

ST. MATTHEW 8

tion, Go thy way; and as  
fast believed, so be it done  
thee. And his servant was  
in the selfsame hour.

¶ And when Jesus was  
into Peter's house, he saw  
his mother laid, and sick  
ever.

And he touched her hand,  
the fever left her: and  
rose, and ministered unto

¶ When the even was come,  
brought unto him many  
were possessed with de-  
mons, and he cast out the spirits  
in his word, and healed all  
that were sick:

¶ That it might be fulfilled  
was spoken by Esaias  
prophet, saying, <sup>H</sup> Himself  
our infirmities, and bare  
our sicknesses.

¶ Now when Jesus saw  
multitudes about him, he  
commandment to depart  
to the other side.

¶ And a certain scribe came,  
and said unto him, Master, I  
follow thee whithersoever  
thou goest.

¶ And Jesus saith unto him,  
Oxen have holes, and the  
of the air have nests; but  
son of man hath not where  
to lay his head.

¶ And another of his disciples  
said unto him, Lord, suffer me  
to go and bury my father.  
¶ But Jesus said unto him,  
Follow me; and let the dead  
bury their dead.

¶ And when he was entered  
the ship, his disciples followed

¶ And, behold, there arose a  
tempest in the sea, inso-  
much that the ship was covered  
with the waves: but he was

¶ And his disciples came to  
and awoke him, saying,  
Save us, we perish.

¶ And he saith unto them,  
Are ye fearful, O ye of  
little faith? Then he arose, and  
rebuked the winds and the sea;  
and there was a great calm.

II

# 16

## Periods of Bible History

The Story Of The Bible  
From Genesis To Revelation

Written by Joshua Creel

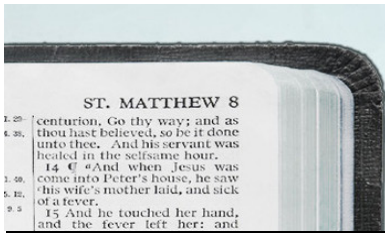


# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	Page 1
Period 1: Creation & Before The Flood .....	Page 7
Period 2: The Flood .....	Page 11
Period 3: The Patriarchs (Part 1) .....	Page 15
Period 3: The Patriarchs (Part 2) .....	Page 19
Period 4: Exodus From Egypt .....	Page 23
Special Study: The Law Of Moses .....	Page 27
Period 5: Wilderness Wanderings .....	Page 31
Period 6: Conquest Of Canaan .....	Page 35
Period 7: Judges .....	Page 39
Period 8: United Kingdom .....	Page 43
Period 9: Divided Kingdom .....	Page 47
Review .....	Page 51
Period 10: Judah Alone .....	Page 55
Period 11: Babylonian Captivity .....	Page 59
Period 12: Return From Captivity .....	Page 63
Special Study: The Prophets .....	Page 67
Special Study: Christ In The Prophets .....	Page 71
Period 13: Years Of Silence .....	Page 75
Period 14: Life Of Christ (Part 1) .....	Page 79
Period 14: Life Of Christ (Part 2) .....	Page 83
Period 15: Establishment & Growth Of The Church (Part 1) .....	Page 87
Period 15: Establishment & Growth Of The Church (Part 2) .....	Page 91
Period 16: Letters To The Churches (Part 1) .....	Page 95
Period 16: Letters To The Churches (Part 2) .....	Page 99
Review .....	Page 103

# Class Schedule

Introduction .....	Dec. 2
Period 1: Creation & Before The Flood .....	Dec. 5
Period 2: The Flood .....	Dec. 9
Period 3: The Patriarchs (Part 1) .....	Dec. 12
Period 3: The Patriarchs (Part 2) .....	Dec. 16
Period 4: Exodus From Egypt .....	Dec. 19
Special Study: The Law Of Moses .....	Dec. 23
Period 5: Wilderness Wanderings .....	Jan. 2
Period 6: Conquest Of Canaan .....	Jan. 6
Period 7: Judges .....	Jan. 9
Period 8: United Kingdom .....	Jan. 13
Period 9: Divided Kingdom .....	Jan. 16
Review .....	Jan. 16
Period 10: Judah Alone .....	Jan. 20
Period 11: Babylonian Captivity .....	Jan. 23
Period 12: Return From Captivity .....	Jan. 27
Special Study: The Prophets .....	Jan. 30
Special Study: Christ In The Prophets .....	Jan. 30
Period 13: Years Of Silence .....	Feb. 3
Period 14: Life Of Christ (Part 1) .....	Feb. 10
Period 14: Life Of Christ (Part 2) .....	Feb. 13
Period 15: Establishment & Growth Of The Church (Part 1) .....	Feb. 17
Period 15: Establishment & Growth Of The Church (Part 2) .....	Feb. 20
Period 16: Letters To The Churches (Part 1) .....	Feb. 24
Period 16: Letters To The Churches (Part 2) .....	Feb. 27
Review .....	Feb. 27



# Introduction to the Bible

## Did you know...

- That 93% of Americans own at least one Bible?
- That the average American household has at least 3 Bibles?
- That fewer than 50% of Americans know that Genesis is the first book of the Bible?
- That only 1 in 3 Americans know that Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount? (Many think it was given by Billy Graham)<sup>1</sup>

The Bible is the most widely published and best-selling book in history, yet very few know what it says and even fewer practice its commands and precepts. The goal of this study is to reach a basic understanding of this marvelous book. Let's begin by noting a few basic facts about the Bible you own.

1. Our word "Bible" comes from the Greek word biblios, meaning "book."
2. The Bible is a compilation of 66 books.
3. The Old Testament contains the first 39 books of the Bible, written in the Hebrew language.
4. The New Testament contains the final 27 books of the Bible, written in the Greek language.
5. The Bible was written by 40 different men over a period of approximately 1500 years (beginning in ~ 1400 B.C. and ending in ~ A.D. 100).
6. However, the Bible has only 1 author: God! *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NASB)

Some open the Bible and instantly are discouraged. "Look at all those pages, chapters and verses! Look at that tiny print! I'll never know what the Bible is all about!" Yes, the Bible has a lot of pages and the print is often small, but you can understand its message. God inspired every word to communicate a unified message of why we need Him and how we can be restored to His presence.

To help us understand God's message we will divide the Bible into 16 time periods. Knowing the basic outline of each time period will allow us to grasp the overall theme and message of the Bible. You can know what this wonderful book is all about!

<sup>1</sup> "Bible: That's the book we don't read." The Birmingham News, December 1, 2000.

# The periods of Bible history

Let's put your basic Bible knowledge to the test. Don't feel bad if you don't know many of the answers, the goal of this study is to learn! The 16 time periods of Bible history are listed below. Can you list them in chronological order? Once you have put them in their proper order, try to match each Scripture range (in the box on the bottom of the page) with the correct time period.

Order	Time Period	Scripture Range
	Judges	
	Establishment & Growth Of The Church	
1	Creation & Before The Flood	Genesis 1-5
	United Kingdom	
	The Patriarchs	
	Conquest of Canaan	
	Judah Alone	
9	Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17
	Years of Silence	
	Life of Christ	
	Exodus From Egypt	
	Letters to the Churches	
	Wilderness Wanderings	
	Return From Captivity	
	Babylonian Captivity	
	The Flood	

## Scripture Ranges

- Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-8
- Genesis 12-50
- Exodus 1 - Numbers 12
- No Scripture
- Genesis 1-5
- Joshua
- Matthew - John
- 1 Samuel 8 - 1 Kings 11
- Acts
- Genesis 6-11
- 2 Kings 18-25
- Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Romans - Revelation
- Ezra - Nehemiah
- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17
- Numbers 13 - Deuteronomy

# Major events in Bible history

Listed below are 20 significant Bible events. Do you know during which time period each event occurs?

Samson slays the Philistines	
Jesus is born	
Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream	
Egypt is struck with ten plagues	
Man is created	
Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem	
Peter preaches in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost	
Isaac is born to Abraham	
Paul writes the book of Romans	
David reigns as king over Israel	
Noah builds the ark	
The walls of Jericho fall	
Israel refuses to enter Canaan	
Man and woman sin in the garden of Eden	
God appears to Moses in a burning bush	
Saul tries to kill David	
Ahab and Jezebel rule in Israel	
Jesus is crucified	
Israel worships the golden calf	
Solomon builds the temple	

## Three Promises To Abraham

As we conclude this introductory quiz, let's pay some attention to a very important event in Biblical history: God's call of Abraham in Genesis 12. It was at this time that God made three very important promises to Abraham, promises that we will take note of throughout our study. Can you name the three promises that God made to Abraham? (See **Genesis 12:1-3,7**)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# 16 PERIODS OF

## 1. Creation & Before The Flood

**Genesis 1-5:** Tells of the creation of the world, the creation of man and man's sin. Man once walked with God, but fell because of sin, so man needs to be redeemed. Key passage to remember is Genesis 3:15 where God's plan for man's redemption is first revealed.

## 2. The Flood

**Genesis 6-11:** Tells of the flood that destroyed the world with the exception of Noah, his family and the animals on the ark. Here we also see the beginning of different nations and languages.

## 3. The Patriarchs

**Genesis 12-50; Job:** Recounts the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the sons of Jacob. In Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-5 God made three promises to Abraham: 1) Land, 2) Great Nation, 3) All Nations Blessed Through His Seed. His seed was Christ! The book of Job seems to fit during the days of the Patriarchs.

## 4. Exodus From Egypt

**Exodus - Numbers 12:** Tells how God delivered the nation of Israel out of Egyptian bondage, brought them to Mt. Sinai and gave them the Law. It was in Egypt that God made the descendants of Abraham into a great nation (Exodus 1:8-10).

## 5. Wilderness Wanderings

**Numbers 13 - Deuteronomy:** Israel was punished for their refusal to go in and take the Promised Land. A whole generation of Israelites died in the wilderness. God prepared the next generation to go and conquer the land.

## 6. Conquest of Canaan

**Joshua:** Under Joshua's leadership Israel conquered the land God promised to Abraham. A key passage is Joshua 21:43. God's second promise to Abraham had been fulfilled!

## 7. Judges

**Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-8:** In the book of Judges the people of Israel repeat a terrible cycle: 1) they turn from God, 2) God punishes them, 3) they repent and ask God for deliverance, 4) God sends a deliverer, a judge, 5) the people remain faithful while the Judge lives, but fall away when he dies.

## 8. United Kingdom

**1 Samuel 8 - 1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles - 2 Chronicles 9; Psalms - Song of Solomon:** Records the reigns of the only 3 kings to ever reign over all 12 tribes: Saul, David, and Solomon. Much of the wisdom literature was written during this time.



# BIBLE HISTORY

## 9. Divided Kingdom

**1Kings 12 - 2Kings 17; 2Chronicles 10-29; Isaiah; Hosea - Micah:** After Solomon died the kingdom of Israel split apart. Solomon's son Rehoboam reigned in Judah, while Jeroboam ruled the ten northern tribes. The northern tribes would be known as Israel, the southern as Judah.

## 10. Judah Alone

**2Kings 18-25; 2Chronicles 30-36; Isaiah; Jeremiah; Nahum - Zephania:** Because of their wickedness God allowed Israel to be destroyed by the Assyrians. God spared Judah a little longer, but they did not learn from the tragedy of their neighbors to the north. Judah's punishment was coming soon; they would be taken captive by the Babylonians.

## 11. Babylonian Captivity

**Jeremiah; Ezekiel; Daniel:** Jeremiah prophesied in Jeremiah 25:11 that Judah would remain in Captivity for 70 years. Throughout this time the people would learn the consequences of disobedience. Daniel and Ezekiel both lived in captivity and gave several prophecies of the coming Messiah.

## 12. Return from Captivity

**Ezra - Esther; Haggai - Malachi:** Records how the Jews returned from captivity to the Promised Land. Three waves of return were led by Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. God punished His people by sending them away into captivity, but He redeemed them and brought them back to the land promised to Abraham.

## 13. Years of Silence

During this time the Greeks, then the Romans come to power. Several world-wide changes helped prepare the way for the Messiah to come into the world. The time was approaching for God to redeem mankind!

## 14. Life of Christ

**Matthew - John:** The gospels record the earthly life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. His miracles, teachings and resurrection from the dead confirm that He is the Son of God. His death provides for our redemption.

## 15. Estab. & Growth of the Church

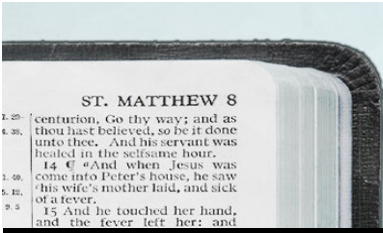
**Acts:** Records how the church began in Jerusalem, then quickly spread throughout the world (see Acts 1:8). The church is the spiritual Kingdom of Christ composed of all who have been redeemed by Jesus. This Kingdom is for all people, both Jews and Gentiles.

## 16. Letters to the Churches

**Romans - Revelation:** These letters were written to encourage Christians to abide in nothing but the doctrine of Christ (see 2 John 9). Christians have been forgiven of their sins by the blood of Christ and should desire to please God by following the commands contained in these letters.

## Can You Name The Books Of The Bible?

Old Testament	17	34	50
1	18	35	51
2	19	36	52
3	20	37	53
4	21	38	54
5	22	39	55
6	23	New Testament	56
7	24	40	57
8	25	41	58
9	26	42	59
10	27	43	60
11	28	44	61
12	29	45	62
13	30	46	63
14	31	47	64
15	32	48	65
16	33	49	66



# Period 1: creation & before the flood

**Scripture range:** Genesis 1-5

**Time range:**

It is impossible for us to know exactly when God created the earth, but using the genealogies of Genesis we know that it was at least 6000 years ago. The first 1500 years of Biblical history are recorded in the first 5 chapters of Genesis!

**Synopsis:**

*"In the beginning, God created..."*  
 These words and those that follow explain how the universe came into existence, including mankind. God's love for man was demonstrated in our being made in His image (1:26), our elevated status over the rest of creation and the institution of marriage (2:18-25).  
 From the beginning God made His will known to man (2:16-17), but the first man and woman succumbed to the temptations of Satan and were punished for their sins. However, God promised that the future seed of woman would put an end to Satan's power (3:15).  
 The story of the first family descends further in ch. 4 as Cain slays his brother Abel, but God would keep His promise through Adam and Eve's third son, Seth.

## 16 Periods of Bible History

1. Creation & Before The Flood
2. The Flood
3. The Patriarchs
4. Exodus from Egypt
5. Wilderness Wanderings
6. Conquest of Canaan
7. Judges
8. United Kingdom
9. Divided Kingdom
10. Judah Alone
11. Babylonian Captivity
12. Return from Captivity
13. Years of Silence
14. Life of Christ
15. Establishment & Growth of the Church
16. Letters to the Churches

## "In the beginning..."

"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands." (Psalms 19:1)

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)

Skeptics and critics of the Bible say it is absurd to believe that God created all things, but as both David and Paul declared, the creation provides all the evidence we need to know that God is the Creator! Genesis 1 records how God spoke all things into existence in 6 days. What did God create on each day?

Day	Verses	God Created...
1	3-5	
2	6-8	
3	9-13	
4	14-19	
5	20-23	
6	24-31	

Genesis 1&2 also reveal how important man is to God. God spoke into existence all things except man, whom He "formed... of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being," (Genesis 2:7). Why is man so special to God?

1. In whose image is man created (1:26)? What do you think this means (see John 4:24; Ephesians 4.24)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is man's relationship to the rest of creation (1:28)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did God create woman (2:18)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is God's will for man and woman (2:23-24)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Sin & its consequences

“Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.’” (Genesis 2:15-17)

Man’s relationship with God is clearly defined in the Creation account. God created man and blessed him, but God also gave man a command (law) to keep. If man obeyed God he would continue to be blessed, but if man sinned he would be punished. Genesis 3:1-6 records how Satan deceived Eve, resulting in her and Adam’s eating of the forbidden tree. Why did Eve choose to violate the command of God? \_\_\_\_\_

In 2:17 God said that man would die in the day that he ate of the tree. Did man die that day? If so, how? (See 3:19,24; Romans 6:23) \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 3 paints an ugly picture of man’s condition. Whereas he once walked with God, the chapter ends with man being cast out of the garden, separated from the presence of God... what hope does he have?

God provides hope for man in Genesis 3:15! **“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”** This is actually the first prophecy of Jesus Christ! Jesus, the seed of woman, would come and combat Satan. The Devil would cause Jesus great pain (bruise Him on the heel), but Jesus would put an end to Satan’s power (bruise him on the head)!

“Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.” (Hebrews 2:14-15)

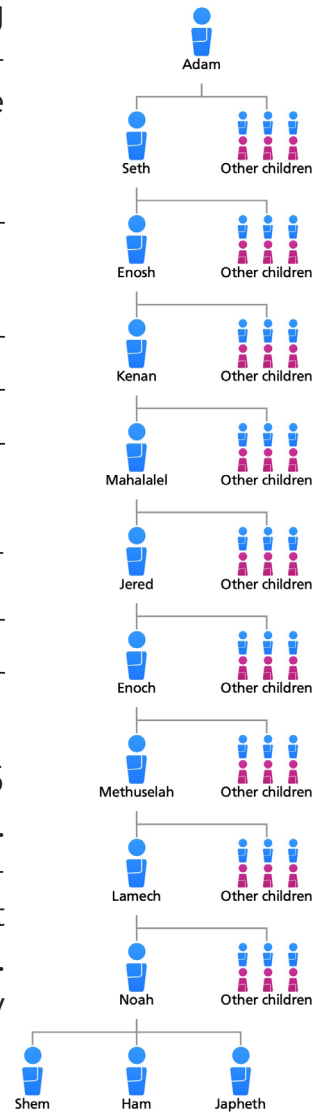
## Jesus Is The Hope Of Man!

## Cain & Abel...

In Genesis 4 we read the horrific account of Cain murdering his brother Abel, a terrible example of how rapidly man departed from the ways of God. Read Genesis 4:1-8 and answer these questions from the text:

- Who were the parents of Cain and Abel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why was Cain angry with Abel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What do vs. 6-7 tell us about temptation? Can we resist temptation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What about God's promise? Remember that in Genesis 3:15 God said that the savior would come from the seed of woman. Now, Abel is dead and Cain was under a curse (4:9-15). However, God's promise would be kept. As chapter 4 ends we see that Adam and Eve have another son, named \_\_\_\_\_ (4:25). This son's lineage is recorded in chapter 5, taking us all the way to Noah.



1. What did God create on each day?

Day 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Day 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Day 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Day 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Day 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Day 6 \_\_\_\_\_

# Review

2. Where do we find the first prophecy of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

# Period 2: the flood



**Scripture range:** Genesis 6-11

**Time range:** The events of this time period take us from the great flood that destroyed the world up to God's call of Abraham. Again, we cannot assign specific dates to this time period, but this time period covers ~1000 years of Biblical history.

**Synopsis:** While the Bible does not record much of what happened during the early history of mankind, we see that by Genesis 6 all of mankind had turned away from God. The lone exception was Noah, who was righteous in the eyes of God. To punish man for his evil ways, God sent a great flood. Noah was instructed to build an ark so that he, his family and every kind of animal would be saved. Noah obeyed and God kept His promise to save (9:8-17).  
Genesis 11 describes how Noah's descendants tried to build a great tower so they would not spread throughout the earth, violating the command of God. God confused their languages, causing them to spread out. All nations and languages resulted from this event.

## 16 Periods of Bible History

1. Creation & Before The Flood
2. **The Flood**
3. The Patriarchs
4. Exodus from Egypt
5. Wilderness Wanderings
6. Conquest of Canaan
7. Judges
8. United Kingdom
9. Divided Kingdom
10. Judah Alone
11. Babylonian Captivity
12. Return from Captivity
13. Years of Silence
14. Life of Christ
15. Establishment & Growth of the Church
16. Letters to the Churches

# The wicked & the righteous

**“For if God did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly... then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,” (2 Peter 2:4,9).**

When God created the world, including man, He looked at all that He had made and saw that it was “very good,” (Genesis 1:31). However, as we turn to Genesis 6:7 we find God declaring, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.”

- Read Genesis 6:5-6 and describe mankind at this time in history: \_\_\_\_\_
- Why was God ready to destroy His creation? \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 6:2 says that the “sons of God” married the “daughters of men.” This passage has troubled many, but the best explanation is that “sons of God” describes the descendants of Seth while the “daughters of men” is speaking of the descendants of Cain. When the descendants of Seth married the women of Cain, it led to great wickedness!

However, there was one man who found favor in the eyes of God: Noah. Genesis 6:9 tells us why Noah was pleasing to God: “Noah was a \_\_\_\_\_ man, \_\_\_\_\_ in his time; Noah \_\_\_\_\_ with God.” Since Noah was righteous, God promised to save Noah and his family from the flood that He was sending to destroy all flesh. However, to escape this destruction Noah would have to obey God by constructing an ark, making it exactly as the Lord specified.

## 3 Fundamental Truths About God...

1. God punishes the wicked and ungodly, just as He punished wicked man with the flood.
2. God saves the righteous, just as God saved Noah and his family.
3. God has the right to dictate the terms of salvation. God instructed Noah to build an ark in order to escape the Flood. Do you think Noah argued with God?

**Are these principles still true today? Note 2 Peter 2:9; 3:3-14**

---

---

---

---

---

---



# The flood

Use your Bible to fill in the following details about the flood...

What kind of wood was Noah to use? (Genesis 6:14)	
How long was the ark? (Genesis 6:15) Note: 1 cubit = 1.5 feet	Cubits:            Feet:
How wide was the ark? (Genesis 6:15)	Cubits:            Feet:
How tall was the ark? (Genesis 6:15)	Cubits:            Feet:
How many of every clean animal was Noah to take into the ark? (Genesis 7:2)	
How many of every unclean animal was Noah to take into the ark? (Genesis 7:2)	
How many people were saved? Who were they? (Genesis 7:7; 6:10)	
On what day did the flood begin? (Genesis 7:11)	
How long did the rains last? (Genesis 7:4)	
On what day did Noah exit the ark? (Genesis 8:13-14)	
How many birds did Noah send out of the ark? (Genesis 8:6-12)	
Where did the ark come to rest? (Genesis 8:4)	

## GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!

In Genesis 6:18 God made a covenant with Noah, to save him and his family from the coming flood. As we have seen, God kept His promise! Likewise, in Genesis 9:8-11 God made a covenant with all creation to never again destroy the earth by water. (What is the sign of this covenant? \_\_\_\_\_)

Again, God has kept His promise! How grateful we should be that we serve a God who cannot lie (Titus 1:2) and who is always faithful (Hebrews 10:23)!



## The origin of nations and languages, Genesis 10-11

When Noah and his family exited the ark, God instructed them to “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” (Genesis 9:1) In Genesis 10; 11:10-32 we find the lineages of Noah’s three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. These passages are important for two reasons:

1. They explain how the various nations came into existence.
2. We see the lineage of Noah, through Shem, to Abraham. This is the continuing lineage of the “seed of woman” that God promised in Genesis 3:15!

Genesis 11:1-9 records the account of the tower of Babel. Answer these questions from the text:

1. Why did the people want to build the tower? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Read Genesis 9:1. Why was it wrong for the people to build the tower?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did God stop the people from building the tower? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. What did God create on each day?

Day 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Day 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Day 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Day 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Day 5 \_\_\_\_\_

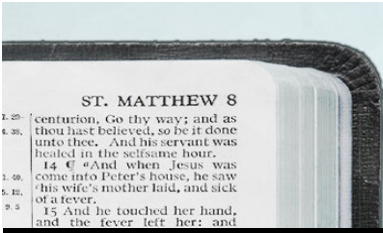
Day 6 \_\_\_\_\_

# Review

2. Where do we find the first prophecy of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why was Noah saved from the flood? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name Noah’s three sons: \_\_\_\_\_



# Period 3: the patriarchs (part 1)

**Scripture range:** Genesis 12-50

**Time range:**

The term "Patriarch" refers to the father of a family. This period covers the fathers of the Israelite nation: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Jacob's sons. From the call of Abraham till Israel's sojourn in Egypt covers ~ 215 years of Biblical history. The book of Job also fits during the time of the Patriarchs.

**Major outline:**

- The call of Abraham and his settling in Canaan (ch. 12-15)
- Abraham waiting for the son of promise (ch. 16-20)
- The birth of Isaac and the close of Abraham's life (ch. 21-25)
- The family of Isaac (ch. 25-26)
- The growth of Jacob's family (ch. 27-30)
- Jacob's return to Canaan (ch. 31-35)
- The selling of Joseph and his rise in Egypt (ch. 37-41)
- Jacob's family settles in Egypt (ch. 42-50)

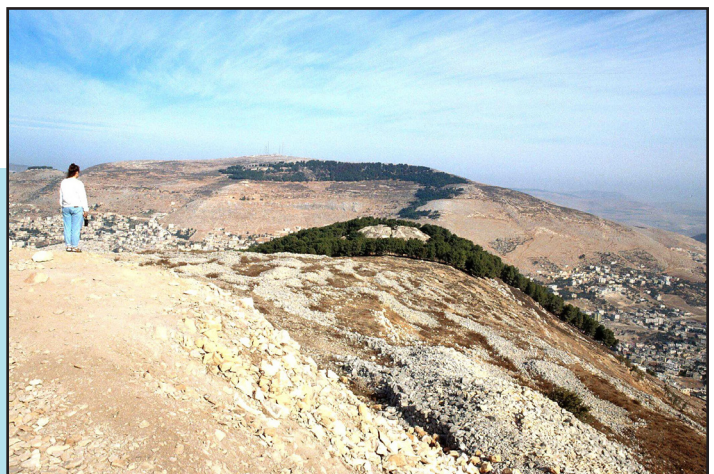
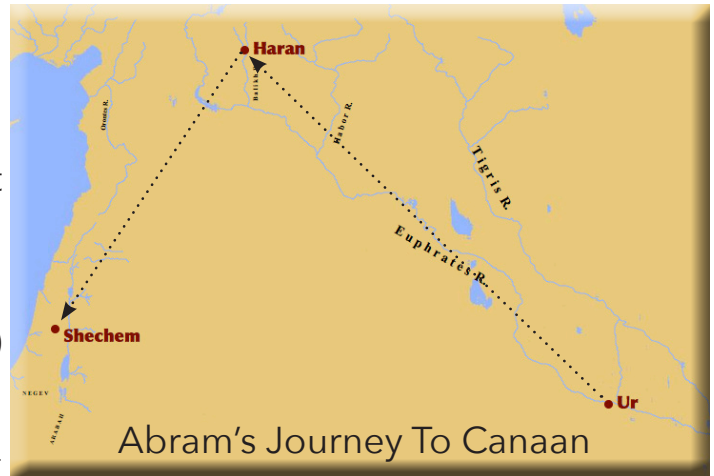
## 16 Periods of Bible History

1. Creation & Before The Flood
2. The Flood
3. **The Patriarchs**
4. Exodus from Egypt
5. Wilderness Wanderings
6. Conquest of Canaan
7. Judges
8. United Kingdom
9. Divided Kingdom
10. Judah Alone
11. Babylonian Captivity
12. Return from Captivity
13. Years of Silence
14. Life of Christ
15. Establishment & Growth of the Church
16. Letters to the Churches

# Three promises to Abraham

We are first introduced to Abraham in Genesis 11:27-32 where we read that Abram (Abraham) descended from Noah through his son Shem. Abraham originally lived in the city of Ur, perhaps the most advanced city of its day. However, that changed with God's call of Abraham in Genesis 12. God called him to leave his country and his father's house and go to a land that God would show him. God then made these promises to Abraham:

1. Abraham would become a great \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 12:2)
2. Through Abraham all families of the earth would be \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 12:3)
3. Once Abraham arrived in Canaan, God promised to give this \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 12:7)



The View from Mt. Gerizim at Shechem  
Abraham was here when God promised the land to him.

We cannot overstate the importance of these promises because the rest of the Scriptures deal with their fulfillment

## 1. Abraham would become a great nation.

The Old Testament traces the history of this nation, Israel. Although this nation was often very ungodly, their importance remained because through them the promised descendant would come who would bless all families of the earth.

## 2. Abraham's descendants would inherit the land of Canaan

3. **Through Abraham, all nations would be blessed.** Recall God's promise in Genesis 3:15 when He said that the seed of woman would bruise the head of the serpent. Now we know that the promise would be fulfilled through Abraham's seed! A descendant of Abraham would defeat Satan and bless all of mankind. Who fulfills this great promise? (Acts 3:25-26) \_\_\_\_\_

# The birth of Isaac

However, there was a problem. When God made the promises Abraham was already \_\_\_\_ years old (Gen. 12:4) and his wife Sarah (Sarai) was \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 11:30). God's promises could not be fulfilled unless Abraham had an heir!

Gen. 15

1. What doubt did Abraham have? (vss. 2-3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did God say? (vss. 4-5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Abraham respond? (vs. 6) \_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 16

1. What doubt did Sarah have? (vs. 2) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was her solution? (vs. 2) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Abraham and \_\_\_\_\_ had a son named \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 15)
4. Abraham was now \_\_\_\_\_ years old. (vs. 16)

Gen. 17

1. Abraham was now \_\_\_\_\_ years old. (vs. 1)
2. Who did God say would give Abraham a son? (vs. 15-16) \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Abraham respond? (vs. 17-18) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. God said Sarah would bear a son named \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 19)

Gen. 18

1. Who visited Abraham? (vs. 1-2) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did He tell Abraham? (vs. 10) \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Sarah respond? (vs. 12) \_\_\_\_\_
4. "Is anything too \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_?" (vs. 14)

Gen. 21

1. **The Lord kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah!**
2. They named the child \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 3)
3. Abraham was \_\_\_\_\_ years old. (vs. 5)

## God Is Faithful!

- ✓ Just like Abraham and Sarah, we are often tempted to doubt that God will keep His promises.
- ✓ We may not understand when or how God will do what He says, but we can know that God will keep His promises!
- ✓ "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23)

## The Faith of Abraham

Why did God make His promises to Abraham? It was not because Abraham was perfect. We read that on two occasions he lied about Sarah being his wife (Gen. 12:13; 20:2) and as we have already seen in this lesson he had doubts about the promises of God (Gen. 15:2-3; 17:7-8). The key is found in Genesis 15:6, "He believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness." Regardless of his imperfections and doubt, Abraham trusted that the Lord would keep His word. He may not have understood how or when God would fulfill the promises, but he trusted that God would be faithful.

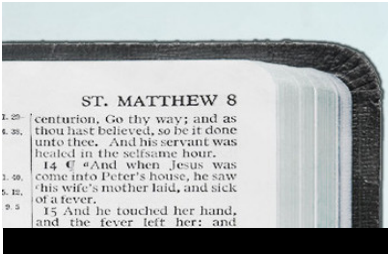
That trust prompted Abraham to do whatever God said. Our study of Abraham began with God calling him to leave his country and his father's house, a command he obeyed by faith (Gen. 12:1; Heb. 11:8-10). However, Abraham's faith would experience the ultimate test after Isaac was born.

1. What command did God give Abraham? (Gen. 22:2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How long did Abraham wait to obey? (Gen. 22:3) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Was Abraham actually going to do it? (Gen. 22:7-10) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Abraham believe God would do? (Heb. 11:17-19) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did this prove to God? (Gen. 22:11-12) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How was Abraham's faith rewarded? (Gen. 22:16-18) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Important Truths About Faith

- ⇒ Faith trusts that God will keep His promises, that He is faithful.
- ⇒ Faith prompts us to obey any command God gives.
- ⇒ Faith, since it prompts trust and obedience, allows us to be righteous in the eyes of God.
- ⇒ Faith is rewarded!





# Period 3: the patriarchs (part 2)

## The Family of Isaac

Abraham did not want Isaac to marry any of the Canaanite women, so he sent a servant to Haran (see map on page 16) to select a bride from his relatives. The servant prayed to the Lord for guidance and the Lord answered by sending \_\_\_\_\_ to him (Gen. 24:15). She would be Isaac's wife. As we move further in the story of Isaac we see that God repeated the promises to him (Gen. 26:3-5). This was because "Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws."

However, Rebekah was barren and bore no children for the first 20 years of their marriage. Isaac prayed to the Lord and He responded, giving them twins! But the Lord said this about the twins Rebekah was carrying: "Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; And the \_\_\_\_\_ shall serve the \_\_\_\_\_" (Gen. 25:23). Rebekah gave birth to two sons, the firstborn's name was Esau, but the second son was born holding the heel of his brother. They named him Jacob, which literally means "supplanter". Jacob would ultimately supplant his brother Esau, but how?

» Genesis 25:29-34 \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---



---

» Genesis 27 \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---



---

## 16 Periods of Bible History

1. Creation & Before The Flood
2. The Flood
3. **The Patriarchs**
4. Exodus from Egypt
5. Wilderness Wanderings
6. Conquest of Canaan
7. Judges
8. United Kingdom
9. Divided Kingdom
10. Judah Alone
11. Babylonian Captivity
12. Return from Captivity
13. Years of Silence
14. Life of Christ
15. Establishment & Growth of the Church
16. Letters to the Churches

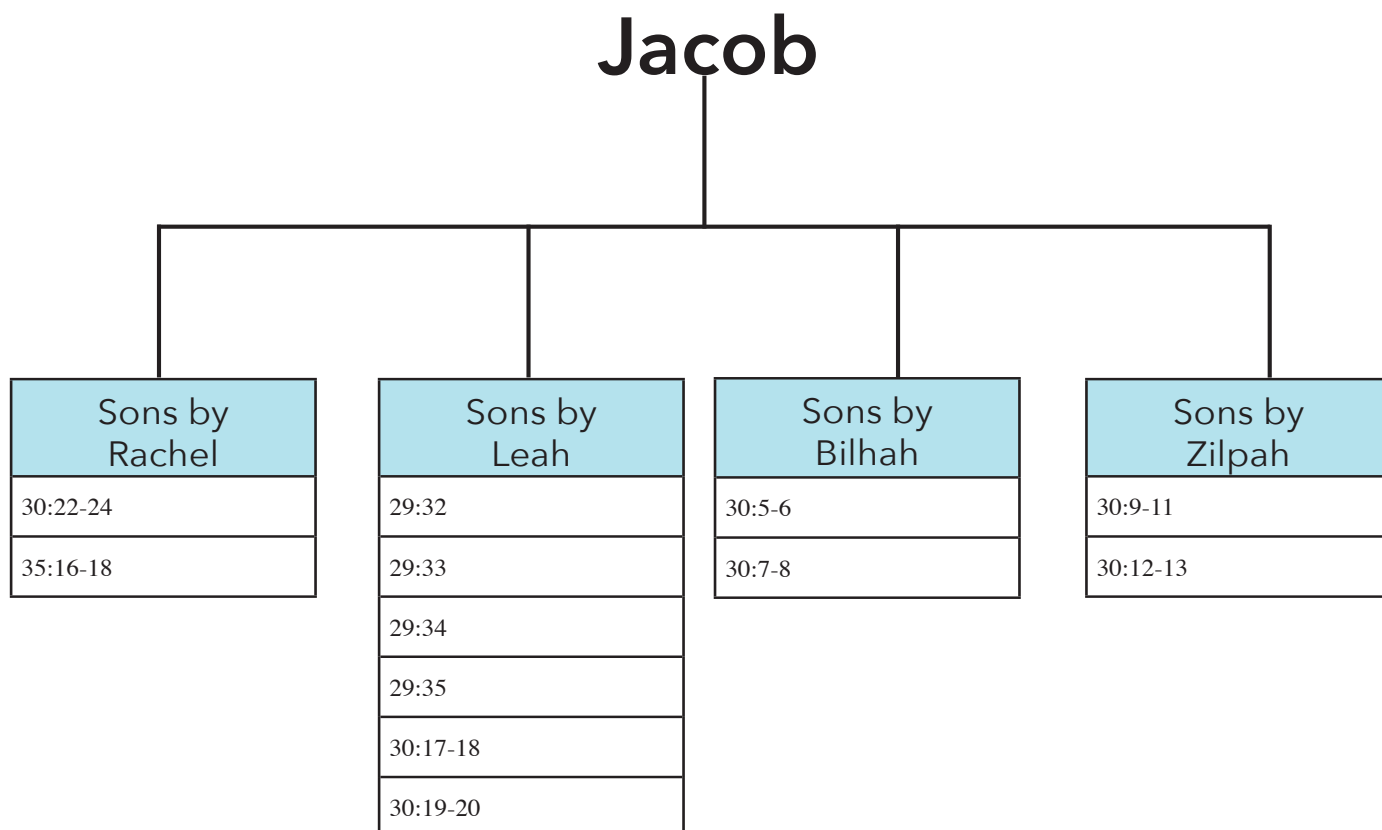
# The family of Jacob

Esau was furious, even to the point that he planned on murdering his brother once their father died. Rebekah saw Esau's rage and devised a plan to save her favorite son: she and Isaac sent Jacob to her brother's house in Paddan-aram (Haran) to take a \_\_\_\_\_ (28:2). On the journey Jacob stopped at a place he would name "Bethel" (lit. "house of God").

» What did Jacob see in a dream? (28:12) \_\_\_\_\_

» What promises did God make to him? (28:13-15) \_\_\_\_\_

Jacob arrived at his uncle Laban's house and immediately chose his daughter, Rachel, to be his wife. Laban agreed to the marriage if Jacob would first complete seven years of service (29:18-19). However, when the day of the wedding came Laban tricked Jacob by giving him Rachel's older sister, Leah, as his wife. Jacob protested, but he would have to work seven more years to marry Rachel (29:25-30). God would bless Jacob with 12 sons born to Leah, Rachel and their hand-maidens Zilpah and Bilhah.





## Jacob's return & move to Egypt

Jacob would return to Canaan even as God promised (28:15). But, what about Esau? Jacob sent messengers to his brother and was very afraid when he heard that Esau was on his way with 400 men! The night before the two brothers would meet a very strange thing occurred: a man appeared and wrestled with Jacob until morning! Read about this in Genesis 32:24-30.

- ✓ Who did Jacob wrestle with? \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ What new name was given to Jacob? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

The next day Jacob was reunited and reconciled with his brother. Finally, Jacob returned to Bethel where God had first appeared to him. Upon Jacob's return the Lord appeared to him again and confirmed his promises (35:9-12).

### Israel moves to Egypt

Jacob and his family were now back in the Promised Land, but it was not God's will that they stay there. The Lord had revealed to Abraham that "your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions" (Genesis 15:13-14). The land where Abraham's descendants would sojourn was Egypt. How and why Jacob's family moved there is discussed on the next page.



Below are the major events that led to Jacob moving his family to Egypt. Put the following events in chronological order and write the Scripture where each event occurred (the Scriptures are listed in the box below). Hint: it will be easier if you write the Scriptures first, then put them in order.

Order	Event	Scripture
	Joseph dies and is embalmed in Egypt	
	Joseph interprets the dreams of Pharaoh's butler and baker	
	Joseph reveals himself to his brothers who had come to Egypt to buy grain	
	Joseph prospers in Potiphar's house	
1	Jacob shows favoritism to Joseph	37:3-4
	Jacob dies and is buried in Canaan	
	Because of famine, Jacob sends his sons to Egypt to buy grain	
	Joseph is sold by his brothers into slavery	
	Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream and is promoted to 2nd in command	
	Jacob's family moves to Egypt	
	Joseph is falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and is thrown into prison	

**Scripture List: 37:3-4; 37:12-28; 39:1-5; 39:7-20; 40:1-23; 41:1-49; 42:1-4; 45:1-15; 46:1-7; 50:1-21; 50:22-26**

When Joseph was reunited with his brothers he declared "God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Genesis 45:7-8). It was God's will that Jacob's family, Israel sojourn in Egypt. However, it was also God's will that they come out of Egypt one day to inherit the land He had promised to Abraham. Before he died Joseph made this declaration to his kinsmen: "I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob" (Genesis 50:24). We will see how God fulfilled this promise beginning with our next lesson.