

The Bible Story In A Year

Week 1

The Bible contains the most important and relevant story you will ever read! Throughout the course of a year, we will explore this wonderful story to capture some of the most relevant points to understanding what the Bible is all about. As we do, you are encouraged to do your own reading of the story each day (that attempts to put the Bible in chronological order). Now, let's begin our journey through the Bible story. The story begins with Part 1: The Beginning.

1) The creation of the world. The Bible story begins with an eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present God creating the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). At first, the earth was completely uninhabitable (Genesis 1:2). Then, over a period of six days, God created everything that would be created. On day 1 (Genesis 1:3-5), God created light and separated it from darkness. On day 2 (Genesis 1:6-8), God made an expanse (sky) between the water above (clouds) and under it (seas). On day 3 (Genesis 1:9-13), God caused the seas to be gathered into one place, dry land to appear, and created vegetation (plants, trees) that would reproduce according to their own kinds. On day 4 (Genesis 1:14-19), God created the sun, moon, and stars to provide a great light in the day and lesser lights at night. On day 5 (Genesis 1:20-23), God created the sea creatures and birds that would reproduce according to their kinds. On day 6 (Genesis 1:24-31), God created land animals and people that would reproduce according to their kinds. Then, on day 7 (Genesis 2:1-3), God rested as everything He created was very good.

There was something special about God's creation of humans: They were created in God's image (as spiritual beings, Genesis 1:26-27) and were given dominion over the rest of God's

creation (Genesis 1:28-30). These were placed in the garden of Eden (a paradise on earth, Genesis 2:4-25). God created the man from dust and the woman from the man's rib (Genesis 2:7, 21-23), and they were joined together in marriage (Genesis 2:24-25).

2) Sin enters the world. God created the man and woman with free will and gave them a law to obey (Genesis 2:15-17). However, Satan (using a serpent, Revelation 12:9) deceived the woman (Eve) so that she sinned by eating from the forbidden tree (Genesis 3:1-6). The man (Adam) also sinned. Their innocence was lost, death and suffering entered the world, they were cast out of the Garden, and they were separated from the relationship they had enjoyed with God (Genesis 3:7-24). Thankfully, God promised to defeat Satan (Genesis 3:14-15)!

3) Sin spreads. Cain and Abel were born to Adam and Eve (Genesis 4:1-2). However, Cain became furious and killed his brother (Genesis 4:3-8). Adam and Eve later had a son named Seth (Genesis 4:25-26), who would be the one of particular importance to the Bible story (Genesis 5:1-32). Through Seth, Noah would come into this world. And, during Noah's life, the world was so full of sin God regretted He had made mankind and determined to destroy the world by means of a global flood (Genesis 6:5-8). Only Noah and his family (eight people in total) would be saved from the destruction by means of an ark (Genesis 6-9). The world would be repopulated from the descendants of Noah's three sons, with the Bible story being told through Shem (Genesis 9:24-27; 11:10-32). Then, as the people gathered together and determined to make a name for themselves by making a city and tower rather than be spread throughout the earth, God confused their language so they were scattered (Genesis 11:1-9).

4) Job's sufferings. The story of Job seems to fit sometime in this early period. Job was a righteous man who had great prosperity (Job 1:1-5). Satan challenged God that Job's faithfulness was only because of the way God had blessed Job (Job 1:6-11). So, God allowed Job to be tested. All of Job's possessions, servants, and children were taken or killed (Job 1:12-19). Yet, Job did not sin (Job 1:20-22). Then, God allowed Satan to test Job even more by inflicting Job with painful boils (Job 2:1-8). Still, Job did not sin (Job 2:9-10). Job's three friends then came to see Job and sat silently with him for seven days and nights (Job 2:11-13). Then, Job began to speak and cursed the day he was born (Job 3:1-6).

5) The first round of speeches between Job and his friends. After Job spoke, the book of Job continues with three rounds of speeches between Job and his three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar (with Elihu also speaking at the end). In the first round (Job 4-14), all three friends spoke, with Job issuing a reply to each one. The general theme of all the speeches is the same. The friends accuse Job of sinning. They believe that is the only possible explanation for why Job is suffering (Job 4:7-9). However, Job maintained his innocence throughout and expressed that He did not know why God was opposing him (Job 13:13-28). Through these, we must remember that neither Job nor his friends had knowledge about what really happened.

The first part of the Bible story shows the beginning of many foundational things: The universe, the world, life on earth, humankind, marriage, sin, suffering and death, languages, etc. As people are spiritual beings, sin separates people from God. We will watch throughout the Bible story as God brings about the solution to the problem of sin! Then, the story of Job teaches how little people often understand about why they really experience the trials that happen to

Thought Questions

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Teaching: What did you learn from this lesson?

Rebuking: What are some ways this lesson challenges you to live differently?

Correcting: How does this lesson help you make positive changes for Christ?

Training & Equipping: How can you apply this lesson to be trained and equipped in God's service?