

Lesson 4:

REVIEW: "Bible Panorama"**Grouping the Bible Books Into Sections for Study**

The Bible is only divided into two large parts (Old and New Testaments) and then into individual books within those parts. However, in order to more study the Bible more effectively it is helpful to divide it into smaller sections related to historical time periods and/or themes found in the writings.

For the purposes of this course, "Know Your Bible", the Bible will be covered in six sections:

1. Foundations: Genesis - Deuteronomy, Job
2. Landscapes: Joshua - Ruth
3. The Rise and Fall of Israel: 1 Samuel - 2 Chronicles
4. Exile and Beyond: Ezra - Esther, Daniel
5. Hebrew Poetry and Wisdom: Psalms - Song of Solomon
6. The Fulfillment: Matthew - Revelation (i.e. the New Testament)

It should be noted that there is no section devoted to the prophets. They will be referenced in the section to which they are related historically and/or theologically.

In this session, "Foundations", we will take an overview look at the first five books of the Bible and Job.

INTRODUCTION: "Foundations"

Books: LAW (25% of O.T.; 19% of Bible): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy ; and Job (possibly the earliest written book - about 2400 B.C.) **NOTE: YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED READING OF SELECTED PORTIONS OF THESE BOOKS IN THIS COURSE.**

Time period covered: Creation of the world (4004 B.C.?) to about 1400 B.C.

Historical context/setting: Middle East: modern day Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Israel, Egypt

Primary characters: Adam, Eve, Noah, Job, Abram/ Abraham, Isaac, Jacob/ Israel, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Miriam

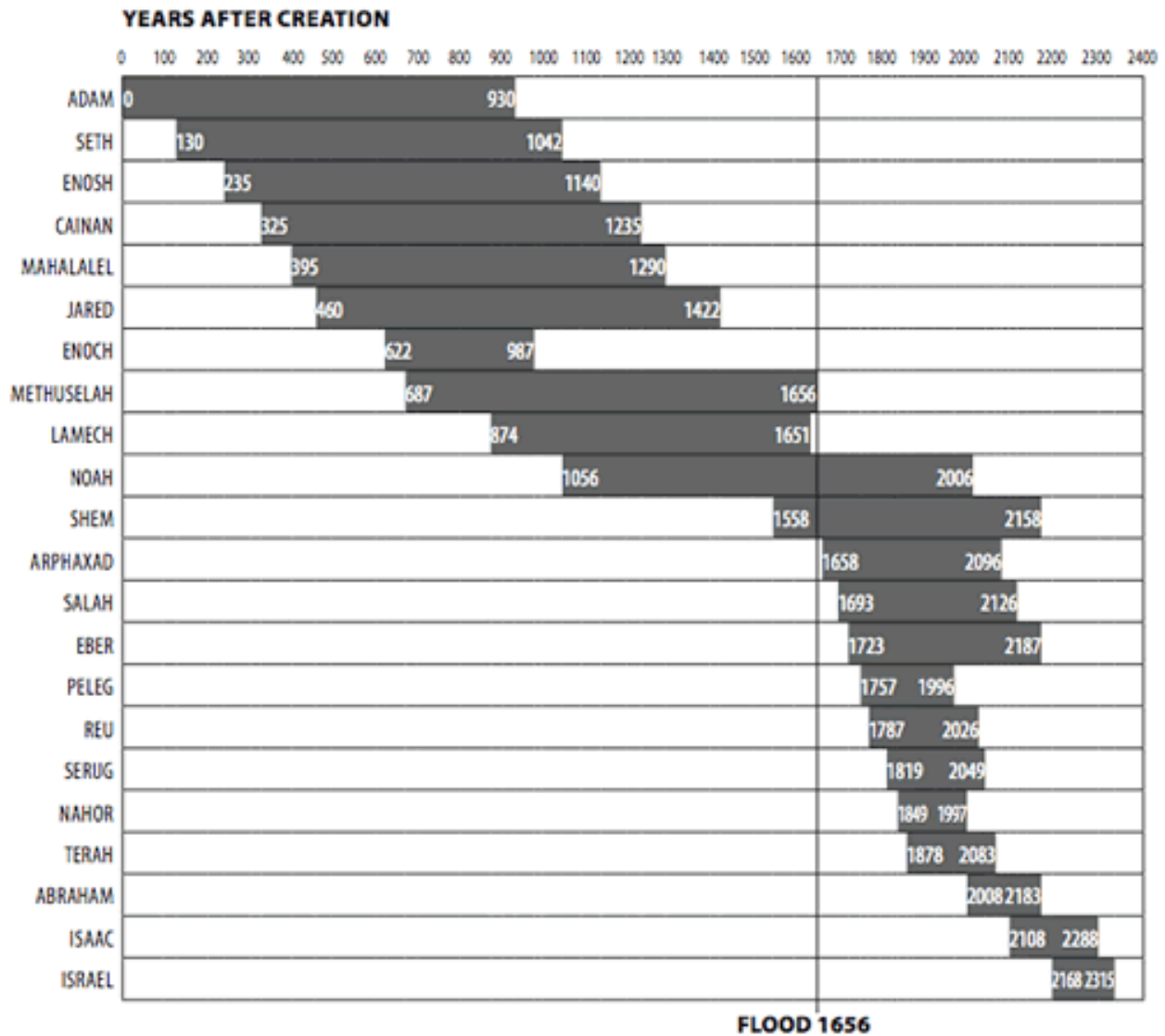
Primary teaching/themes: Creation, Fall of man (into sin), problem of suffering and its causes/purposes, creation of God's chosen people; substitutionary blood sacrifice for sin, Law, ritual symbolism in tabernacle/offerings/sacrifices/feasts

Outstanding highlight(s): Creation of the universe, the worldwide flood, origin of languages, Abraham's faith shown in near-sacrifice of Isaac, plagues in Egypt, exodus from Egypt and miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, Ten Commandments given on Mt. Sinai, manna

INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS

1. Genesis is both an historical book and a theological book.
2. It is not a science textbook, though it speaks accurately whenever it addresses a scientific issue or an issue with scientific ramifications.
3. The book of Genesis as we have it was written by Moses.
4. Moses included writings from earlier records that date back all the way to Adam (see Genesis 5:1-2).

Consider the following chart. Due to the long lives of those who lived before the flood, Noah would have been able to talk with Adam’s grandson, who certainly would have been able to talk with Adam. This provides a very clear link between the time period before the flood with Noah and his family, and therefore with his descendants after the flood.



The following chart provides a full listing of the long lives of those who lived before the flood and immediately following the flood, see the following chart provided by "answersingenesis.com".

	Patriarch	Age	Bible reference
1	Adam	930	Genesis 5:4
2	Seth	912	Genesis 5:8
3	Enosh	905	Genesis 5:11
4	Cainan	910	Genesis 5:14
5	Mahalalel	895	Genesis 5:17
6	Jared	962	Genesis 5:20
7	Enoch	365 (taken by God)	Genesis 5:23
8	Methuselah	969	Genesis 5:27
9	Lamech	777	Genesis 5:31
10	Noah	950	Genesis 9:29
11	Shem	600	Genesis 11:10–11
12	Arphaxad	438	Genesis 11:12–13
13	Shelah	433	Genesis 11:14–15
14	Eber	464	Genesis 11:16–17
15	Peleg	239	Genesis 11:18–19
16	Reu	239	Genesis 11:20–21
17	Serug	230	Genesis 11:22–23
18	Nahor	148	Genesis 11:24–25
19	Terah	205	Genesis 11:32
20	Abram (Abraham)	175	Genesis 25:7
21	Isaac	180	Genesis 35:28–29
22	Jacob (Israel)	147 (estimate)	Genesis 49:33

Table 1. Ages of the Patriarchs from Adam to Jacob

(From: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2009/01/20/ancient-patriarchs-in-genesis>)

5. How is it that people lived so much longer before the flood? Did God just change things, or was there some scientific reason, or both?

2 Peter 3:5-7 makes it clear that the world was significantly changed by the flood.

Consider this information from Answers in Genesis:

"Other ancient cultures have legendary periods or ancient kings lists that support the vast ages of the patriarchs. For example, the Sumerian kings list has eight kings whose lives span a great period of time. Then, accordingly, the Flood came. Removing Enoch, who was translated, and Noah, who survived the Flood, these eight could easily "match up" with remaining pre-Flood patriarchs.

"Greek myths point to the patriarchs as well, equating Zeus and Hera as deified corruptions of Adam and Eve. The Chinese also have a legendary period with various rulers. Some researchers have said:

Could it be that the Legendary Period recalls a time when the ancestors of China's first dynasties were indeed kin to Noah's descendants before the great dispersion of mankind over the earth?

"Since all peoples of earth are descended from Noah or his sons, the early Chinese ancestors were likely contemporaries of Noah, who lived 350 years after the flood ([Genesis 9:28](#)). Therefore, information could have been passed to them by word-of-mouth, even Noah himself. He in turn, obtained historical data from his father Lamech, who was 56 years old when Adam died.

"Thus, all the details of creation and life before the flood could have been passed to the Chinese from Adam with only two intermediaries, Lamech and Noah.

"Such recollections support the idea that information passed from Noah to his descendants who then spread across the globe. (though other accounts were prone to corruption)."

(From: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2009/01/20/ancient-patriarchs-in-genesis>)

A Biblical Anthropology (the study of Human Beings: Greek "anthropos" - man)

6. The Bible is clear: man was created both civilized and intelligent.

For more information see: <http://www.davelivingston.com/prehistoricman.htm>

7. What about so-called "primitive societies" found in different parts of the world? They are the result of a degeneration of mankind due to the impact of sin combined with the separation of humanity into people groups when God created languages at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9).
8. Man is distinct from the animals - he is not an animal. He was created by a special act of God and received his life not from other life forms but directly from God. See Genesis 2:1-7, 21-22.

This Lesson's Reading Assignment

Read Genesis 1-27 before the next lesson.

In this reading you will find:

- An overview of how the world was created, and a more detailed account of how man was created.
- The institution by God of both work and marriage.
- Adam and Eve's fall into sin and its resulting impact on all of life.
- The first murder.
- God's judgment of mankind's sin with a worldwide flood.
- The beginning of different human languages and the resulting separation of human beings because of it.
- God's calling of Abram / Abraham that lead us through Isaac and eventually to Jacob / Israel, and ultimately to Christ.
- The first clear connection between believing God and being declared righteous by God.
- A wonderfully clear picture of a substitutionary sacrifice (a picture of Christ as our substitute).
- Lots of awesome, practical stories full of principles to live by.

As you begin reading Genesis, keep in mind the dispensations you will be covering during this session. Genesis alone includes four of them. Here are descriptions of those four dispensations.

The Dispensations Found in Genesis

1. Man governed by "**innocence**" (Garden of Eden, Genesis 1-2)
 - a. Man does not have a sinful nature and only one command to follow.
 - b. Mankind fails; innocence incapable of meeting man's need; God intervenes with grace and promise of a Savior.
2. Mankind governed by "**conscience**" (Fall of man to the flood, Genesis 3-8)
 - a. Built-in awareness of right and wrong; humans responsible to choose what they know is right.
 - b. Man fails; wickedness of man is seen to be great; God intervenes with judgment and grace with a picture of salvation (Noah & family in ark).
3. Mankind governed by "**himself (Self-Governed)**" (flood to Abraham, Genesis 9-11)
 - a. Noah and descendants given the right to rule the earth, including the authority to take life if needed to do so.
 - b. Man fails – chooses to worship false gods; God judges at tower of Babel (origin of languages)
4. Mankind governed by "**promise**" (Abraham to Moses, Genesis 12 - Exodus 19)
 - a. God makes a promise to Abraham and justifies him by faith.
 - b. Man fails – does not focus on or believe God's promise. Abraham's descendants find themselves in bondage in Egypt.