

Lesson 1 – Beginnings Gen. 1-3

“Thanks for this opportunity to share with you the message of this book that has changed my life.” “I’m excited to share this with you.”

I. General information

- A. Bible = 66 books. Two main sections: OT = 39 books, NT – 27 books
- B. Written over 1600 year period by about 40 writers.
- C. Basic theme – God’s work through history to save man from sin. Old Testament looks forward to the cross. New Testament looks back to the cross.
- D. The Bible is the only book written by God. All other books are written by man.
- E. Ask, “Where are you spiritually? Do you believe in God? In Jesus as the Son of God? Do you feel you are saved? If so, How?
 1. (Write down the answer. Don’t argue – we will come back to it later.)

II. Genesis 1

- A. 1:1-25 – **key idea** - God is: eternal, powerful (created with sound of His voice), intelligent, wise, orderly.
- B. 1:26-31 – **Man** is the crown of the creation.
 1. **key idea** - Man is in the “image of God” (animals are not). What does that mean? We have a spirit – intelligent, eternal (after conception), moral (must choose between good and evil), wants a relationship with God.
 2. Man is made of flesh (2:7) and spirit (1:26). We have a flesh and spirit.
 - a) Illustration – cows do not argue with each other about the morality of their actions. If a cow kills another – there is not trial before peers. But we humans do. Why? We have a spirit.

III. Genesis 2

- A. 2:8-16 – God put man in garden: enjoyable, beautiful.
- B. 2:16-17 – The law – don’t eat of the tree
 1. Man is moral. Must make choices.
 2. God wants a relationship but must be chosen not forced.

a) Our relationship with a robot (no choice) is different than with a child (he can accept or reject us).

b) We have laws to follow also. Like we shouldn't kill, use bad language, get drunk. Should help the poor, be kind, etc. This affects our relationship with God.

C. 2:18-25 – the gift of woman. She is different from man yet complimentary.

IV. Genesis 3

A. 3:1 – **Devil/Satan** is introduced without explanation.

1. **key idea** - We don't know his origin or age but we know he is against God and tries to hurt God in any way he can but promoting evil.

B. 3:2-5 – Satan tempts Eve.

1. He exaggerated the restriction.

C. 3:6 – Eve's flesh is drawn to fruit.

1. Conflict between flesh and spirit.

a) We have the same conflict

2. Made the wrong choice.

3. **Sin** = breaking God's law.

a) Consequence – spiritual death.

D. What was God to do?

1. destroy man, abandon man, save man

E. 3:15 – first glimpse of the **Messiah**.

1. **key idea** - Seed of woman was to bruise/crush the head of Satan. Satan to bruise/crush the heel of the Seed.

2. Man's problem of sin to be solved by God through Jesus. This is the thread that runs through the story of the Bible.

Please read Mark 1-2 before next class