

EARLY WORLD: GENESIS 1-11

God reveals his LOVE, TRUTH, and his PLAN through the bible; he wants us to know him, so he gave us the Bible.

How many books are in the bible?

Now this could be a trick question. If you open up a King James bible, like one in a hotel room, there would only be 66 books. **Our Catholic bible, the OG has 73 books.** **Why are they different?**

It was the early Christians that put the bible together a few hundred years after Jesus rose. During the Reformation in the 1500s (like 1000yrs later) the Protestants (Luther) removed a few books from their bible. But our Catholic, original bible has 73 books. 46 in the OT and 27 in the NT. The **4 Gospels are the most important** books of the bible. (*Matthew Mark Luke and John*)

And why are the Gospels more important than any other book? *The Gospels take place when Jesus is alive. The word Gospel means Good News. That's why we stand at Mass when the Gospels are proclaimed.*

READING THE BIBEL: We will be learning about the bible **through 12 periods.**

EARLY WORLD: Gn1-11

Did you ever realize there 2 different creation stories? Did God really create the world in 7 days?

The bible is many separate books in one. GENESIS is the first book. **The first 11 chapters of Genesis are Hebrew poetry.** They are **NOT a science book nor are they a history book.** They explain real truths but do not need to taken literally. Did God create the world in 7 days, a day being 24hrs, probably not. Is it wrong to believe that he did? NO. The early world was written in a time and place where things weren't spelled out, like a science book, but they caused you to reflect and ponder their deeper meaning.

GN Creation Stories 1 and 2

The point of Ch1 of Genesis is to understand this:

- **GOD created EVERYTHING out of NOTHING.**
- This tells us that God is all powerful, he merely speaks and his word creates. In the beginning there was NOTHING and God creates a habitat, He creates TIME, SPACE and finally land.
- God fills the void w/ the sun, moon, stars, then adds bird and fish, and animals and lastly he creates mankind.

Back in the day, there were MANY stories of creation. These stories usually involved 'gods' that were creating humans out of violence to be their slaves. When God creates mankind, it's different. Genesis says that God creates **man and woman in his image and likeness which is like no other creation.** He created them MALE and FEMALE in God's image and likeness. One of the most significant parts of that first book of Genesis is telling us that God created each of you, He planned each of you. It's not by circumstance that you are a boy or you are a girl, that you are alive in this day and time. God designed you that way and that's in **GODs image and likeness.** This is huge.. The real creation story is God

choosing to create us out of LOVE. We are in God's image and likeness because we have souls, intellects, free will and the capacity to love.

God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th. This number 7 becomes super significant throughout the bible and when used it always talking about a **covenant** that God is creating w/ his people. A covenant, is creating a family bond that previously wasn't there. God wants a covenant relationship with us, a family relationship.

God created because he loves you and love creates. And thus you. are. Good. It also tells us something about God- that he is loving.

The 2nd chapter of Genesis shows us that **God is Father. God wants to create a covenant with us. He creates everything and then says it's GOOD. But then he says "it's not good for man to be alone"** God creates Adam and from Adam's rib he creates Eve. Indicating their equality and love for each other. Their relationship is meant to reflect the love and life of God. God gives them one rule in the garden. Not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Gn3

READ Gn 3

The serpent tempts Eve, she eats the fruit and so does Adam.

- **temptation** from the devil exists and not just in the bible but in our lives today. Each time we choose to do something we know is wrong, we sin the same way Adam and Eve sinned.
- with that first sin, the original grace humanity had, left. With it also the intellect and will were weakened. Evil entered the world. Now, all that is bad, evil, and sorrowful is due to this original sin.

The tempter worked w/ Adam and Eve is the same way he works today. **What did he say?** he made Eve question what God really said (*did God reeeeeeally say that?*) and he makes God's law seem pointless.

- then he calls God a liar, then he lies and says "you wont' die" but instead "you will be like God" and basically you wont need God. So Satan is telling them if they eat the fruit they will be like God. Well they are already like God.
- Adam and Eve represent all of humanity. They think God is *holding out on them*. That first sin was **mankind letting his trust for God the creator die in his heart**. How often do we let our trust for God die? All sin is disobedience to God and lack of trust in God's plan and God's goodness. Which is PRIDE.

Adam and Eve didn't trust that God would make them happy and they sought happiness elsewhere. They were kicked out of the garden and like God said, they would die. Sin broke their relationship with God, with each other, with the earth and even the relationship between their body and soul.

- **The fall resulted in a separation from God and the rest of the Bible is God working out his salvation plan**

After they were kicked out: Adam and Eve had 2 sons: Cain and Abel. Well when Cain and Abel grew up, they each were bringing an offering to God. Cain's offering was a harvest from the field and Abel's was an animal he slaughtered. Cain and his offering were not accepted. Cain was kind of half hearted. So, God accepted Abel's offering but rejected Cains. As a result, Cain was angry and very jealous. Cain went out

into the field after Abel and **killed** him in his jealous rage. Cain fled and God spared him but his descendants become horrible violent people. Years later Eve had another son named Seth. As the only child around, Seth became the golden boy of the family and remained in Adam and Eve's image and likeness which was in God's image and likeness.

Well time passes and things get dark. The world got dark and there was so much evil. The Lord saw man's wickedness and his heart was grieved. The Lord said "I will wipe out from the earth the men I created and everything else." Noah found favor with God. God told him to build an ark. "I am about to bring a flood on the earth to destroy everywhere all creatures, but with you I will establish my covenant; you and your family will go into the ark. You may bring one male and one female of every living creature into the ark. ...then God sent the flood. The flood continued on the earth for 40days, all creatures on earth perished. Only Noah and those with him survived. The water remained for 150days. Noah sent out a raven, it returned with nothing. He then sent out a dove to see if there was dry land. The dove returned. After 7more days he sent a dove which did not return. Slowly the earth dried up and they departed from the ark. God said to Noah: "I will establish a covenant with you that I will never destroy the earth and the rainbow appears in the sky to remind you of this. This second creation was trying to get it right. Unfortunately it didn't last.

And God made a covenant w/ Noah and God promised never to destroy the world again! And after that everything was perfect?

Unfortunately there was some pretty BIG sins that occurred with Noah's sons. Noah's son Ham erred gravely. As a result his descendants through his son Canaan, came many bad people. And as we go further we will see that from him comes the Canaanite, Assyrians, Egyptians, and Babylonians- all who enslave and persecute God's people. So the second creation results the same as the first- with sin.

Things continue poorly. In Ch11 the people decide to build a tower up to God. Basically they were saying they didn't need God because they were powerful enough to build a tower to Heaven. Ridiculous. God knows this is a bad idea so he changes up their languages so they can no longer communicate and from there people spread all over. And ch1-11 end w/ a genealogy leading to Abram.

Now REMEMBER: the first 11 chapters of Genesis are not seen as science. They are true. Everything the bible is true but not always factual like we think of factual today. Some books or parts are meant to teach us something. To explain WHY something happens not how.

IN SHORT: remember this: 1) God doesn't give up on broken lives (even adam, eve, cain, noah) and 2) God has a PLAN that that plan includes YOU!