

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (January 2) – Genesis 1

The account of Creation literally happened just as it is recorded. Each day is a 24-hour day, not, as some unbelieving scholars would suggest, an eon or an indeterminate amount of time. Notice the language of "Us" and "Our" in v. 26—a reference to the Holy Trinity. Also important: God creates man, both male and female, in His own image. Only then does He call His creation “very” good.

Tuesday (January 3) – Genesis 2, 3

The events of the sixth day of Creation are retold in greater detail. God creates Adam first and warns him concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Then God creates Eve. (She was not there when God first gave His word to Adam. This is important later on.)

In Chapter 3 notice how craftily the snake (Satan) works to undermine Eve’s trust in the Word of God. Question: Where was Adam while Eve was talking to the snake? Off naming the animals? No. Read v. 6. He had been “with her” the whole time. The Word of God was entrusted to Adam. He was the first pastor, yet he abdicated his responsibility, forcing his wife into the first instance of women’s ordination. But the fault lies squarely with Adam. In v. 15 we hear the very first promise of the Gospel: The Seed of the woman (Jesus, born of a virgin) will crush the serpent’s head. This is a reference to Jesus’ victory over Satan at the cross.

Wednesday (January 4) – Genesis 4, 5

Adam and Eve, the first Christians, were saved by faith in Jesus, who was to come. We see evidence of Eve’s faith when she says at the birth of Cain, “I have acquired a man, the LORD.” (Modern translations usually add “from” or “with the help of,” but the original Hebrew text makes it clear that Eve thought Cain was the LORD, the promised Savior.)

The Bible says that God “resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). God will never turn away a broken and contrite heart, yet he rejected Cain’s sacrifice. This tells us something about the state of Cain’s heart. After murdering Abel, Cain complains that his punishment is too great (v. 13). This is a mark of unrepentance, since true repentance is accompanied by a willingness to accept the just punishment of God. Of course, God, in His mercy, does not give us what we deserve. He is even merciful in His dealings with unrepentant Cain (v. 15). Having gone out from the presence of God, how quickly the descendants of Cain descend into gross immorality. Where Cain tried to hide his murder, Lamech, a polygamist, boasts about murder to his two wives. In v. 25 Eve gives birth to a third son, Seth. Every person on earth is descended from Seth, since the line of Cain will be destroyed in the flood.

Don’t skip over the genealogy in Chapter 5. There is much to learn here. In v. 1 we read again that Adam was created in the likeness and image of God. But in v. 3 Adam begets a son, not in God’s image, but in his own (Adam’s) image. In this way the original sin of Adam is passed on to his children. Adam lived to be 930 years old. God did not originally mean for us to die. Adam was formed so perfectly that even after sin began to corrupt his body, it still took

almost a thousand years without eating from the Tree of Life for his body to finally die.

If you do the math, you will find that Adam was alive concurrently with the ninth generation (Lamech) for fifty-six years. In fact, when Noah's father Lamech was born, every one of his ancestors all the way back to Adam was still living. Each of these men would have learned the faith directly from Adam, the first pastor. Imagine the sorrow when in the ninth generation the effects of sin finally begin to be seen in most terrible way, as one after another of the patriarchs succumbs to death. When Noah was born, three of his ancestors (Adam, Seth, and Enoch) were already gone (though Enoch did not die, but was taken to heaven). By the time Noah enters the Ark, he is the only righteous man left alive.

Thursday (January 5) – Genesis 6, 7

The sons of God (descendants of Seth) begin to intermarry with the daughters of men (descendants of Cain). Scripture forbids marrying outside of the faith because it always leads to apostasy. Note the triple condemnation in v. 5: **Every** intent of man's heart was **only** evil **continually**. We generally think of the animals entering the ark in pairs, but there were actually seven pairs of all clean animals and all birds. Only unclean animals (pigs, etc.) had a single pair.

Friday (January 6) – Genesis 8, 9

When the Bible says that God remembered Noah, it does not imply that God had forgotten him, but that God now kept his promise to deliver Noah safely from the ark. Once again God commands his people to "be fruitful and multiply" (v. 17). Even though it remains true that "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth," God gives the rainbow as a sign of his promise never again to destroy every living thing with a flood. (Next time it will be with fire – 2 Peter 3:7.) Man is also now permitted to eat animals, rather than only green herbs.

Saturday (January 7) – Genesis 10

Every person on earth is descended from Noah and his three sons. Chapter 10 lists the genealogy of Noah's sons, the nations they founded, and the places in which they settled. The earth being divided in the days of Peleg (v. 25) is likely a reference to the scattering after Babel.

Sunday (January 8) – Genesis 11, 12

Chapter 11 backs up a bit to tell how the descendants of Noah come to speak different languages. Initially they refuse to follow God's command to "fill the earth." Instead, they try to ascend up to heaven by their own efforts, which is an act of unbelief in the promised Savior. God frustrates their faithless designs. A more complete genealogy of Shem follows, ending with Abram (Abraham). Why is this important? Because this is the lineage of Christ.

In Chapter 12 we find the second promise of Jesus, given to Abram: "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (v. 3). The woman who is to give birth to the Savior will be a daughter of Abram, and her Child will be the one to crush Satan's head. Even though Abram is later called "the father of faith," he was still a sinner, as we see in the shameful way he lies about his wife to the king of Egypt (though technically, she was also his half-sister).