

Heaven
Firmament
Earth
Sea

Earth

Land of Eden
Garden
Land to the east
Outlying lands

(Peter Leithart, *House For My Name*, p. 52 – Order of the universe compared to a map of the earth)

I. Introduction

A) Names {Have name list available} and purpose of class.

Bibles need to be brought to class.

This year we will be studying the books of Joshua, Judges and Acts. It was thought wise to study these books together because the book of Joshua recounts the history of God fulfilling His covenant promises to give His chosen people the land of Canaan; and the book of Judges tells the story of what happened after they were in the land before the period of the kings of Israel. The book of Acts relates to this in that after the risen Lord ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father in heaven to rule the earth, the Church went out to conquer the new promised land for Her king. In order to fully comprehend the books of Joshua, Judges and Acts, we need to

understand the history of God’s dealings with men (especially His covenant people) in the first five books of the Bible.

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Return	Jews Reject Jesus	Turn to Gentiles	Jews Reject Apostles	Jerusalem, A.D. 70	Church

B) Confession of our faith is important. Westminster Shorter Catechism.

II. Creation

We will look at Genesis through Numbers for the first ten weeks before we begin in Joshua.

- A) The book of Genesis means “Beginnings” and forms the beginning of our understanding of everything: God, ourselves and the world in which we live. We need to understand these beginnings if we are to understand the rest of the Bible. There are some very key principles here that are like a key that opens the door to many passages of the Bible that we would never get into.
- B) God created the world. Trinity: Father – Son – Holy Spirit.
 - 1) The Father speaks → Things are made (out of nothing)
 - 2) The Son is the Word that is spoken, and makes the world (Jn. 1:1-3).
 - 3) The Spirit “hovers” and brings order to the creation (Gen. 1:2).
- C) **H**istory – Not *just* a story. The story of God building a *house* – a place where God is with His people. It begins with a *garden*, then through time, at places of worship like altars, the tabernacle, the

temple, and later the church. We become the house of God, and He will dwell with us, through out eternity.

- D) God is the Creator. The world as we know it did not just appear, or evolve and gradually change to become what it is. Rather, God made everything according to His perfect wisdom and plan – out of nothing. Before the creation, the only thing that existed was God Himself. He is separate from creation. Yet He is near to all that He has made. He continues to take care for His creation, and perfectly controls whatsoever comes to pass (Matt. 6:1f).
- E) He created all things in the space six normal days. – Evening and Morning are a biblical way of talking about a day. The Bible tells us that the creation did not take place over millions of years.
- F) When God began making the creation, it had three problems:
 - 1) The earth was without form (shape or purpose)
 - 2) The earth was void (empty)
 - 3) Darkness was over the face of the deep (lighting needing to be brought to the creation)

Throughout the rest of Genesis 1 we see how God resolved these three problems:

Forming/Dividing → Filling → Lighting

Day 1: **Forming Light** (separating light and dark)

Day 2: **Forming** the firmament (separating waters above & below)

Day 3: **Forming & Filling** the land
(separating waters & land, vegetation)

Day 4: **Filling & Lighting** with Sun, Moon & Stars

Day 5: **Filling** air and waters with birds and fish

Day 6: **Filling** with land with animals and man

Day 7: Sabbath – Resting in the **Light**

The last page of this lesson is a visual aid that could be printed out and posted on the wall of the classroom to refer to throughout these lessons. The next two pages can be given to the students as a handout to help them remember the theology of Genesis 1.

Homework assignment: Read Genesis 1-2.

Creation – Genesis Chapter 1

(Peter Leithart, *House For My Name*, p. 45 – The three-story house of creation)

Genesis 1:2 says, “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

When God began making the creation, it had three problems:

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Day 7: Sabbath – Resting in the **Light**

Dividing

Day 1: Light/Dark vv. 3-5

Day 2: Waters above/below vv. 6-8

Day 3: Waters/land vv. 9-13

Filling

Day 4: Sun, Moon, Stars vv. 14-19

Day 5: Birds and fish vv. 20-23

Day 6: Land animals and man vv. 24-31

Day 7: Sabbath 2:1-3

The world is a house that God is building. It is a good house (Gen. 1:4, 10, 18, 21, 25, 31). God rested – ceased building on the seventh day. Six days work, and one day rest. But he wants the house to be better –

James Jordan’s model of the biblical “Creation – Recreation” story
 (Peter Leithart, *House For My Name*, p. 38).

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 Firmament
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Land of Eden
 Garden
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(Peter Leithart, *House For My Name*, p. 52 – Order of the universe compared to a map of the earth)

Homework assignment: Read Genesis 1-2.

Days of Creation

Day 1: **Forming Light** (separating light and dark)

Day 2: **Forming** the firmament
(separating waters above & below)

Day 3: **Forming & Filling** the land
(separating waters & land, vegetation)

Day 4: **Filling & Lighting** with Sun, Moon & Stars

Day 5: **Filling** air and waters with birds and fish

Day 6: **Filling** with land with animals and man

Day 7: Sabbath – Resting in the **Light**

Dividing

Day 1: Light/Dark vv. 3-5
Day 2: Waters above/below vv. 6-8
Day 3: Waters/land vv. 9-13

Filling

Day 4: Sun, Moon, Stars vv. 14-19
Day 5: Birds and fish vv. 20-23
Day 6: Land animals and man vv. 24-31

Day 7: Sabbath 2:1-3

Week Two – The Creation

Creation – Genesis Chapter 2

❖ Westminster Shorter Catechism

❖ Quick Review

Last week we discussed the creation. In what way were the three persons of the godhead actively involved in creation? [The Father spoke the creation into existence out of nothing; The Son is the Word spoken, and makes the world; The Spirit “hovers” and brings order to the creation.] What are the three problems with the creation that God resolved? [Forming, filling and lighting] In how many days did God create the world? [Six regular days.] What was created on each day?

Day 1: **Forming Light** (separating light and dark)

Day 2: **Forming** the firmament (separating waters above & below)

Day 3: **Forming & Filling** the land (separating waters & land, vegetation)

Day 4: **Filling & Lighting** with Sun, Moon & Stars

Day 5: **Filling** air and waters with birds and fish

Day 6: **Filling** with land with animals and man

Day 7: Sabbath – Resting in the **Light**

When God finished building the world – It “was good” (Gen. 1:4, 10, 18, 21; 31). But He was not satisfied with it remaining as it was. It was God’s will for man to continue to work with the creation to improve it – to glorify it.

Turn to Gen. 1:26-18.

Created man in the image of God – male (king) and female (queen). What do you think it means to be created in the image and likeness of God? It means that Adam and Eve were created to be like God – an image or copy. Not an exact copy, because God is greater than (transcends) all of His creation, including man. But throughout biblical revelation, man is a picture of who God is. What does Genesis 1 tell us about God that men also are like?

As we have seen, **God exists in three equal persons**. Man was made male and female, equal but different.

He speaks – thus, he is able to think and communicate His thoughts. We too are able to communicate, but we are to think and communicate in obedience to His Word.

God is **relational** (“Let **US** make man in **OUR** image...”)

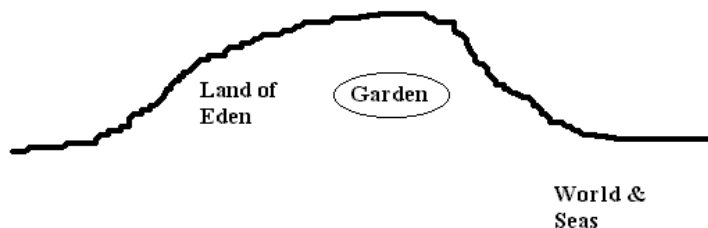
When God said the creation is “good,” we learn that God has the ability to **morally discern between good and bad**. We too have the ability to discern between good and evil, and must think and act according to His Word.

God is creative – He created everything out of nothing. We too have a creative ability, but man must take the stuff of creation and creatively use them.

God works. Man too was created to work.

God is the ruler of His creation. God made man to rule over the creation for Him. Adam is to be the king over the animals and bird, and Eve was made His queen to help him fulfill the commandment to fill, subdue and have dominion over the earth. Part of this includes having children who are faithful to God. The word to “subdue” is used in the Old Testament to describe victory in war, subduing your enemies. It also means subduing someone to slavery (Jer. 34:11, 16; 2 Chron. 28:10). Adam was to work hard to subdue the creation to the will of God and to develop its various possibilities to their fullest. He was to make creation his slave, finding new ways to use what God had made.

God created man and set him in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:8f). Eden was on a mountain (we know this because rivers flowed out of Eden, Gen. 2:10-14). Mountains/hills are frequently places where God meets with man. Every time God meets with man on a mountain in the Bible, it is a return to the Garden. The Garden is in the eastern part of Eden. He is to work not only in the garden, but to **rule the whole world**. He was supposed to subdue and have dominion not only in the garden, but perform his dominion work also in Eden and then into the rest of the world.



Man was given a job in the garden. 2:15 – “guard” (keep) and “work” (tend) the garden. Throughout much of the Old Testament these words are used of the work of the priests. They were to guard the Lord’s House (Num. 1:53; 3:8), and perform their prescribed services of worship (Ex. 20:5; Num. 8:15; Deut. 7:40). Adam’s job was not only to rule the creation under God, but also to serve as a priest in the

Garden. The trees in the Garden not only represent the rules/commandments given by the Word of God, but also fellowship with God. It is a place of worship and fellowship, to be taken out into the world. **Adam is to be a priest for God in the Garden, guarding it and serving/worshipping the Creator.**

Worship/Priest Subdue & Rule (build & enslave)/King

Mountain → Lower lands

Rivers → Lands → Seas

(Peter Leithart, *House For My Name*, p. 53 – Theological geography/topography)

Throughout the rest of the Bible we see these themes playing out over and over again. Creation → Recreation. Garden → Land. Kings → priests. New Adams & Eves.

I. A “helper” for Adam -

Genesis 1:26-27 tells us that man was made in the image of God, both male and female. 1:28 says man was commanded to “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion...” Because man was made in the image of God, and because he was made male and female, he is able to have dominion. In addition to being made in the image of God (with the associated characteristics already discussed), Adam needed a wife to help him with his dominion task. Not only to have children so that he could be fruitful and multiply, filling the earth – but also to be his companion and helper.

In Genesis 2:18-25 we see the wisdom of God as He helps Adam to see that he *needs* a helper. V. 18 says, And the LORD God said, “*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Adam was not able to fulfill his calling as priest and king in the world without the help. He needed a helpmate. This helper had to be “comparable to him” (NKJV), a “help meet” (KJV), someone that was a “like compliment” to him, a helper suitable to Adam and the work he was to do in the world.

God had made the animals out of the ground (v. 19), just as he had formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into him (v. 7). God brought the various animals to Adam to see what he would name them (v. 19). The act of naming something in the Bible implies rulership over the thing. Over and over in the Bible, people and things are named not only to identify them, but to

show rulership over them. God did this repeatedly in the original creation (e.g. Gen. 1:5, God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night). Adam was commanded by God to rule the creation, and so symbolically he was given rulership over it by naming the animals. We also see from v. 20 that as he studied the animals in order to give them names, “there was not found a helper comparable/like to him.” God, in a special act of creation, created Eve. Unlike Adam, who was formed out of the dust of the ground (v. 7), Eve was made from one of the ribs of Adam. She too is made in the image and likeness of God. She, being made of man, is equal to man. But she is sufficiently different from Adam that she can help him in ways that make him able to do what God had called him to. Women are helpers suitable to fully help men accomplish the work of dominion on the earth.

After God had made the woman, He brought her to the man. This is a Father bringing His daughter to be married to the man of His choice for her. Adam’s response is one of approval and recognition that God had provided for him what was necessary for his wellbeing. Not only so, Adam named her “Woman” as a sign of his authority over her (1 Tim. 2:8-13), and because he recognized that she was taken out of him (Literally in Hebrew, man = Ish; woman = Ishshah). There are patterns established for the family here in Genesis 2 that the Bible uses over and over as the foundation for biblical marriage and family. Daughters are *given* in marriage, and sons *leave* their father and mother to marry and establish their own separate homes and families (v. 24). Each generation has a new beginning. [Patriarchalism and Familism is not a biblical approach to the family.] Marriage is to be the permanent binding of one man and one woman exclusively to one another (Matt. 19:5; Eph. 5:28-30; Mk. 10:6-8; 1 Cor. 6:16). [This creation pattern, in part, forms our argument against the homosexuality and polygamy and fornication. God did not bring together Adam and Steve, but Adam and Eve. Homosexuality violates the creation pattern of the marriage of men and women. Not only so, man was made to have one wife, and to be faithful to her.]

V. 25 tells us that the man and his wife were naked and not ashamed. The point of this is that they were naked before God, and not ashamed. Their nakedness was a symbol of their righteousness before God. Sexuality between a man and woman is sort of a picture of our relationship with God. We are covenantally bound to God (the Church is the Bride of Christ) in a way that is similar to a man and woman. Married couples can be naked before each other and not be ashamed because they are faithful to one another. When unfaithfulness divides a marriage relationship, nakedness and sexuality becomes a problem in the relationship. So too, as long as

Adam and Eve remained faithful to God in the Garden, they were naked and unashamed.

Homework assignment: Read Genesis 2-3.

Week Three – The Fall and Restoration

Three Falls - Genesis 3

❖ Westminster Shorter Catechism

❖ Quick Review

In what way were the three persons of the godhead actively involved in creation? [The Father spoke the creation into existence out of nothing; The Son is the Word spoken, and makes the world; The Spirit “hovers” and brings order to the creation.] What are the three problems with the creation that God resolved? [Forming, filling and lighting] In how many days did God create the world? [Six regular days.] What was created on each day?

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Day 7: Sabbath – Resting in the **Light**

What does Genesis 1 mean by saying that man was made in the image and likeness of God? [Like God, man 1) has unity and diversity – made equal but different, 2) communicates and is relational, 3) has the ability to morally discern between good and bad, 4) is creative, 5) works and rests, 6) rules for God making creation his slave and putting all things under his control.

We also said that man was put in the garden to “tend” (which means to work or nurture) and to “keep” (which means to guard). Nurturing and guarding are the two main works that men are to do in life as we take dominion and subdue the earth for the glory of God. These words, “tend” and “keep” are the same words used elsewhere in the Old Testament for the work of priests who were to guard the Lord’s House (Num. 1:53; 3:8), and perform their prescribed services of worship (Ex. 20:5; Num. 8:15; Deut. 7:40). Adam’s job was not only to rule the creation under God, but also to serve as a priest in the Garden. The trees in the Garden not only represent the rules/commandments given by the Word of God, but also fellowship with God. It is a place of worship and fellowship, to be taken out into the world. Adam was given two jobs: to be a *priest* for God in the Garden, guarding it and serving/worshipping the Creator; and to be a *king* in the world, ruling, subduing and taking dominion of the whole earth. He was to build the house of God everywhere.

I. The Fall in the Garden – Place of special worship/presence of God

- A) Trees – Knowledge of good and evil
Life
- B) Although Adam was created good and given every privilege and blessing, Adam sins in the Garden disobeying the command of God – failure to perform his priestly task. Called upon to guard the Garden, Adam lets in a serpent who tempts Eve while he stands by watching (3:6, cf. 1 Tim. 2:14). Called to “serve” God, Adam “listened” to the voice of Satan (as opposed to the words of God). Adam lacked the virtue of **Patience**.
- C) Driven from the Garden – cherubim now guard the Garden **to the east of Eden**.
- D) Adam messed up the whole world by his sin.
- E) God saves them – bloody sacrifice to cover nakedness - atonement.
- F) Promise of the seed of the woman becomes a key to understanding the rest of the Bible (3:15). The savior will be a great warrior/priest who will be victorious over Satan. God doesn't keep this promise right away. The Bible shows God leading men through history back to the Garden.

Be sure to emphasize the impact of sin on the students, and their need of forgiveness. Make clear the grace of God, even in the beginning of man's fall. God's promises never fail – The Son-Seed has indeed come. Satan is being crushed by Him, and will on the last day.

Homework assignment: Read Genesis 4-6. Notice the next two falls of man

Week Four – The Fall and Restoration

Three Falls - Genesis 4-6:8

❖ Westminster Shorter Catechism

❖ Quick Review

Adam created, given wife, placed in the Garden (geography of world), given the job of working in the world to develop and guard it, King (rulership) and Priest (service/worship). Adam failed to guard the Garden and Eve, listened to the serpent and not to God, took the fruit (not deceived/tricked like his wife). The consequence of Adam's sin was judgment – **death**. As the covenant head of the human race, in Adam, all have fallen (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:21, 45-49). In Genesis 3:23-24 we see that Adam out of the Garden – into the Land, forbidding access back into the Garden. Throughout the rest of the Bible we see the goal of returning to the Garden as a major theme. [Teacher" Give the students the handout at the end of this lesson.]

In Genesis 3:15 we are given the promise of a future deliverer from the seed of the woman to crush the head of the deceiver. There is hope for humanity.

I. The Fall in the Land -

Immediately after the judgment of God, Genesis 4 moves to what at first appears to be the fulfillment of the promise. Adam "knew" his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to two children. These are "the seed" of the woman – Cain ("Acquire" or "Possession") and Abel ("Breath" or "Nothing"). Eve was expecting the fulfilled promise. V. 2 tells us that Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. Was it good and proper for Cain to till the ground? [Yes, that is part of what man was called to do.] When, "in the process of time" (v. 3) both Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord, Cain brought an offering of the works of his own hands. This reminds us of Adam and Eve attempt to cover their nakedness by sewing fig leaves together. Men try to be acceptable to God on their own terms. But as we have seen, there is no forgiveness of sins apart from the shedding of blood (Heb. 9:22). Abel's offering was acceptable to God, not because it represented the works of his hands, but because it was the sacrifice that God had prescribed. Cain's offering was not respected by God because he was offering something other than God required – thinking that God should accept him on his own terms. This has been man's problem from the beginning. Faithfulness to God requires that we live and worship God according His Word, not according to our own invention.

The text does not tell us how Abel knew that his sacrifice was respected by God, or how Cain knew that his was not. But we do know that instead of learning that he should bring an acceptable offering, Cain became “very angry and his countenance fell” (v. 5). Who was Cain angry with? Cain was angry with God, and showed his bad attitude on his face. When God confronted Cain in vv. 6-7, He showed mercy to Cain by simply calling on Cain to learn from his sin and do well, and warned him against further sin (which “lies at the door...it’s desire is for/toward you”, v. 7).

God treated Cain kindly and mercifully as a good Father, desiring the good of His son. But like many sons that do not like the way they are treated by their fathers (although God was a perfect Father to Cain), Cain was envious of his brother who received the favor of the Father. Cain lashed out at Abel with envy and hatred. He hated his brother because God had rejected his offering, and respected Abel’s offering. He should have loved and respected his brother, but instead, he hated him. This sin of hatred motivated Cain to murder his brother. 1 John 3:11-12 says, “For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.”

This verse is interesting because as we saw in Genesis 3:15, the seed of the woman would contend with the seed of the serpent. Cain was “of the wicked one.”

In the first fall, Adam’s sin was that of **Impatience**. In this second fall of humanity, we see that the sin committed is involves the failure to love the brother. It was the failure of brotherly love and **Kindness**.

Application – Obey the Lord/parents, do not envy others (hate), watch your anger, show loving kindness, be honest when you sin, receive judgement in humility.

The judgment of Cain is given to us in vv. 9-15. Most importantly, Cain was cast out of the presence of the Lord and out of the land – east of Eden. Now in the world (5:16).

The family line of Cain – Bitter/angry line of craftsmen (vv. 20-22). Men were taking dominion over the world. But in the line of Cain, there was not true love for God, nor did they worship Him (like Cain). And so we see the continuing rebellion of men against God, and a downward spiral into in leading to judgment.

II. The Sons of God – Intermarriage – Spread of Wickedness in the world.

Very often in the Bible we are given genealogies. These are not just names, but represent stories that teach us what God is doing in history. In this case, it is the story of two types of people: The lines of Cain (sons of men, Gen. 4:16-24), and Seth (the sons of God, Gen. 5).

In Genesis 4:25-26 we see that Adam again knew his wife and she bore “another seed” – Seth (“Appointed”). God had “appointed another seed from me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” Eve was looking for God to fulfill His promise of a seed through her that would be a deliverer. And Seth had a son, and named him Enosh (4:25-26) “Men began to call on the name of the Lord.” The family line of Seth were the sons of God (Genealogy – Gen. 5). They worshipped God and loved Him. Enoch (5:18-24) “Enoch walked with God” (5:22, 24; 6:9).

Eventually in this listing of the sons of God, we come to Noah (“Rest”), “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed” (5:29). Following the first two falls (Adam’s failure of patience and Cain’s failure of brotherly kindness), the text seems to give us some hope that the seed of the woman is producing a godly line of sons of God.

But when we get to Genesis 6, we see the third fall. 6:1-8 - Intermarriage of Sons of God with daughters of men. Who were the daughters of men? [The family line of Cain – Gen. 4:16-24 (esp. vv. 23-24)] Note that the sons of God were tempted by the daughters of men in a similar manner that Eve was in the Garden of Eden (beautiful/pleasant to the eyes/desirable - Gen. 6:2 & 3:6). The sin of the sons of God is a failure of **holiness**. By intermarrying with the ungodly line of Cain, the sons of God were corrupted, and became unholy in their lives. Wickedness became characteristic of mankind, “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (6:5).

Application: Watch out for temptations that will compromise your Christian walk, and cause you to commit sins that would make you unholy. God has called us to holiness, and getting mixed up with unbelievers

Mankind’s wickedness causes God to determine judgement – destruction. Man is now to be cast out of the **world** – 6:5-7, 12-13 (as Adam was cast out of the **Garden** and Cain was cast out of the **Land of Eden**). There seems to be no hope. But remember the promise of the seed. 6:8 says, “**But** Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. The promise continues to be maintained.

The Spread of Sin and Death

Place	Sinner	Sin	Judgment	Virtue
Garden	Adam	Eats fruit	Cast out of Garden	Patience
Land	Cain	Kills Brother	Cast out of land	Kindness
World	Sons of God	Marry Unbelievers	Cast out of World	Holiness

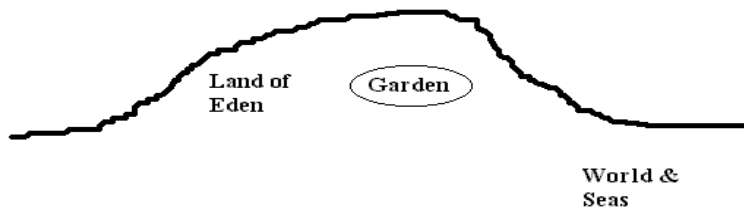
(Peter Leithart, *House For My Name*, p. 56)

Two family lines:

Line of Cain – sons of men
– Unbelievers

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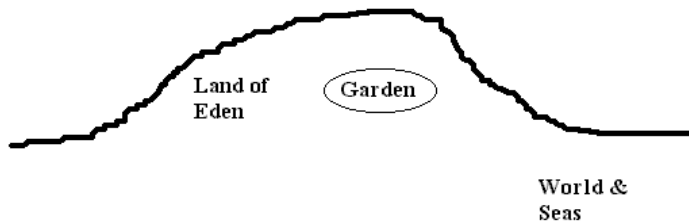
Line of Seth – Sons of God
– Believers



Homework assignment: Read Genesis 6-11.

The Three Falls

- I. **The Fall of Adam in the Garden**
Impatience – Failure of Patience and Faith
- II. **The Fall of Cain in the Land**
Murder of the Brother – Failure of Brotherly Kindness and Love
- III. **The Fall of the Sons of God in the World**
Intermarriage – Failure of Holiness



The Spread of Sin and Death

Place	Sinner	Sin	Judgment	Virtue
Garden	Adam	Eats fruit	Cast out of Garden	Patience
Land	Cain	Kills Brother	Cast out of land	Kindness
World	Sons of God	Marry Unbelievers	Cast out of World	Holiness

(Peter Leithart, *House For My Name*, p. 56)

Two family lines:

Line of Cain – sons of men
– Unbelievers

Line of Seth – Sons of God
– Believers

Homework assignment: Read Genesis 6-11.

Week Five –The New World

Genesis 6:9-11:26

❖ Quick Review

We have learned that God created the world in six regular days, and rested the seventh. He made man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to work and rule over the all the creation, and to serve God in worship. God made man to depend on Him for everything – He gave Adam life, food, a wife to help him, and His law (the Tree of Knowledge). We also learned that both Adam and Eve sinned by listening to the serpent rather than to God. That was the first fall. It was the sin of impatience/faith/trust in God. There were two other falls that we have learned about. The sin of unkindness – murder of Able by Cain; and the sin of unholy living – the sons of God marrying the daughters of men. Mixing believers with unbelievers. Three falls – three casting out of men from the presence of God (Adam cast out of the Garden, Cain cast out of the Land of Eden, and now the wickedness of men being so great that God is going to destroy the world).

Place	Sinner	Sin	Judgment	Virtue
Garden	Adam	Eats fruit	Cast out of Garden	Patience
Land	Cain	Kills Brother	Cast out of land	Kindness
World	Sons of God	Marry Unbelievers	Cast out of World	Holiness

(Peter Leithart, *House For My Name*, p. 56)

Two kinds of people in the world – righteous-believers vs. wicked-unbelievers.
Two family lines.

Line of Cain – sons of men
– Unbelievers

|
|
Line of Seth – Sons of God
- Believers

I. The Flood – New Creation – Gen. 6:9-9:29

Turn in your Bibles and read Genesis 6:5-8. The Lord saw the wickedness of men and determined to **destroy man...but...** “**Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.**” God decided to recreate the world – casting the old man out of the world – and the remaking the world, with Noah being a new Adam (Gen. 6:9-13).

We all here know the story of the flood. God commanded righteous Noah to build an Ark/ship to deliver and recreate the world. Read vv. 18-20 (like Gen. 1:20-30).

“But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. “And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive.

The word “Covenant” is first used here. It means a promise – special relationship with God. In our Lord’s Day Bible Classes, we have learned what the Covenant of Life is: **Q. What is the covenant of life?**

A. The covenant of life is the bond of union and communion and self-giving love, between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, into which God sovereignly and graciously brings believers and their children, so that they can live with Him in the bonds of mutual love and faithfulness.

God is saying that He is binding Himself to humanity in covenant, graciously enabling us to have a relationship of life with Him.

6:22, Noah did as God commanded – Noah listened and obeyed the word of the Lord, unlike the first Adam, who listened to the voice of the serpent and disregarded the word of God.

God flooded the earth – all living creatures, including man, died in the righteous judgment of God. It was a world-wide flood, not just local (Gen. 7:19, 24). When God remembered (Gen. 8:1) Noah and the living creatures, He made the wind/Spirit to pass over the earth (just as the Spirit did in the creation-Gen. 1:2-creating order in that which was formless and void), and saved and recreated the world.

The first thing Noah did was to offer a sacrifice. 8:20-22;

9:8-17 – Covenant Established – Like with Adam, Noah is told to:

Be fruitful and multiply (9:1)

Lord promises successful dominion/rulership over animals (9:2-3)

Noah given authority beyond Adam to execute murderers; and instead of being given a garden that God planted, Noah plants his own garden (9:20) and taking rest

(9:20-21). Noah's name means "bringer of rest," now has brought rest to the world (cf. 5:29).

With the history of man – Adam, Cain and the Sons of God, we are left in the story wondering how long it will last!

II. The Seventy Nations – Gen. 10

After the Flood – Recreation of the world, we learn again about family lines. The Sons of Noah were Shem, Ham and Japheth. The line of the sons of God are the sons of Shem. His brothers were the unrighteous lines (who later were the enemies of God and His people).

In all there were seventy nations that came from them – and populated the world.

III. The Tower of Babel – Gen. 11:1-9

What we have in Genesis is the story of how God will reveal is chosen seed, the Messiah, Son of God – who we know to be Jesus.

It begins with Adam – Fall, Cain & Able – Fall, Sons of God – Fall, Noah and then his son **Shem** ("famous"). But what we learn about the sons of Shem is that they too fall. Gen. 10:30 tells us that Joktan (one of the sons of Shem) settle in the hill country of the **east**, and then in 11:2 continue to journey **east** to join with the unbelievers to rebel against God and bring ruin to the world. Just as the sons of righteous Seth fall into sin with the daughters of Cain (Gen. 6:1-4), so here a faithful line of descendents, the line of Shem, joins with the wicked line of Nimrod. Through Joktan's descendants fall at Babel, the judgment of God is again brought against men, confusing the languages (lit. "lip") and scattering the nations who cooperated together at Babel.

The sons of Shem, the Shemites, who assemble at Babel, want to build a tower that will not only make them famous throughout the world but will also connect heaven and earth. Babel's tower is like a temple. Though the Shemites are in the east (in the land being cast from the presence of the Lord) they are trying to build a mountain-garden, like the Garden on the mountain of Eden. But we know as we read this story that what they are trying to do is impossible. God cast them out of the Garden – and man cannot get to the special garden presence of God or please God without doing what He commands.

This house for the gods is built in rebellion and disobedience. The men of Babel want to reach up to heaven and make a name for themselves, not to glorify the name of the Lord. Will God allow this? NO! They disobey the command of God

to “fill the earth.” They want to stay put, “lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the earth” (11:4). God’s response to this is very funny! V. 5 says, “But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.”

Man thinks the tower reaches up to God, but it is so far from heaven that the Lord has to “come down” to see it. Often in the Bible “seeing” is a way of saying that God comes to evaluate or to judge something. The Lord comes down to see and inspect the tower to decide whether or not it will stand. Man’s reason to build the tower is to avoid being scattered, but they end up with just that judgment from God. Men are more widely scattered than they were before. They wanted to make a name for themselves, but the name they receive is Babel, which means “**confusion**.” The great city to be built in the same area later is Babylon, which means “gate of God.” But the Old Testament name for the efforts of these men is confusion and foolishness.

At the end of Genesis 11, we are left wondering if the promised seed will come, and whether there is any hope for the world. We learned about the first three falls – a recreation of the world and a new Adam (Noah – “Rest”), but there was no rest for the world because his descendants also fell. It looks in Genesis 10-11 that the whole world has fallen again. Will God cast man out of the world again? Certainly not with a flood (Gen. 9:1-17). What we will begin to see is the recovery of men through a new set of Adams (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob), through whom the seed of the woman would come.

Lessons-

If you want to reach up to God – you need to obey God.

If you want to make a name for yourself in the world, you need to obey God.

Choose you this day whom you will serve, God or yourself.

Will you be of the righteous line of believers who worship, serve, glorify and enjoy God? Or will you be of the unrighteous line of unbelievers that serve their own selfish desires, refusing to worship, serve, obey, glorify and enjoy God?

Remember: God is always faithful to His covenant promises. Although there is terrible sinfulness in the world at this time, God does not destroy the world. Instead, we learn in the rest of Genesis 11 (vv. 10-32f) that God has reserved for Himself a righteous line of believers that He will fulfill His covenant promises to. While the men of Babel did not build a house for God that will stand, God will do it in the future. As we will see in the weeks to come. He will do it through other faithful believers.

Homework assignment: Read Genesis 12-17

Week Six –New Covenant Men

❖ Quick Review

We have seen that God has not only made the world, but that He has also remade the world. He recreated the world because of the sin and wickedness of men. Men have fallen several times, and God has brought His judgments on man for these sins. What are the three falls that we have seen? But God is always faithful to His promises. He promised Eve that one of her seeds/descendents would crush the head of the serpent. He showed man the way of salvation through sacrifice and worship. And we have seen that although there are family lines of men that are wicked and unbelievers, there are also always men who are the righteous believers that will inherit all the promises of God. Adam, Seth, Noah, Shem are some of these believing families. Even as we finished last time with the fall of man at Babel, the story continued with believers. The line of Shem (11:10-32) continues. God will build a house, a family of believers that will be faithful to Him.

God will establish man in the world through a series of men like Adam – New Adams, if you will. These men will succeed where the others fell. They will have patience, loving/brotherly kindness and holiness. They will receive the promises and blessings of God upon them.

I. Abram/Abraham Gen. 12-25:11

Promises to Abram (which means “Exalted Father”)

- ◆ Land
- ◆ Seed – Son – Great Nation: Which seems impossible, but with God all things are possible and sure. When Isaac is born, Abraham demonstrates faith.
- ◆ All Nations/Families blessed through Abraham

God commanded Adam to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, ruling the world for God and faithfully worshipping Him. These were repeated to Noah. Now, God, instead of commanding to be fruitful (“be fruitful”), He promises Abram fruitfulness (“I will make you fruitful”). It takes awhile for his son to be born. He had to trust God and be **Patient** (see Heb. 11:8-13). It was not in his lifetime that he saw that his name was made great. It was long after he was dead that his family became a great nation – and that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him. It would be more than 400 years later that his descendants would inherit the Promised Land. But **Abraham** (which means, “father of a multitude”) believed God, and became the father of all those who trust in God. [Patient/trusting in God, unlike Adam.]

One of the important aspects of Abraham's life is that the covenant of God with man becomes more significant (Gen. 12:1-3; Ch. 15 & 17). God had chosen the family line of Abraham to make His covenant promises with man known and fulfilled in history. Not only so, this covenant with Abraham would be the means by which God blesses the nations fallen at Babel (Gen. 10).

Abraham is a faithful worshipper of God. Very often we see him building alters and worshipping the Lord (e.g. Gen. 12:7-8; 13:4, 18 - "Bethel" = "House of God"; contrast with the meaning of Babylon = "Gate of God" founded at Babel = "Confusion"). While Abraham is not the one to build a house/temple for God, it will happen in the world through his family. Abraham's household would eventually build a house/temple for God. In the mean time, God built the covenant household of Abraham.

I. Jacob/Israel Gen. 24-36; 48-49

Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. God chose Isaac (the younger brother) to be the continuation of the covenant line. Isaac had twin sons: Esau and Jacob. Jacob is the younger of Isaac's sons. God chose Jacob over Esau to fulfill his covenant purposes in the world. Obviously, in these sons of Abraham and Isaac the story shows the importance of brother-brother relationships. The fathers of the faithful/believing family line are Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Ishmael & Esau being the ungodly lines) – Often these fathers are called the "Patriarchs."

God told Rebekah, the wife of Isaac & mother of the twin sons Esau & Jacob, that they would both be the heads of great nations, and that the older will serve the younger (Jacob). Now Esau was an unbeliever, while Jacob was a believer. Even in the womb the two fought with each other. You know the story, Esau sold his birthright (right to receive a double-portion of the inheritance) to Jacob, and Jacob tricked Esau out of his father's blessing. Gen. 27:41 says that because of this, Esau hated Jacob, and desired to kill him. The sin of **Unkindness** or lack of love between brother is evident again (like Cain & Able). But God would have His way with these men. God had chosen Jacob as the man to continue the covenant line. As Jacob fled from Esau (Gen. 28), he had a night vision of a "ladder" that reached all the way up to heaven. (Remember the men of Babel (Gen. 11:4, 9) wanted to build a tower that reached to heaven). The angels of the Lord were going up and down on this ladder. When Jacob awakes from the dream, he called the place the "gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17) which reminds us of the Babylonian "gate of God." The name of this place is Bethel (Abraham named Bethel in Gen. 12:8), which mean "house of God." At Bethel, the Lord revealed His answer to Babel: God will

build a way to connect earth and heaven; He will build it in the land, and He will build it through Jacob's seed (Gen. 28:13-14). From there, Jacob went on to be married and have numerous children, and be abundantly blessed by the Lord. After several years he returned to the land, and made peace with his brother through humility and loving brotherly **kindness**.

III. Joseph

Gen. 37-50

As the years pass on, Jacob had many sons. One of these sons was Joseph, a man whom God would bless and use mightily. His other brothers hated him and sought to do evil to him. As you know, Joseph was sent off to Egypt as a slave. But because God had His hand on Joseph's life, he was blessed in all that he did. Joseph was a faithful and godly man, even though he was a slave in a foreign land. He was a true "son of God," and witnessed to the world about the one true God. He was a man of **Holiness** – and had nothing to do with the wife of Potiphar who sought to (sleep with) be like a wife to him. To Joseph, obedience and holiness of life were more important than anything else. He was a man of service, and through his faithful works was given authority and greater responsibility wherever he went. Eventually, as you know, he was given authority over all of Egypt, and became a kind of savior by providing food for the world. The book of Genesis begins with God telling Adam to "subdue and rule" the earth and it ends with Joseph, a man who rules the vast empire of Egypt. Joseph is a picture of what Adam was supposed to become. He is another Adam. He is also a picture of the greater Adam to come → Jesus. Joseph, like all great kings in the Bible, ruled in order to serve the people. He doesn't use his power to be selfish; rather, he uses his power to give bread to the world.

The story ends (Genesis) with the covenant people all in Egypt, not the Promised Land. The question that remains, "How will God fulfill His covenant promises." What will happen next? God will remember His covenant with the faithful, loving and holy fathers.

God calls us to be like our fathers of the faith (i.e. the patriarchs) in their character. In them we see the three recoveries from sins and the curses of the three falls. They were **patient**, willing to wait in faith for the promises of God to be fulfilled. They showed **brotherly kindness** and **love** to those who did them wrong. They refused to intermarry with unbelievers, remaining **holy** before the Lord. The way of covenant-keeping is faithful **patience**, **love** and **holiness**.

Homework assignment: Read Exodus 1-18

Week Seven –The Exodus
Exodus 1:1-19:2

❖ Westminster Shorter Catechism

❖ Quick Review

We have thus far in our class learned that God created the world. It is He, and He alone that is to be worshipped and served in this world. He created man to rule the world, and is to worship his heavenly Father in the manner that He commands. After the fall of man into sin, God promised that one day, one of the seed of the woman (Eve) would come to destroy the works of the Serpent (the devil), and save the world. He would be a greater Adam. Men are to patiently wait upon God, and have faith that He will fulfill His promise. The sons of God must show loving kindness to their brothers, and be holy (special-set apart) unto God. We have seen that God raised up certain men as new Adams: Seth's family line, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and Joseph. These men are fathers that demonstrated faith, love and holiness in the world. God made His covenant with these men, and we know that God will always keep His covenant promises. He doesn't do it in ways that we imagine that He will often times; yet He remains ever faithful.

Do you remember the promises made to Abraham?

- ◆ Land
- ◆ Seed – Son – Great Nation: Which seems impossible, but with God all things are possible and sure. When Isaac is born, Abraham demonstrates faith.
- ◆ All Nations/Families blessed through Abraham

God wonderfully and graciously (as a gift) chose the family of Abraham to build a house/family line that will faithfully worship Him. As we finished reading Genesis, the future of the covenant people is so bright. It is so exciting → Joseph, one of the covenant men (a new Adam), is the ruler of the greatest nation of the world. God is starting to bless His covenant people.

Read - Ex. 1:5, 7 There were 70 of the house of Jacob. This is the same number (70) that we learned about in Gen. 10, the seventy nations. The people of Israel replace the 70 nations that fell at the Tower of Babel. We learn from v. 7 that the people of Israel in Egypt were fruitful and multiplied greatly, and were exceedingly mighty, and the land was filled with them. As Abraham was promised, they became a great nation. Israel is a new Adamic race, multiplying and filling the land as God had commanded Adam. A new creation.

But suddenly in the story everything changes in v. 8, “Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.” When Joseph was appointed to help rule Egypt, Pharaoh said, “Can we find *such a one* as this, a man in whom *is* the Spirit of God?” Whether Pharaoh had become a believer in Yahweh or not we cannot be sure, but it sounds like it. Now hundreds of years later a new Pharaoh, definitely an unbeliever in Yahweh, becomes afraid of the people of God, and oppresses them.

Read Gen. 15:13-16 - Prophecy to Abraham concerning the captivity of his people.

This is an “Exodus Story.” There are many Exodus Stories in the Bible. We have already seen some in the book of Genesis. The Flood was not only a story of Judgment, but also a story of God saving His covenant people in the Ark. Abraham (much like the story in the Exodus) went to Egypt, and was saved and brought back to the land. Jacob lived in the household of Laban and was mistreated, and was again brought back to the land. Now God will bring the people out of their slavery in Egypt and back into the land. You should be watching for these Exodus Stories as you read your Bible because they will help you understand God salvation of His people.

What this story teaches us in part is that the gods of the nations are nothing. They have no power over God and His people. This is important because we learn in other places in the Bible that the Israelites worshipped idols in Egypt (Josh. 24:14; Ezek. 20:5-8). The Lord puts them under a wicked ruler because they have turned from Him.

You know the story of Moses. Pharaoh, in fear of the Israelites, determined to make life hard for them and to kill the baby boys. Moses’s mother is used by God to save Moses. The woman preserves the “seed of the woman” who will grow up to crush Pharaoh’s head (Moses is a new Adam). Like Joseph, Moses was a beautiful child (Gen. 39:7; Ex. 2:2). Like Joseph, Moses would be a prince of Egypt. But instead of bringing the people to Egypt to save them (as Joseph had done), Moses would save them by bringing them out of Egypt. His mother put him in a basket lined with pitch – a little Ark (Gen. 6:14). Moses is not only like Joseph, but also like Noah. While all around him children are drowning in the Nile River, Moses’s ark passes through the waters to safety. Noah came out of the ark and entered a new creation; and Moses will bring God’s people out of Egypt and into the New World – the land of promise.

Moses began right away to try to deliver Israel when he grew up. He went out and visited his brethren, (which is biblical language to save the people and to judge their enemies). When He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave (Ex. 2:11-15), Moses struck the Egyptian and killed him. This was a proper thing for him to do as prince of Egypt, but also as the savior of the people. But the people were not quite ready for Moses to be their leader. When Moses tried to make peace between two of his Hebrew brothers, they reject him. Thus, Moses saw that they were not ready to leave Egypt, and fled and went to Midian for 40 years. While there, God spoke to Moses from the burning bush on Mt. Sinai. There God said that He would use Moses to bring the people out of Egypt, and bring them to the land as He had promised (Ex. 3:6ff). You see God always keeps his promises.

Moses went with his brother Aaron (whom God sent to help Moses) to Pharaoh (Ex. 5:1-2). What did God say to Pharaoh was the reason that he was to let the people go? To “hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.” Israel is first and most importantly a worshipping people. Of course, as we all know, Pharaoh refused. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart, because He planned to demonstrate His mighty power to save through this story. [Ex. 6:1-8] – Covenant faithfulness.

The hardness of Pharaoh was due in part because of his love for and trust in his gods. The Egyptians worshipped the Nile River, frogs, the Sun and many other parts of the creation. When God sent the plagues He attacked these false gods, and conquered them. Pharaoh had killed the Hebrew babies in the Nile, and God turned the River into blood. He killed of the sons of Israel, and God killed all the firstborn of the Egyptians. In the end, Pharaoh and his army were cast into the sea in a final judgment upon them. God surely saved his people. What a marvelous salvation it was. God protected His people – and fought for them (Ex. 14:13-14) in the pillar of cloud and fire (14:19-20). As God commanded, Moses stretched out his rod, and God parted the Red Sea and caused the people to pass through safely on dry ground. The song we sang earlier speaks of this glorious salvation and victory for God’s people.

The reason that God gave the people the book of Exodus was to have a written record of God’s marvelous works of salvation for them. He didn’t want them to forget. In fact, this Exodus story is retold over and over again to remind the people of God’s goodness to them. Another reason for the telling of this story is to remind the people that God had chosen Moses to be His servant, and the leader of the people. As we will see in the weeks to come, the people sinfully rebel against Yahweh, and against Moses. It is a continual problem for them.

It is important for us to remember, know and fully appreciate this Exodus Story. It is a reminder to us of several important truths. 1) God will always remember and fulfill His covenant promises to us. 2) Just as God saved the people from slavery in Egypt, so too He saves us from our sins. 3) God will protect us, and fight for us in times of trouble. We need not fear what men can do to us, for if God is with us, we are loved perfectly.

Homework assignment: Read Exodus 1-19-40

Week Eight – Covenant Nation In The Wilderness Exodus 19:3-40:38

❖ Westminster Shorter Catechism

❖ Quick Review

When the people of God came out of Egypt, which books of the Bible did they have? None. How do you suppose that they knew how to glorify God and enjoy Him? They knew very little. Remember the great covenant promises made to Abraham (land, seed/ great nation, and be a blessing), now the people have become a great and mighty people. But it was not enough just to be a whole lot of people – they had to be formed into a holy people, a great nation of Kings and priests in order to become God’s people. Remember that God is building a household through which His name will be glorified, and a means to bless the nations so that they enjoy Him forever.

I. The Covenant People

What happened when God brought the people through the Red Sea is that He saved them, and set them apart from their lives of slavery and idolatry in Egypt – and brought them to Mt. Sinai to make them His special people. Remember that the Garden of Eden was on a mountain. It was the place where He met with Adam, and gave them His commands (the trees, take dominion) and fed them. So too, God takes the people back to a mountain, in order to prepare them to go into the Promised Land, a land like a garden, flowing with milk and honey. At Sinai, God made a covenant, literally He “cut” a covenant with them. He said in effect, “I am your God, and you shall be my people. I have chosen you to be my special people. Not because you are great and mighty. Not because you are particularly holy. But because I have loved you, and promised your forefathers that I would make you a great nation. I am now keeping my covenant promises.” God’s covenant is made with us because He wants to, and because He loves us.

What happens when a couple gets married? What makes them married? The couple agree to marry one another (and the families agree-bless the marriage), they make promises to each other, they sign the marriage certificate, other people witness it, they have a feast/celebration, and finally they go off on their honeymoon and live happily ever after. A marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman. It has promises and obligations to one another – and if they don’t obey, the marriage may come to an end in divorce.

God's covenant with Israel at Sinai was in many ways like a wedding ceremony. Israel is the Lord's bride, and at Mt. Sinai, He marries her (Ezek. 16:1-14; Hos. 1-3; Eph. 5). Yahweh promises to provide all good things for His bride, and His people take an oath to obey and honor Him. If His people do not keep the covenant promise they make, God threatens to bring all kinds of bad things upon them. To say that God is in covenant with Israel is to say that God has a close relationship with Israel, a relationship that includes promises, laws and threats of curses. Israel's new Husband, her new Master, is the Lord, and is bound to her by covenant.

Moses is like the minister that officiates the wedding ceremony. He went up on the Mountain to hear the Lord's word, and then brought it back down to the people (Read 19:3-6). He reminded the people how He had saved them, and that He intended to make covenant, and that if they kept the covenant, he would make them a special people. Then God met with the people at the mountain (19:16-24). It was a very memorable event (talked about later in the Bible).

II. Covenant Laws

A. Law of the Covenant (19-24)

God gave His people His laws. Law about how to live as a special people. And laws concerning His house. The Lord gave them laws about how they were to live with one another (20-23; Ten Commandments, Law of the Covenant). These laws given to Moses remain very important for us today. By them we learn much of how we are to live our lives as well. A holy people must have the laws of the Holy God in order to live faithfully in His covenant. In Ch. 24, Moses told the people all that the Lord has commanded, and the people responded by saying,

“All the words which the LORD has said we will do” (v. 3).

⁴And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half the blood and put *it* in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.” ⁸And Moses took the blood, sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.”

God had made covenant with His people: A covenant of promise – a covenant of duty. Both God and the people made promises – and both God and the people were required to keep their promises.

B. Laws of Worship (25-40)

But that is not all. Not only were the people instructed on how to live with one another, but also how they should live with God. God would not only *be* the God of Israel, but He would live *with* them. He commanded them to make a house, the Tabernacle. Through most of the rest of the book of Exodus, He gave them instructions about the kind of house He wanted Israel to build for Him. He gave them strict rules concerning how they would worship Him, how they are to live as His servants, and how they can have a relationship with Him. Because men are sinful, we need to be forgiven. Because we are sinful, we cannot have a relationship with God apart from Him forgiving us, and bringing us close to Him. The people were taught about this by means of the Tabernacle. You couldn't have a relationship with God unless you came near to Him in the right way. God would dwell in the tabernacle in the midst of the people. We are the new tabernacle/temple. God dwells in us.

No other nation/people is given privilege of having Him live with them. They must be holy! It is His presence that He gives them (grace). He saved them to live with them, to be in them and with them. Just as He does with us as well. By His love He chose us. By His grace and power He saved us from our sins. By His care He lives in and with us. By His word He rules us. Little wonder why David in the Psalm wrote, "O, how I love your law. It is my meditation night and day!"

The Book of Exodus can be thought of in three parts:

Deliverance From Egypt	(1:1-18:27)
Covenant With Yahweh	(19:1-24:18)
Worship: Drawing Near to Yahweh	(25:1-40:38)

Exodus not only organizes and instructs the people of God, but it also reminds the people of the fact that God appointed Moses to be the leader of Israel. The Israelites frequently questioned the authority of Moses (Ex. 2:14; 5:19; 14:10-12; 16:1-3; 32:1; Num. 12:1-6). God appoints leaders over us, and if we rebel against these leaders, it is the same as rebelling against God Himself. In other words, many times when people want to reject God or rebel against Him, they reject and rebel against the leaders that God has placed over them. You must learn this lesson early in life, and learn it well. Learn to obey and honor your parents (5th commandment), your older brothers and sisters, your pastors, police, judges, etc.

Homework assignment: Read Number 1-14

Week Nine – Rebellion In The Wilderness

Numbers 1-14

❖ Westminster Shorter Catechism

❖ Quick Review

3 Falls – 3 Recoveries

3 Promises made to Abraham

- ◆ Land
- ◆ Seed – Son – Great Nation: Which seems impossible, but with God all things are possible and sure. When Isaac is born, Abraham demonstrates faith.
- ◆ All Nations/Families blessed through Abraham

We learned that the book of Exodus can be divided into three parts:

Deliverance From Egypt	(1:1-18:27)
Covenant With Yahweh	(19:1-24:18)
Worship: Drawing Near to Yahweh	(25:1-40:38)

Israel stayed at Mt. Sinai for about one year (Exodus Passover to Sinai Passover).

Ex. 31:18 – Moses was given two stone tablets with the Word of God on them. The people broke covenant with God by making the golden calf (Ex. 32:1-18). Moses broke the tablets to show them how they had broken the covenant (Ex. 32:19). Then God told the people to go the Promised Land, but because of their sin, *He would not go in their midst* (Ex. 33:3-5). The people then repented (Ex. 33:6, 12-23). Then Moses remade the two stone tablets (Ex. 34), and God renewed covenant with the people by rewriting the law on the tablets with His finger, and promising to be with the people as they went into the land and drove out the unbelieving people there. God warned the people to be faithful to Him, and to not worship any other gods.

Remember: God's presence with His people is manifested to them through the tabernacle. This is what makes them a special people. They have God in their midst, and have a relationship with Him through worship. There is nothing more important than the people living as a holy people – faithfully worshipping Him. If they remain faithful to Him, He will remain with them.

Exodus 40:33b-38

So Moses finished the work.

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the

cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the LORD *was* above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

In the book of Numbers, the people are being prepared finally for going into the land. In Number 1-4 there is a numbering of the people. In Numbers 5-8 we have various laws explained that would be important as they went into the land, and offering made to set apart the leaders of the people. In Numbers 9 we learn about the second Passover, one year after the Exodus from Egypt. In vv. 15-23 we have description of how God led His people with the pillar of cloud and fire (see also Ex. 40:36-38).

When we get to Numbers 10, we learn that after the Covenant made with Israel at Mt. Sinai was completed, and the tabernacle completed with God dwelling with them, God leads the people from Sinai to fulfill His purposes for them. In Hebrew, the name for the book of “Numbers” is “In the Wilderness”. For many people the first 10 chapters of Numbers are boring. There are many names and numbers. What we see here is that God is organizing His people into an army to conquer the Canaanite nations.

I. Israel Depart Sinai (Numbers 10:11-36)

Read 10:11-13

¹¹Now it came to pass on the twentieth *day* of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. ¹²And the children of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sinai on their journeys; then the cloud settled down in the Wilderness of Paran. ¹³So they started out for the first time according to the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

They went out as armies, with Yahweh as their commander-in-chief. God’s purpose for them was to conquer and settle in the land of Canaan. Remember Gen. 15:16: ¹⁶“But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet complete.”

Apparently God intended to use the people of Israel to bring judgment upon the people of the land for their sins. Read Num. 10:33-36:

³³So they departed from the mountain of the LORD on a journey of three days; and the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD went before them for the three days’ journey, to search out a resting-place for them. ³⁴And the cloud of the LORD *was* above them by day when they went out from the camp. ³⁵So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said:

“Rise up, O LORD!

Let Your enemies be scattered,
And let those who hate You flee before You.”

³⁶And when it rested, he said:

“Return, O LORD, *To* the many thousands of Israel.”

II. Rebellion of Israel

But right away the people begin to rebel against the Lord.

A. Against Yahweh’s provisions: Complaints about hardship (Num. 11)

Now *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard *it*, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed *some* in the outskirts of the camp. ²Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched. (11:1-2)/ Manna – Meat (11:4-20)

How many of you complain? I’m hungry! I’m bored! If only I didn’t have my little brother to bother me – Is your complaining any different than that of Israel? The Lord is with you; He has arranged your life – And we complain. We should be careful and humble.

B. Against Yahweh’s appointed leader (Num. 12)

¹Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. ²So they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?” And the LORD heard *it*. (12:1-2)

Moses’ brother and sister complained/spoke against Moses because they were jealous. They thought they were only dealing with Moses, but the text says the “Lord heard it.” He was angry because they failed to recognize that God had chosen Moses, and was using him in the way Yahweh wanted to. Be careful not to rebel against the leaders that God has placed over you.

C. Against Yahweh’s Promise of the Land (Num. 13-14)

The Lord took the people to Kadesh (“Holy Place” we know it is a garden) in the wilderness of Paran to spy out the land. The Promised Land was north of them, and God commanded that leaders from every tribe (representing the people) should go to see what it was like (13:17-20). Moses commanded them to “Be of good courage.” – Have faith. After 40 days, they came back and reported that the land was good. But they were fearful – Not faithful – and said that Israel could not take the land, and caused the congregation to fear. Only two of the twelve believed the promises of God: Joshua & Caleb (see 13:30; 14:6-10)

14:1-4 – More complaining and rebellion – Even wanting a new leader. As all good and godly leaders do, Moses (the chief ruler), Aaron (the High Priest) and

Joshua and Caleb (faithful spies and assistants to Moses) humbled themselves and pleaded with the people to obey the Lord (vv. 5-10).

God determines to curse the people and not give them the land, and choose a new people for Himself (14:11-12). Ten times the people rebelled against the Lord since He saved them from Egypt (14:22).

But Moses prayed for the people (14:13-19). Yahweh heard his prayer and determined to punish the people by causing them to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until they died (14:20-25; 26-35). He will destroy the old Israel; and create a new Israel to go into the land. The ten spies that stirred up rebellion in the people died by a plague (14:36-37); but faithful Joshua and Caleb would be allowed to live and enter the land (14:30, 38). They would be the only ones that would be allowed to enter the land.

The people then mourned greatly – and said that they would obey the Lord and go up and take the land (14:39-45). But it was too late. They decided to try and attack the Canaanites, but the Yahweh would not go with them. Do you suppose that they won the battle? No! They could never win on their own. It would always be Yahweh that would fight their battles through them; and if He did not go, they could not win. They were defeated and driven back.

The rest of the book of Numbers is about the people wandering in the wilderness.

Would you have believed the word of the Lord? Would you have gone into the land? Or would you murmur and complain against the Lord? How do you live your lives today? Do you obey your parents (given to you as leaders from the Lord)? Or do you murmur and complain against them? As you grow and mature in the Lord, there will be challenges to your faith. These will often come in the form of disagreeing with those in authority over you. You may have unreasonable teachers, unkind bosses at work, or practices in the church that you do not like. God requires that you submit yourselves to those whom He has placed over you. If you submit yourselves to Him through these leaders, He will bless you and cause you to mature and prosper. But if you act rebelliously, He will turn His face from you and you will struggle in your lives. May God grant you humility and faithfulness.

Homework assignment: Read Number 15-36

Week Ten – Preparation In The Wilderness Numbers 15-36

❖ Quick Review

3 Falls – 3 Recoveries

3 Promises made to Abraham

- ◆ Land
- ◆ Seed – Son – Great Nation: Which seems impossible, but with God all things are possible and sure. When Isaac is born, Abraham demonstrates faith.
- ◆ All Nations/Families blessed through Abraham

We learned that the book of Exodus can be divided into three parts:

Deliverance From Egypt (1:1-18:27)

Covenant With Yahweh (19:1-24:18)

Worship: Drawing Near to Yahweh (25:1-40:38)

Israel stayed at Mt. Sinai for about one year (Exodus Passover to Sinai Passover).

After God moved them from Sinai toward the Promised Land, where did they camp, and what happened there in the middle of the book of Numbers? They went to Kadesh and the people refused to take the land because the testimony of the eleven doubting spies. God cursed the people and determined that the adult generation would die wandering in the wilderness.

As we have seen, the new nation, the people of Israel, was an immature people as they came out of the land of Egypt. They were much like a little child. They needed to be taught to *be* the people God intended for them to be. As you recall, one of the promises that God made to Abraham was that they would be a blessing to the nations. For them to do this they need to be blessed by God with maturity and holiness. Where the sin of Israel was great, God's patience and mercy were even greater, increasing all the more. Even though Israel refused to go into the land, Yahweh promised again to give them what He had already promised their fathers. But the Israel that got to go into the land would not be the old Israel. The Israel that rebelled in the "garden" at Kadesh (Leithart pp. 104-105) would die.

At the center of the rebellion of the people was their unwillingness to submit to Yahweh through the leaders He placed over them. While the leaders themselves are not perfect and without blame, they are still God's representatives. The people of Israel did not save themselves from their slavery in Egypt, Yahweh did! The people of Israel did not form themselves into a nation, Yahweh did!

The people did not make up the laws of the nation, Yahweh did! The people of Israel did not create the religion and worship of God, Yahweh did! Thus, it was important for them to learn that they were a creation of Yahweh and that His ways are the ways of Israel, including the leaders.

I. Rebellion against Moses and Aaron (Num. 16-17)

A. Korah, Dathan and Abiram's rebellion (16:1-40)

Not all of the leaders of the people were righteous and godly men. Korah, Dathan and Abiram along with 250 of the leaders of the people gathered together against Moses and Aaron. Read Num. 16:3-4:

³They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “*You take* too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation *is* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *is* among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?”

⁴So when Moses heard *it*, he fell on his face

The question posed to Moses is about being holy. Not only does the word “holy” mean being righteous and pure before the Lord, but also it means be special or separated out for a particular purpose. If I were to have one of you to come and do a special job, apart from the rest of the class, I would be setting you apart (in a way) as holy. What they were asking is if indeed Moses and Aaron were really set apart in a special way, more than the rest of the people. But it was not merely a question. It was, with a rebellious heart, making a statement that Moses and Aaron were *not really* special before the Lord. It was foolish pride that made them want to be equal to Moses and Aaron. They demonstrated their pride by murmuring against them (v. 11).

Moses arranged a test that would prove that Yahweh had chosen Moses and Aaron to do a special work before the Lord. After the Lord showed that Moses and Aaron were indeed holy before the Lord to do His work by commanding them to separate themselves from the rebellious men, God opened the ground under the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram (and their families) and swallowed them up (vv. 28-34). Fire came out from the Lord (in the tabernacle) and consumed the 250 rebellious leaders (vv. 35-40).

C. The Congregation's Rebellion (16:41-50)

The very next day, instead of being humble before the Lord, the people became angry with Moses and Aaron (even though it was God who judged Korah, Dathan and Abiram and their families), accusing Moses and Aaron of killing them. This time God determined to judge the people for their sinful pride and rebellion. He sent a plague of sickness among them. God told Moses and Aaron to take incense

and pray for the people to make atonement for the sins of the people. After they did, the plague stopped. Before it was all over, 14,700 had died.

D. The Budding of Aaron's Rod (17:1-13)

To make it clear to all of the people that God had chosen Aaron (and his household/descendants) to be the priests of the people, God demonstrated His choice. The leaders of each of the twelve tribes was to bring a rod (symbolizing authority, like a scepter) before the Lord, with the name of the leader of the tribe written on it. These rods were placed in the tabernacle before the Ark of the Testimony, in the presence of Yahweh. The next day Moses went into the tabernacle and brought out the rods. 17:8-10

...behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds. ⁹Then Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD to all the children of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod.

¹⁰And the LORD said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die."

Thus, the Lord demonstrated that Aaron and his sons would be the priests before the Lord. And the people stopped their complaints against the authority and special work of Moses and Aaron. For the next several chapters of Numbers God instructs the people about the duties and privileges of the Levites and priests, and further trains them to be a holy people.

Sometimes the judgments of God against sinful people bring peace to the whole of the congregation. God brings His judgments against sinners (both inside/outside of the congregation) to save His people. Repeatedly in the Bible we see judgment unto salvation (e.g. Adam, Noah, Hebrew people in Egypt).

II. The Sin of Moses and Aaron (Num. 20:1-13; 22-29)

During their wanderings in the wilderness, the people learn about the way they are to live together as a nation under God. Gradually, the old Israel died in the wilderness. This had to happen before the people would be ready to enter the land.

A. Death of Miriam (Num. 20:1)

The first of these was Miriam.

B. Sin at Meribah (Num. 20:2-13)

The people needed water, and again they sinned by contending/fighting with Moses (20:2-5). Moses and Aaron prayed to the Lord at the tabernacle, and God

commanded Moses to take Aaron's Rod to a rock Yahweh had provided, and *speak* to the rock and it will give them water. Instead of obeying the Lord, Moses (with Aaron) sinned. Read Num. 20:10-12

¹⁰And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! *Must we bring water* for you out of this rock?" ¹¹Then *Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock* twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

¹²Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not *believe* Me, to *hallow* Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

Because they presumed to serve the Lord in their own way, taking credit and not giving glory to God, the Lord cursed them for their sin. The judgment against them would be that they (both Moses & Aaron) do not get to go into the land.

C. Death of Aaron (Num. 20:22-29)

Finally, after 40 years, Aaron died (Num. 33:38-39). His son Eleazar was made High Priest in his place. With the death of Aaron, the Israel is ready to go into the land. The death of Aaron represents a turning point in the *His*-story of the nation of Israel. Once the fathers are gone (including sinful leadership); once holiness is established in the people; once the people are brought to a place of maturity – they can go into the land to inherit the promises of God.

III. Training in Victory (Num. 21-36)

After the death of Aaron God took the people (being in their midst) to the wilderness east of Moab (Ch. 21), to the east of Jericho. Remember: The people are coming out of the curse of the wilderness into the land; like going from the east to the west back into the Garden. Man is being restored to his place in the Garden to do the work God had given Adam. They are to work, take dominion and serve/worship the Lord as a new people in a New World. The blessings of God and the victories over their enemies began there.

While there are still problems that have to be dealt with in this section of the book of Numbers, it still represents a positive movement towards the final entry into the land. Not only do the people begin to defeat their enemies, but also there are preparations for what happens when they get into the land. They are instructed how to divide the land (Num. 27:36; 26:52-56; 33:50-54); where the boundaries of the land will be, and various laws, organizing the worshipping/conquering people.

Sins of the fathers have consequences – yet God is faithful and merciful. The death of fathers (physical and leadership) lead to blessing and progress – Death and

Resurrection. In Numbers 27:12-23, Joshua was made the leader to lead the people following Moses' death.

From the fall of man at the Garden of Eden to the final return of man to the Garden of God at the end of time, God is moving history forward through His people to take dominion over the earth. There have been and will continue to be times of blessing and prosperity, and times of judgment and curing from God based on the faithfulness or faithlessness of His people. But God has continued to remain faithful to His promises. Enjoyment of the promises requires obedience to Him, and submission to the leaders that God has placed over us. As we read the book of Numbers, we are struck by how closely obedience to God is tied to humble submission to our leaders. Those whom God has appointed as our leaders are to be treated as representatives of God. Therefore, God takes a dim view of rebellion. If they sin, we have the confidence that God will deal with them in his own way. Rebellion and revolution is never an option for the holy people of God.

Homework assignment: Read Joshua 1

Student Evaluation

Name _____ Date _____

1) What did God create on each of the seven days of creation?

Day 1: **Forming Light** _____

Day 2: **Forming the** _____

Day 3: **Forming & Filling** _____

Day 4: **Filling & Lighting** _____

Day 5: **Filling** _____

Day 6: **Filling** _____

Day 7: _____ – Resting in the **Light**

2) What are the three falls of the book of Genesis?

1st Fall, by _____ (person) was in the _____
(place) was a failure of the virtue of _____.

2nd Fall, by _____ (person) was in the _____
(place) was a failure of the virtue of _____.

3rd Fall, by _____ (persons) was in the _____
(place) was a failure of the virtue of _____.

3) Briefly describe the three recoveries.

4) What were the 3 Promises were made to Abraham?

5) What are the three parts to the book of Exodus?

- I. _____ (1:1-18:27)
- II. _____ (19:1-24:18)
- III. _____ (25:1-40:38)

The book of Numbers teaches us to work hard at math. True or False? (circle one)

What lessons did you learn from the review of the book of Numbers?

Student Evaluation Answer Key

1) The days of creation

Day 1: **Forming Light** SEPARATING LIGHT AND DARK

Day 2: **Forming** THE FIRMAMENT (SEPARATING WATERS)

Day 3: **Forming & Filling** THE LAND

(separating waters & land, vegetation)

Day 4: **Filling & Lighting** WITH SUN, MOON & STARS

Day 5: **Filling** AIR AND WATERS WITH BIRDS AND FISH

Day 6: **Filling** WITH LAND WITH ANIMALS AND MAN

Day 7: SABBATH – Resting in the **Light**

2) What are the three falls of the book of Genesis?

1st Fall, by ADAM (person) was in the GARDEN (place) was a failure of the virtue of PATIENCE.

2nd Fall, by CAIN (person) was in the LAND (place) was a failure of the virtue of BROTHERLY KINDNESS/LOVE.

3rd Fall, by SONS OF GOD (person) was in the WORLD (place) was a failure of the virtue of HOLINESS.

3) Briefly describe the three recoveries.

ABRAHAM WAS PATIENT TO RECEIVE THE PROMISES OF GOD

JACOB SHOWED BROTHERLY KINDNESS TO HIS BROTHER

JOSEPH REMAINED HOLY IN THE MIDST OF UNBELIEVERS

4) What were the 3 Promises made to Abraham?

THE LAND

THE SEED/SON – GREAT NATION

THROUGH ABRAHAM ALL THE NATIONS WOULD BE BLESSED

- 5) What are the three parts to hee book of Exodus?
- I. EXODUS/DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT (1:1-18:27)
 - II. COVENANT WITH YAHWEH (19:1-24:18)
 - III. WORSHIP: DRAWING NEAR TO YAHWEH (25:1-40:38)

The book of Numbers teaches us to work hard at math. True or **False**? (circle one)

What lessons did you learn from the review of the book of Numbers?
