

Foundations of the Faith Series

Bible Study Workbook—Course 104



*He shall be like a tree
planted by the rivers of water
Psalm 1:3a*

Prepared for the Safe Haven Berean Fellowship, Ministry of the Word
by Pastor David Braden

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Requests for permission should be made in writing and addressed to Pastor David S. Braden
7pastordavid7@gmail.com

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Foundations of the Faith 104

INTRODUCTION

This workbook is the fourth of four workbooks in the “Foundations of the Faith” series.

In this series of teachings, I am responding to the need of Christians in the body of Christ to be able to give an answer for the things they believe.

Some of the topics were identified by listening to the questions being asked by believers. The lessons in these booklets are designed to provide an introduction to the issues being addressed. Further study on the part of each student is encouraged to solidify the believer’s position relative to these topics. The believer is encouraged to study the scriptures provided and see if the things presented are true. (Acts 17:11)

Some lessons are provided in which the student is to “fill in the blanks.” The answers will be found in the scripture references provided.

Still other lessons are provided in which no “fill in the blanks” are provided. These lessons are generally the impartation of knowledge. This information is found in sources outside of the Bible such as Bible dictionaries and commentaries.

These lessons are prepared for use as homework for the Foundations of the Faith classes or study groups. It is recommended that each lesson be completed prior to the class time on that subject.

In order to maximize your benefits from this course, it is recommended that your homework efforts include a period of time to meditate and consider the things you discover in each lesson, rather than completing the assignment merely to “fill in the blanks.”

Bible Study #1

BIBLICAL WISDOM AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Scripture: Prov. 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding”

- I. Biblical Wisdom
- II. The Fear of the lord

I. Biblical Wisdom

The Hebrew words for wisdom in the Old Testament occur over 300 times. These words express a person’s approach to life. The Old Testament teaches us that wisdom to master life can only be found in one’s relationship with God, a far cry from our world which searches for wisdom in every place but in God.

The beginning of true wisdom is the fear of the Lord (Godly awe, reverence and respectful fear). Psalm 111:10

Wisdom is practical and is expressed in Godly living.

The wise person is one who is sensitive to God and willingly submits himself to Him. The wise person listens and watches for the leading of the Spirit and then obeys the guidance received. The wise person applies divine guidance in everyday situations. He chooses the counsel and instruction of the Lord and not that of the ungodly, sinners and scorners. (Ps. 1) It is noteworthy that the book of Psalm’s first calling to believers is the call to choose the path they will walk, whether righteous and pleasing to the Lord or ungodly and self-serving.

It is only in the marriage of God’s words with experience that wisdom can be found or demonstrated.

The Difference between knowledge and wisdom:

Knowledge is the accumulation of facts, of information.

Wisdom is the appropriate application of facts which leads to Godly results.

Example: The U.S. has the knowledge of how to harness nuclear power to provide an energy source for domestic users. (e.g. in the home)
Do we have the wisdom to know how to utilize this knowledge in a way that will promote peace and safety in the world?

A wise person has the ability to determine courses of action with a view to the results that will be achieved.

Solomon said: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom."

It is more valuable than gold and silver. Ps 19:10

Wisdom is filled with love because wisdom does not brag or display itself with the intent of impressing others (vaunteth not itself I Cor. 13:4). A wise person isn't concerned that he be known as a wise person. Wisdom carries with it discernment and the ability to speak with people in caring ways.

We can only get it from the Lord.

Read the following scriptures on wisdom from Proverbs 8 and identify the characteristic of wisdom identified.

v.12 _____

v.13 _____

v.14 _____

v.15 _____

v.18 _____

v.19 _____

v.20 _____

v.22 _____
v.35 _____

II. **The Fear of the Lord**

A. Background:

- “Fear of the Lord” (FotL) ~ 160Xs in the Bible
- similar expressions (e.g. terrified, afraid, trembling) > 400Xs
- There are more than 600 references to elements of the FotL in the Bible.

B. The Benefits of the Fear of the Lord

- Wisdom Job 28:28
- Contentment/freedom from evil Prov. 19:23 (rests content)
- Have the Lord’s love Ps 103:17 (“chesed” = lovingkindness)
- Good life, many days Ps 34:9-14; Prov. 10:27
- Fountain of life – guides one away from the traps of death Prov. 14:27
- Instruction/prosperity/inheritance Ps 25:12-14 (secret of the Lord)
- The Lord hears you. Mal. 3:16
- “...so that you will not sin Ex. 20:20
- wealth, honor and life Prov. 22:4 (by humility and the FotL)

C. Who had the fear of the Lord?

Gen. 22:12 _____
Gen. 28:17 _____
Gen. 31:42 _____
Gen. 42:18 _____
Ex. 1:17 _____
Ps 34:11 _____

Prov. 1:7 _____

Isa. 6:5 _____

Isa. 11:1-3 _____

Mal. 2:4-5 _____

Acts 10:2 _____

II Cor. 5:11 _____

D. What the fear of the Lord is not:

1. Natural fear: e.g. thunder and lightning, taking a final exam, phobias – the dark, heights, spiders, snakes, etc., child – fear of punishment for wrongdoing
2. Fear taught by men Isa. 29:13 Jesus quotes Isaiah in Matt. 15:8-9
 - o religious laws – (If you don't do certain things you are not a true Jew.)
 - o Pharisees – their rules were the commands of men for self-righteous living
3. Fear of man – fear of what man thinks, fearing the look of rejection (looking for man's acceptance)

(You would disobey God to satisfy men.) e.g. Saul – had just lost the kingdom and he was still interested in "looking good" before the men. (see I Sam. 15)

E. What it is:

Many biblical words for fear

enah – terror

deagah – sorrow

charadah – trembling

chath – fright/terror

yirah – reverence

nagor – terror
megorah – fear
mora – fear/reverence
pachad – dread
rogez – rage/anger/trembling
phoboz – fear/terror

Other words – amazement, awe, wonder, astonishment

A Definition: A profound sense of awe, reverence and respect towards God coupled with a great appreciation and acknowledgement of who He is and what He does which leads to worship.

The heart knows, not merely mental assent.

Examples:

1. Gen. 28:16-17 Jacob at Bethel (“afraid”)
2. Matt. 28:8 the women were afraid yet filled with joy.
3. Luke 5:1-11 Peter and the catch of fish

Fear of The Lord in the New Testament

The fear of the Lord is not just an Old Testament concept. It is found throughout the pages of the New Testament.

- Heb. 12:25-28 “...let us have grace by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” (~ 60 AD)
- Acts 10:35 “But in every nation, whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” (spoken after the birth of the church)
- Acts 13:16 “Men of Israel and you who fear God...” (Paul is speaking in Antioch)
- II Cor 7:1 “...cleanse ourselves...perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (Paul writing to the Corinthians about 56 AD)
- Eph. 5:21 “...submitting to one another in the fear of God.” (~ 60AD)

- Col. 3:22 “Bondservants, obey in all things..., but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.” (~ 60AD)
 - I Pet 1:17 “...conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear...” (~ 60-62AD)
 - I Pet 2:17 “...Love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.
 - Revelation: ~ 95 AD
 - 11:18 “those who fear Your name”
 - 14:7 “Fear God and give glory to Him.”
 - 15:4 “Who shall not fear You...for You alone are holy.”
 - 19:5 “...and those who fear Him both great and small
- Matt 10:28 Jesus taught the fear of the Lord. (also Lk 12:5)

Conclusions Regarding the Fear of the Lord in the NT:

1. Jesus had it. (see Isa. 11:1ff) and taught it.
2. The FotL occurs in many passages of the NT where it is encouraged in the life of the believer.
3. The OT is the shadow and types of the realities presented in the NT.

What we see in the NT is a further revealing/unveiling of what has been shown in the OT, not a changing or altering of the OT revelation.

4. God is unchanging. He is the same yesterday, today and always.

Truth revealed about God in the OT is not discarded or changed in the NT.

How do you get the Fear of the Lord?

1. A grace from God – Jer. 32:39-41 “I will put my fear in their hearts... for the good of them...” (restoration of the people to the land of promise)

2. When receiving God's forgiveness – Ps 130:4 "There is forgiveness with you, that You may be feared."
3. By answered prayer/our response to God's love and kindness

(when we see His awe-inspiring deeds: OT example - the Israelites after crossing the Red Sea and then seeing all of Pharaoh's army drowned.)
4. By true repentance II Cor. 7:11
5. By asking for it. Ask – seek – knock (present, continuous action)
6. By observing God's judgments on the earth – e.g. Ananias and Saphira

Acts 5:1ff v.11 "So great fear came upon the church..."

see also: sons of Eli and the "strange fire"
7. By meditating/studying God's Word regarding His greatness and those who experienced Him. See Psalm 145
8. Some degree of the fear of the Lord is imparted to us at the new birth.

Bible Study # 2

ETERNAL SECURITY

Scripture: “..and being fully convinced that what He had promised, He was also able to perform.” Rom. 4:21

One of the questions that continues to puzzle believers is the question of “losing their salvation.” Believers ask the question: “Can I, once I’ve been truly born again, lose my salvation either by sin or by my own choice?”

Polls indicate that while a slight majority of Christians believe in eternal security, about one third do not (and about a sixth don't know).

All Christians, by definition, are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, so one must use extreme care when dismissing or diminishing Scripture passages that may not support our particular point of view.

In I John, John often uses the phrase “by this we know.” This demonstrates that it is God’s will that we know and have an assurance of our position in Him.

I John 5:13 “...that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Lesson Outline:

- I. Definitions
- II. Evidence for the security of the believer
 1. God
 2. Jesus
 3. The Holy Spirit
- III. “Falling from Grace”
- IV. Difficult passages
- V. The place of security

I. Definitions

Eternal: from Grk. "aionios" – eternal – not affected by the limitations of time
days without end, forever

Everlasting life John 3:16

"he that believes on the Son has everlasting life." John 3:36

"...but the righteous into eternal life" Matt. 25:46

"...He entered the Most Holy Place once for all having obtained eternal
redemption." Heb. 9:12 Note verb tense = past tense

"and having been made perfect, He became the author of eternal
salvation to all that obey Him." Heb. 5:9

The definition of eternal indicates that the new life achieved for us by our
Savior is a salvation with no end. Christ has accomplished for us an
eternal salvation.

Eternal security is the state of the believer in which the work of grace by the Holy
Spirit which began at the new birth continues until it is brought to completion.

2 key points:

1. work of grace (unmerited, not worked for)
2. by the Holy Spirit (not by me, not by what my hands can accomplish)

What is in my hands?

1. How I live my life for God while I'm on earth.
2. What rewards I will receive in heaven

For the believer, this means that once he has had a genuine "rebirth," and is truly
"saved," his position in Christ's kingdom (in Him) is a secure position.

The believer does not earn this position, it is a free gift given by the grace of God.
And God will not take back a gift that is freely given.

A key question regarding the gift is "Can a believer, once born again, reject the

gift even though new life has been received? Can I discard a gift I've been given? This will be discussed in Section IV.

II. Evidence for the Security of the believer

1. God:

A. The promise of God

Eph. 3:6 "that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel."

II Tim. 1:1 "...according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus."

I John 2:25 "And this is the promise that He has promised us-eternal life."

Rom. 4:21 "...and being fully convinced that what He had promised, He was also able to perform.

Psalm 138:8a "The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever." (perfect = bring to completion, wholeness)

B. The Faithfulness of God

II Tim. 2:13 "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

This verse tells us that God's very character is faithfulness and he cannot be unfaithful because that is contrary to his nature.

Ps 100:5b "and His truth endures to all generations."

The **covenant faithfulness** of God is one of the great themes of the OT. In fact, this is one of the primary definitions of the key OT word "chesed" See Ps 136 - "for His mercy (chesed) endures forever."

The nature of God guarantees our position in Christ.

C. The Power of God

Phil. 2:13 "for it is God who works in you..."

Phil. 1:6 "...He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the the day of Jesus Christ."

Question: What is the good work that God has begun in each of us?

Our salvation, both initial and complete.

These passages show us that it is God who is at work in us and that He will bring his saving work to its final completion.

John 10: 29 "My Father, who has given them to me is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand."

This verse tells us that God, the Father, has the power and ability to keep us within His eternal kingdom. No one can take us from God's hands.

We did not earn our salvation by our good deeds, nor can we lose it by our bad deeds. We may lose rewards in the kingdom, but our place in the kingdom is assured.

Rom. 14:4 "for God is able to make him stand"

Jude 24 "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,"

This is another passage that speaks of God's power and ability to complete the work which He has begun in each one of us.

In God's covenant promise, His faithfulness, His power and His ability, we find confidence in the security of our inheritance in Christ.

It is God who keeps us.

2. Jesus:

Heb. 7:25 "Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession

for them.”

Jesus is our great intercessor who is continually interceding for us. (see also Rom. 8:34)

I Jn 2:2 “He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

When Jesus died on the cross, He took upon Himself all of the sins of mankind, both past, present and future. This means that He has already died for sins which I will commit in the future.

Rom. 8:1 ‘There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.’

Rom. 8:31-39 In this great passage on the believer’s position in Christ, several points are made:

- a. If God is for us, who can be against us. (or who can stand against His power and prevail against His purposes.) v.31
- b. He will freely give us all things. (not earned) v.32
- c. No one can condemn us. (To condemn us would be to consign us to the reward of the ungodly.) v.33
- d. God is the One who justifies. (not me on the basis of my works) v.33
- e. Nothing can separate us from God and His love. vv. 35-37
- f. In all the things that go on around us (life, death, spiritual warfare, distresses, etc.) we are more than conquerors. More than conquerors means that that enemies who war against us (the accuser, our flesh, the world) will not prevail against us. vv. 37-39

John 3:16 “...whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

This is another indicator that our eternal life cannot be taken from us.

Question: What is the new birth?

1. life from above
2. life from God
3. If we are His children, then by the new birth we now have His nature dwelling within us,
4. and this new nature is indestructible,
5. eternal.

I John 5:4 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.

And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.

3. The Holy Spirit:

II Cor. 1:21-22 “Now he who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who has also sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

Eph. 1:13-14 “...you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

Eph. 4:30 “...were sealed for the day of redemption.”

These verses speak of the Holy Spirit as the seal and the guarantee of our inheritance in Christ. The purpose of sealing was to establish or determine irrevocably, to make good forever. The Holy Spirit within us is our guarantee that our salvation has been made sure by the blood of the Lamb.

II Cor. 3:18 It is the Holy Spirit’s work in our life to transform us to the likeness of Christ.

II Cor. 1:22 tells us that the Holy Spirit is in our hearts.

John 14:16-17 tells us that the Holy Spirit will abide with us forever.

These verses show us that we have the indwelling Holy Spirit within us forever, sealing us and working within us to transform us into the image of Christ.

III. “Falling from Grace”

One of the passages often debated regarding the loss of salvation is Gal. 5:4: “You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by the law; you have fallen from grace.”

Strong’s # 1601: ekpipto “from” and “to drop away”

be driven out of one’s course

become inefficient

fall away

When we become a believer, we have a choice to make as to how we will live our lives; this choice is simply to live by the Law of the Spirit (the Law of Love) or to attempt to live by the letter of the Law. If we live by the Spirit, we will have the help, power and abilities of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us. But if we chose to live by the Law, we will not have this help. Falling from grace is simply to say that you’ve been riding the horse of grace, His strength, His wisdom, His helps; but you have now fallen off of your horse. You are now walking by your own strength, the flesh. You haven’t lost your salvation. But you are not living with the strength, power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Your walk is defective.

What you need to do is to get back on your horse.

Falling from grace means that we are no longer operating in our lives by God’s grace but have reverted to our former ways, living according to the law. It is not an issue of the salvation of our souls which was settled at the new birth.

IV. Difficult passages

There are some passages that people submit as arguments that we can lose our salvation.

We don't have time to discuss each one in this class, but I will provide you some of the answers to many of the objections to eternal security:

1. Context – a careful examination of the context of some of these passages will reveal that the actual subject is not initial salvation (new birth) but has to do with some aspect of our sanctification, the working out of our salvation/Christlikeness, while on this earth. e.g. Gal. 5:4 In this passage, Paul tells them that they have fallen from grace, i.e. you are no longer walking by faith but by the flesh, the law.

2. “truly born again” – Are the people in question truly born again? e.g. The many who will come to Jesus and that claim to prophecy and cast out demons in His name...but He will say He never knew them. (Mt. 7:21-23) This means they were never truly saved.

3. The “if” clauses in Hebrews (2:3, 3:6, 14; 6:6, 10:26, 38) These passages actually deal with warnings about pressing on to maturity in Christ.

In the book of Hebrews, the author is encouraging the people to whom he is writing, not to return to Judaism, a course of action they were considering due to intense persecution.

If they chose to return to Judaism, they would not lose their salvation but would eventually lose their natural life in the imminent destruction of Jerusalem.

This would be similar to the Israelites in the desert (see Deut. 1) when they refused to enter the promise land. They did not lose their “salvation.” but eventually lost their natural life by wandering in the desert, never entering the promised land of blessing.

4. Olive tree passages Rom. 11:17-24 Here the olive tree is not a symbol of salvation but is rooted in the Patriarchs and represents the place of blessing.

5. Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit Matt. 12:22-37 In this passage those who are guilty of blaspheming the Holy Spirit are not believers but unbelievers. They are the Jewish leaders who accused Jesus of being demonized. In this passage, according to the context, the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is the national rejection by Israel of the Messiah on the basis of being demon-possessed. They rejected the witness of the Holy Spirit to the person and office of Jesus.

V. The place of security

From the above passages, it is clear that:

1. God has the power and desire to complete the work He has begun in every Christian.
2. The salvation that God provides is an eternal salvation.
3. No one can take us out of God's hands.
4. God has given everyone a free will to make choices.

So, the secure place is to stay in God's hands. New Testament authors refer to this as abiding in Christ, staying "in Him", "walking after the Spirit". It is "In Him" that we have every spiritual blessing. (see Eph. 1)

The primary concern about security has to do with the will of man.

God has given us a free will. And he will not take from us our right to choose. In fact, it is our making of choices to love and serve God that bring Him glory. Of what glory is it to God if we are mere automatons or robots with no free will to choose?

Can I choose to discard a gift freely given? Yes I can. And some do.

But...if I have received new life from above, have been transferred from darkness to light and made an heir of God's kingdom of life and love, and if I know that He has the Words of life, why would I ever want to discard or throw away so great a salvation?

The primary question should be: “how can I get ever closer to Him in every area of my life?” not, “how far away from God can I get and still be “saved.”

Additionally, the passages that warn against turning away from our salvation (see Section IV) can provide an additional motivation for staying in the faith, staying in Him, our place of security. (However, our primary motivation for staying “in Him” should be love.)

Bible Study #3

ABIDING IN CHRIST

The goal of this lesson is to provide an introduction to the subject of abiding in Christ.

Jesus had lived and taught his disciples for a period of three years. As he came near to the completion of His work on earth and the cross, He began to prepare His disciples for the day when He would no longer be with them physically.

This must have been a difficult time for them...they had been His constant companions and had witnessed the greatest life ever lived.

His final teaching on earth was the great passage in John chapters 14-17. In the midst of this teaching, He spoke to them about abiding in Him, a strange topic since He was about to die and then ascend into heaven. This would be a key for them and all Christians to follow in living a successful Christian life.

It's important to know that, if we don't abide in Him, we will miss much of what He has called us to be and to do.

What does it mean to "abide in Christ?"

How do I "abide in Christ?"

What are the importance and benefits of "abiding?"

These are some of the questions to be addressed in this lesson.

To facilitate this lesson, the text (NKJV) of John 15:1-12 is reproduced below.

John 15:1-12

1 "I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser.

2. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes that it may bear more fruit.
3. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.
4. Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.
5. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me, you can do nothing.
6. If anyone does not abide in me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.
7. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
8. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples.
9. As the Father loved me, I also have loved you; abide in my love.
10. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.
11. These things have I spoken to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.
12. This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you."

I. What does it mean to "abide in Christ?"

In the passage above, the Greek word "meno" is used 11 times. Of the eleven usages, "abide" is the translation of choice ten times. The other word used in translation is "remain."

The strong's number for this word is 3306. It lists the following in defining "abide":

To remain, to dwell, to stand firm, to persevere,

Other descriptions of abide are: to stay connected, to stay attached

To abide, therefore, is to remain with, to stay connected and attached to, to dwell with, to continue with. It means that we do not move from the place where we have been placed.

In the John 15 passage, who is/are:

- a. the vine _____
- b. the branches _____

Why is it important for the branch to remain “connected” to the vine? _____

What is the purpose of fruit-bearing? v.8 _____

If a branch does not stay connected to the vine, what will happen to it? v.6

Read Psalm 1 for a pictorial representation of abiding.

What is the picture presented here? _____

Read Isa. 61:3 How does God refer to the redeemed?

How far does a tree travel from the place it is planted? _____

Read I Cor. 1:30 What does this verse say our position is? _____

How did we get this position? _____

II. How do I abide in Him?

Col 2:6-7 “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been

taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

There is an important connection in this passage between receiving Christ and walking in Him (abiding). What is it? _____

How are we to be built up in Him and established in the faith? _____

Read Hab. 2:4 “The just shall live by _____.”

(Just means: the one who has been justified, and in our case equals: born again, redeemed)

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Gal. 2:20

From this verse: What is the secret to our life of faith while still in the flesh?

The life of grace that we live always continues in the same way that it was begun, by faith.

By God’s grace through faith, we are in Him. By God’s grace through faith, we abide in Him.

In the illustration of John 15, the vine and branches are connected. In human terms, this means that there is a relationship between the vine (Jesus) and the branches (us).

So, we are placed into the vine (Jesus) and we maintain the connectedness which we have by our relationship with Jesus. We do this through our devotional life, our time in the Word, our fellowship with the saints (the other members of the

body of Christ), serving and by many other ways which grow and strengthen our position of abiding.

And, with any relationship, if it is to grow and be strengthened, there must be continuous communication and fellowship.

This tells me that I need to be actively involved in the relationship. Jesus continues to pursue me but I also need to pursue Him.

Example: A young man who is interested in the lady of his choice
His interest, the desire of his heart, motivates his pursuing.

So also, it is with us.

Read Psalm 91.

What 3 things does God say the man who seeks him has done?

- a. v.9 _____
- b. v.14 _____
- c. v.15 _____

What is another way we can facilitate our “abiding in Christ?” (Jn 15: 10)

III. What are the benefits of “abiding in Christ?” John 15:1-11

- 1. What will we do if we abide in the vine? v.5 _____
- 2. What will we experience if we keep His commands? v. 10 _____
- 3. If we keep his word (commandments), what will God do? (John 14:23)

4. What will you ultimately do if you abide? v. 8 _____

5. What will God do if we bear fruit? v. 2 _____

6. Other results of abiding:

v.7 _____

v.11 _____

7. Read Ps 91:1 This verse speaks of dwelling and abiding. What does it mean to be under the shadow of the Almighty? _____

8. Read Ps. 91:9-13

Name 5 things that will result if you make the Lord your dwelling place (abide in Him).

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

Bible Study #4

THE PERSON GOD USES - PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

In this lesson we will look at some of the qualities of God's children that fitted them for service.

- Outline:
- I. Qualities/Characteristics of the Prepared Servant
 - II. Men Whom God Uses

I. Qualities/Characteristics of the Prepared Servant

A. Faith

The starting point must be faith for without faith, it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6)

By our faith we enter into covenant with God and receive the forgiveness of sins and freedom from the power of sin. By faith, we are given a new birth, a new nature and the indwelling Holy Spirit to work out our sanctification. It is by the Holy Spirit that we are empowered to do God's work.

Now we are saved to glorify God by offering up our bodies as living sacrifices. (see Rom. 12:1) We are called to serve.

Once we have entered into God's family by His free grace, our ability to serve on earth will be determined as we continue along the path of righteous living. Note that in I Cor. 9:27 Paul says that he disciplines his body so that he may not be disqualified from obtaining the prize/crown. And, if there are actions that can disqualify us (the works of the flesh as seen in Gal. 5:19-21), then there are certainly the fruits of the Spirit giving evidence of a holy life that qualifies us for service. (Gal. 5:22-23)

Paul also said that he had been crucified and that the life he now lived in the flesh he lived by faith in the son of God. (Gal. 2:20)

B. Prayer

The second necessary characteristic of a life of service is that of prayer.

Paul said he prayed without ceasing for the Romans (Rom. 1:9)

Peter and John were on the way to the temple to pray in Acts 3:1 when the healing of the lame man occurred.

Jesus was continually, throughout His life on earth, looking for a private place where He could pray. He said He only did what He saw the Father do and this must mean that He was in communication (prayer) with the Father. If Jesus relied so heavily on the Father through prayer, how much more should we.

Prayer is our life line to the Father.

C. Live for God's Glory

Another essential quality is that we must live for God's glory. In His sermon on the mount in Matthew 5:16, Jesus said that the reason we should let our light shine before men was so they could see our good works and give glory to God.

D. In the Word

If you would serve God, you must be in His Word. This is where we find strength and direction for each day.

Read Psalm 40:7-9

In this prophetic passage, the speaker tells of two things about himself. What are they?

a. _____

b. _____

What does he now do? _____

E. Qualifications from I Timothy

It is God who determines our readiness to serve, our state of preparation to work among His people. As an example, Paul writes to Timothy, and in doing so, explains the qualifications of elders and deacons.

Some of the qualifications that apply to all: temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, not violent, not greedy, not quarrelsome...

These are Christ-like qualities that the Holy Spirit is developing in every Christian and should be seen in increasing measure. They lead to responsible positions of Christian service.

II. Men Whom God uses

Now, let's look at some specific examples from scripture of men whom God used.

A. Joseph

In Genesis 39 and 40, we have the narrative of God's preparation of Joseph for service. The work in Joseph is accomplished over a period of 13 years in which he is taken through several disciplines. These disciplines can be characterized as the disciplines of serving (Potiphar's house), self control (Potiphar's wife) and the discipline of suffering (falsely accused and relegated to the dungeon).

In all of these trials, he submitted to those over him and learned the lessons God had for him; e.g. personal relationships, business management, Egyptian language and culture, how to lead, etc. God was with him and he prospered. He was now ready to be used of God but only after God's character refining process was complete.

B. Nehemiah

We don't have a history of Nehemiah's childhood so we don't know how he came to be the person God would use. It is likely that his father, Hachaliah (meaning whom God enlightens), may have trained him in the Word and in the fear of the Lord. He certainly exhibited a Godly wisdom in the Word and respect for authority. These are not qualities that he would have been taught by his Babylonian captors.

He was born a slave and therefore had no property or resources to undertake such a task as rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem.

He did have two things:

1. He knew how to pray. See Neh. 1:5-11 This initial time of praying went on for 4 months. See Neh. 2:4; 4:4, 9; 5:19; 6:14; 13:14, 22, 29 for other prayers of Nehemiah. He was certainly a man who relied extensively on prayer.
2. He had the favor of the king. 2:1-8 This is remarkable since he was a slave and merely a cupbearer. This shows that he did his work well and also knew something about personal relationships.

From the book of Nehemiah, we also know:

- a. He was courageous in the face of danger – 6:11
- b. He had a genuine concern for the welfare of others – 2:10
- c. He identified with his people in their sorrow and sins (even though he had never been to Jerusalem) – 1:6
- d. He exhibited keen foresight – 2:8
- e. He carefully planned his courses of action/strategies
- f. He exercised caution – 2:12
- g. He could make clear decisions – 5:7
- h. He did not play favorites – 5:7
- i. He displayed empathy – 4:10-14; 5:1-13

- j. He was a realist– prayed and posted a guard – 4:9
- k. He accepted responsibility and discharged it faithfully.
- l. He led the people back to the Word to God.
- m. He was able to inspire others.
- n. He faced adversity and was bold as he confronted those who had broken the covenant Israel had made with God. (Ch-13)
- o. He was discerning about conspiracies against him. e.g. 6:1-14 the Plain of Ono

These are just a few of the qualities that Nehemiah exhibited, all of which were important to the tasks that lay before him.

C. The Sons of Korah

Psalm 84 is a Psalm of desire, of passion.

In it, the authors reveal a number of things about those who are blessed of the Lord:

- a. They dwell in his house (v.4), that is, they live in fellowship with Him;
- b. Their strength is in the Lord; (v.5a); They rely on the Lord and not on their own natural abilities.
- c. The highways of God are in their heart (v.5b); they know and follow God’s ways. (and we learn God’s ways by staying in His Word.)
- d. They trust in God (v.12). Their reliance, faith and confidence are in God alone.
- e. A fifth thing that is noted about the person who dwells with God and has God’s ways in his heart is that, as they make their pilgrimage along life’s pathways, they bring blessings to others (make it a

spring/well v. 6) – even when they are going through difficult times (valley of Baca, which is weeping), they are still able to help others.

They have the life of God flowing out of them because they dwell/abide in the vine and that life is contagious.

- f. And, because they live in fellowship with God, they also live a life of praise. Worship is a way of life with them. (v.4)

D. Other considerations:

Ps 90:17

At the end of this Psalm, Moses prays for the beauty of the Lord our God to be upon the people.

Why is this important? _____

What will happen when people see Christ in us? _____

Acts 6:3

When searching for potential servants to fill the role of deacon, they “looked for men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.”

If, as in Acts, we are looking for men of wisdom, these must necessarily be men who have the fear of the Lord because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Their every choice, decision and action should be molded and guided by the fear of the Lord (reverential fear, respect and honor).

Ps 91:14-16

In this Psalm, what 2 things did the man being discussed do?

1. _____
2. _____

What did God promise to do because of these actions? _____

What does this mean? _____

Bible Study #5

CREATION AND EVOLUTION

The purpose of this lesson is to provide an introduction for new Christians to some of the significant issues in the Creation vs. Evolution controversy. Topics included in this brief introduction are:

- Creation and evolution as belief systems.
- descriptions of evolution and creationism
- earth formation processes then and now
- changes to the earth's surface
- support systems
- Why people don't want to believe in a God.
- the importance of the book of Genesis
- chance, an abstract, non-entity

Creation and evolution as belief systems

During the first centuries of the existence of our nation, our society was based on Christian absolutes. People knew what was right and wrong and most people accepted or at least respected a belief in God.

Today, the fundamental beliefs of Christianity are being replaced by humanism which means everyone decides what is right or wrong for themselves. "We are told "We must tolerate different beliefs and different lifestyles."

In reality, this "tolerance" is really an intolerance of the moral absolutes of Christianity. Every belief system under the sun is now tolerated and encouraged except Christianity. Christians and their symbols and practices (10 commandments, prayer, manger scenes, merry Christmas, etc.) are being removed from public places while other faith systems are given a place.

Christian absolutes refers to the truths and standards of scripture which cannot be altered because they are from God, an omniscient being, and they are true.

The truths of scripture tell us that there are rules by which we must live.

The other world-view which is essentially humanism, finds its origin in evolution. In this world-view, since there is no Divine Creator or Intelligence, and all happens by “chance”, then there are no absolutes and each resident upon this spaceship called earth has the option to choose his own morality. We are encouraged by evolutionists to believe that our ancestors were monkeys or worse yet, a rock. (which is the logical deduction if you believe that life came from that which did not have life, i.e. the prebiotic soup)

The evolutionary system has been presented to us under the guise of science. However, it is not a science, but a belief system about the past.

Both the creationist and the evolutionist have the same data to operate on, data from the present, living animals, plants, fossils, the universe.

The difference between the two systems is:

- Creationists base their understanding of creation on a book that claims to be the intelligence of the One who was there when it happened, One who knows all and acted in infinite wisdom and love.
- Evolution comes from men who were not there and lay no claim to being all-knowing, except that “it happened” by purely natural processes, by chance.

The additional difficulty that we face is that we cannot test the past using laboratory methods. (run a lab test, watch and see what happens and then rerun the test to produce the same results). We can only test what is in the present.

At its best, a supporter of evolution can only provide speculative arguments for what they believe.

Evolution

Fundamentally, an evolutionist is one who believes that time, chance and the struggle for survival are responsible for the life that we now experience.

An evolutionist believes that there is no God nor Divine Creator, no Intelligent Designer and therefore, the Bible cannot be the Word of God (because there really was no God to author it).

A well-known evolutionist P.T. de Chardin once said: “Evolution is a light which illuminates all facts, a trajectory which all lines of thought must follow.” It’s not difficult to see in his statement the antithesis of Jesus’ statement that He Himself was the light that enlightens all men. John 8:12 See also John 1:9 for John the Baptist’s statement regarding Jesus and the Light.)

Science involves observation, using our senses to gain knowledge about the world and then having the capacity to repeat the observation. However, we can only observe what is present today. No one can go back to the time of the beginning nor was there any scientist present to observe what is called “the Big Bang” or the first life forming in the primeval sea. There are no written records from the initial life forms that can relate to us as to how the initial formation took place. In essence, the theory of evolution is a belief system created by men who are trying to explain the evidence of the present (fossils, species, land formations, etc.)

When we dig up a fossil, we are only digging up what currently exists. Then speculation begins as to how long and why this particular species came to be. However, the speculative methods most often used are based upon processes that we see in operation today and this is a problem.

The formative processes

The creation and evolutionary teachings differ vastly regarding the initial formative processes.

Evolution teaches that billions of years ago, in a primeval sea of gases (don't know where it came from), evolutionary processes were at work whereby life eventually evolved out of that which did not have life. This is based upon the assumption that the processes in existence today are the same as those existing in the initial stages of the development of the universe. Compounds formed in the atmosphere condensed in a prebiotic soup to combine spontaneously to form life.

Creation, however, teaches that the Creator God, the Divine Intelligence, called all things into existence by His spoken Word. This event in history occurred over a short period of time, and then the creative processes being used ceased to be used. God no longer calls things into existence as He did at the initial creation. Everything that God created was good and was designed to live in harmony.

However, mankind chose to disobey God and, because of his disobedience, sin entered into the world. Sin brought death and decay, the processes that we now see at work in the natural order.

So, an obvious difficulty in any attempt to date the known world based on current processes is faulty because, according to God's Word, the current processes in nature are not the same as those which were utilized at creation.

Evolution assumes that what we see at work today is what has always been. Therefore, if we can determine the state of an existing system and know its rate of decay, we can calculate backwards to determine its point of origin.

Creationists believe that God created all things and, regarding animals, he created adults. Regarding plants, he created mature trees and plants that could

immediately provide fruits and vegetables (food) for man and animals. (God didn't plant a seed or lay an egg.)

Changes to the earth's surface

The story of Noah's flood is well-known. In fact, there are more than 270 stories or legends from different cultures throughout the world today which tell of a major, worldwide deluge and a man with his family on a boat.

In the biblical account, God judged the world because of its wickedness and rebellion. However, there is one righteous man that God preserves, Noah. Because Noah was righteous, God allowed Noah to take his family with him into the ark. At God's instruction, he built a boat and took 2 of every kind of animal in to the ark (seven of the clean animals that would be used for sacrifice). In the case of dinosaurs, he most likely took young strong ones. (Can you imagine an adult Apatosaurus or Brachiosaurus on the ark?)

When the time came, God unleashed a cataclysmic event unlike anything the world had ever known. (Gen. 7) The fountains of the great deep burst forth and the windows of heaven were opened pouring down huge amounts of water. The canopy (most likely water vapor) was burst and the world was, in the space of about 6 weeks, covered with water.

This caused a major change in the surface of the earth so that what we now see and have is not what had been originally created. In addition, animals that had been alive on the earth at that time were almost instantly buried in a sea of mud and sediment accounting for the huge fossil finds of today.

The processes at work in the flood were greatly intensified during the initial stages attributing to the escalation of certain earthly phenomenon, e.g. erosion. It is believed by many that natural phenomenon such as the Grand Canyon may have been formed during the flood cataclysm. Also, geologic strata oddities such as the Matterhorn, where the upper rock strata is purported to be older than the lower rock strata, may also have been due to an effect of the "great cataclysm" of the flood. The forces and powers at work during the flood far exceeded the forces and powers of nature that we experience today.

Once again, there was a major change from what was and what now is.

Another example: The Genesis account speaks of 4 major rivers that flowed in the land of Shinar. Today, only two of these, the Tigris and the Euphrates, are known. It has even been speculated that the ocean that separates Africa from South America may have found its genesis in the cataclysm of the great flood.

Another victim of the flood was probably the Garden of Eden. Although many have searched for it, its location does not appear to be identifiable today.

To summarize, the implications of the flood (what one would expect to see as a result on the earth) are an extensive layer of fossils in the sub-surface strata, evidence of a universal mass extinction (since all creatures on the land were covered by the flood of waters) and a very dramatic change in the earth's environment. And this is what we find in the evidence of the earth strata today.

Also, without the protective shield of the canopy (see chapter 6 in this workbook, p.50), life forms on the earth would see an acceleration of the life-death process. The inhabitants of the earth are now exposed to the ultraviolet rays of the sun. A chart (end of this lesson) of the ages of the men on earth before and after the flood shows a very rapid diminishing of the human age. And this is what is recorded in the Genesis record.

Human lifespans before the flood were in the 700-900 year range while after the flood, the length of life drops into the low one hundreds. (see Gen. 5 and 11:10-26) Lifespan decreased exponentially (95% correlation) after the flood. Reptiles continue to grow throughout life, so a 12-ft Komodo dragon back then may have reached over 100 ft length.

Also, our current atmosphere would not support flying reptiles found in fossils which would require more than two times the present atmospheric pressure.

Support systems

One of the life principles of our current existence is that all living things need a support system. For example, the birds of the air need oxygen, water, worms and seed, a user-friendly environment, etc. Similarly, plants need the nourishment of the soil, rain, sun, etc.

In the creation account, God created the support system for living beings before he created the living beings. Then, when he placed the animals, beasts of the field, birds, fish and mankind on the earth, the environment, the support system, the things they needed to sustain life, were already present.

Evolution postulates that life came into existence but fails to explain how that life system could perpetuate itself because there was no existing support system for its protection, feeding and nurturing.

Why people don't want to believe in a God

In the Genesis account, God exists at the very beginning of time (see Gen. 1:1; Ps 90:2) He is the Creator, the prime mover and the author of all that we see and experience.

He is the all-wise, all-knowing, all powerful, loving God who has called all things into being by His spoken Word.

Since He is the Creator and we are his creation, therefore, we have an obligation to him, to love Him, to obey Him and to achieve the purposes for which He created each one of us. (No one among us is without purpose.)

According to the Genesis account, all things that were created were very good. But then, sin entered into the world. This sin nature, which all of mankind has, is opposed to God. It doesn't want to submit to God nor serve Him in any way. Because of sin, man is a rebel. And no rebel wants anyone telling them what to do or how to live.

By denying the Biblical creation account, man can then deceive himself into believing he is not accountable to God and therefore, can live his life in whichever way he chooses. But this deception will only last until the day when everyone will stand before God and give an accounting of how their days on earth were spent. Then, the evil and deceitful workings of the human heart will be exposed. And no amount of rhetoric will change the fact of a life lived in rebellion and unbelief towards God.

In Romans 1:18ff, Paul is very clear that every man has some knowledge of God. However, man rejects the knowledge of God that he has and worships and serves the creation. In this process, man becomes more and more debased, hardening his heart against God. Paul makes it very clear that because everyone has some knowledge of God, each person will be judged according to their response to the knowledge of God that they have.

The following scriptures give us insight about our universe and God.

- Gen. 1:1ff God existed in the beginning and He created the heavens and the earth.
- Gen. 1:31 Everything that God made during the initial creative acts was very good.
- Gen. 2:1 The work of creating all of the heavens and earth was finished.
- Ps 8:3 “When I consider your heavens, the works of your fingers, the moon and stars which you have ordained...”
- Ps 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork.”
- Ps. 90:2b “Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” (This doesn’t answer our question about the origin of God, but it does tell us what we need to know.)
- Ps 100:3b “It is He who has made us and not we ourselves.”
- Ps. 136:5-9 He made the heavens, the earth, the sun, moon and stars.

John 1:1ff In the beginning was the Word (God, the Son) and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made through Him.

Use the five lines below to add your own statements about God and creation from scripture that you discover as you do your own studies.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The importance of Genesis

It is important to understand that the events of Genesis are literal and historical events. All Biblical doctrines have their origins in the book of Genesis. (e.g. creation and purpose of the world, marriage, sin, death, suffering, the gospel, God's attitude towards His creation, Jesus' redemptive activity on earth, hope, the flood, origin of nations and languages, etc.)

If Genesis is a myth, i.e. not factual, or is an allegory, then Christian doctrines have no foundation. It's no wonder that the world (and its ruler) want to destroy the foundations. Without the foundations, we have no basis for building a holy life style.

If the Genesis account of Adam's sin and fall is not a real, historical event, then we do not understand man's problem nor the need for redemption. And, the redemptive work of God in time through the birth, life, death, burial and resurrection of His Son, Jesus, has no meaning for the present generation and redemption is not real.

The history of Abraham and the patriarchs becomes entertaining but meaningless stories. The flood, God's judgment upon a wicked people, is pointless. The slavery of the Israelites in Egypt, the 40 years trek through the

wilderness, conquering the promised land, the kings and mighty men, the angels who announced that the Messiah king had arrived, and on throughout the history of the Bible and the hope of things to come...are no longer relevant, if the foundations were fictitious and faulty.

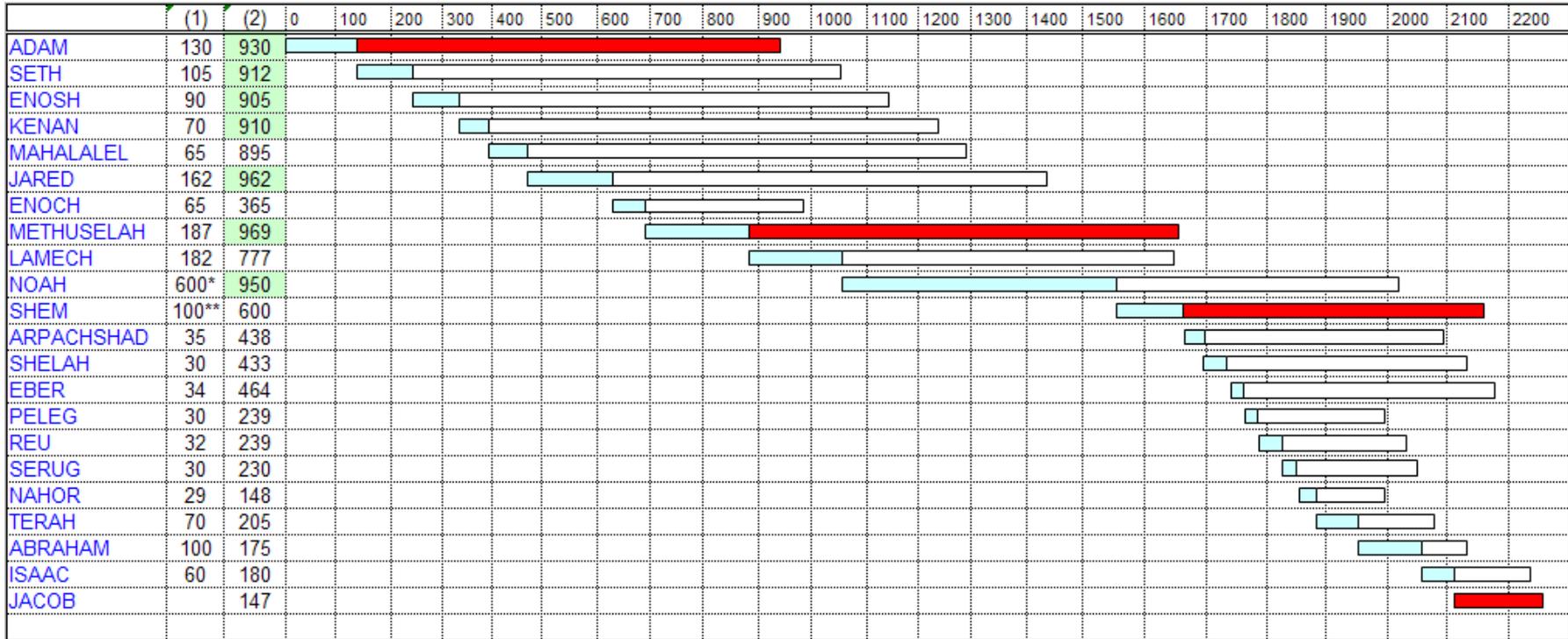
Creation and Evolution Differences

	Creation	Evolution	Comments
Initial process mechanism	God spoke and called things into existence that did not exist. ¹	Time, chance ² , big bang, survival of the fittest ³ (struggle for survival)	There is no known evolution mechanism.
Purpose	Glorify God.	None	
Source	God	Unknown Panspermia published in several places	One scientific journal published an article suggesting that life on earth was "seeded" from outer space, possibly by aliens
Current process	Decay ⁴ /law of entropy (also known as the 2 nd Law of thermodynamics)	A decrease in entropy (complexity increases) Lower state of useful, higher randomness Entropy increases	Entropy = a given state, without the introduction of intelligence, is moving to a lower energy state.
Materials of origin God's Word is power: energy to mass conversion	None, God spoke and brought things into existence that previously did not exist.	A gaseous, primeval sea of unknown origin	
Age	6-10,000 years	4 ½ billion years ⁵	
Support system at origin	God created the earth (man's support system) before placing Adam on it.	None	
Accountability	To God – to love and obey Him	None	Man chooses his own system of morality.
Laws of society	God's Word	Determined by man	
Future	Glorification, with God in heaven for time everlasting for those who are His.	Uncertain/annihilation?	

Additional notes and comments on this chart are provided on the next page.

1. Creation processes are no longer being used by God today except in the case of miracles.
2. Chance is an abstract idea related to the potential for an event to occur. It is a non-entity. It has no real substance, no real presence. It has no intelligence. It has no power, wisdom or ability. It is simply an abstract concept created to postulate a theoretical measurement. Chance has no causative effect; it does not produce information.
3. If “survival of the fittest” were indeed the process for natural advancement, then there should be no need for environmental protection programs today. Those organisms that are disappearing are simply following the natural path of those less fit.
4. The decay processes in nature today were actuated when Adam sinned.
5. This number is continually changing.

The Overlapping Ages of the Patriarchs



Facts: Noah lived 58 years after the birth of Abraham.

(1) Age at birth of son

Adam was alive at the time of Lamech's birth.

(2) Years lived

Shem died when Jacob was 48.

* 600 at beginning of the flood

Shem and Eber outlived Abraham.

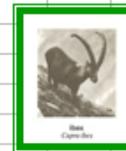
** 98 at end of the flood

Adam to Jacob - 3 links

Names:	Definitions:
NOAH	rest
SHEM	name
ARPACHSHAD	stronghold of the Chaldees
SHELAH	be still/rest
EBER	"the man across"/"the opposite side"
PELEG	division
REU	friend/companion
SERUG	branch (district in Mesopotamia)
NAHOR	snore/snort
TERAH	type of mountain goat/ibex
ABRAHAM	father of a multitude
ISAAC	laughter
JACOB	supplanter

It appears that some of them gave their names to the districts or areas which they or their descendants occupied.

Noah/Shem: Their long lives - a testimony - warning regarding ungodliness.



CREATION/EVOLUTION TIME MODELS

A. Creation Time Model (from God's Word)



Before Time	CREATION Creation Week	FELLOWSHIP Adam/Eve to sin	SIN Sin to Flood	FLOOD Flood to Christ's Return	CHRIST'S RETURN Millenium	END of TIME New Creation
God existed "I AM"	"7 days" "ex nihilo" Earth called into existence Earth placed into orbit & rotation Stars in place Sun & moon created Vegetation All animals created according to distinct "kinds" Creation of man from the dust "It was good"	Fellowship with God No sin No death or decay No disease No rain – mist from the ground Canopy Man & animals eat plants Temperature of earth same throughout Long lives (~ 900 years) No thorns, thistles (weeds) Dinosaurs	Fellowship with God is broken Sin Death Decay Disease No rain – mist from the ground Canopy Vegetarians Temperature of the earth same throughout Long lives Thorns/thistles Dinosaurs Physical changes: - serpent - woman - ground cursed	Fellowship can be restored Sin in all men Death Decay continues Disease Rain World-wide Flood Canopy destroyed Meat added to diet Man subject to cosmic radiation Diverse temperatures Ice at polar regions Life span shortened Fossil record (from flood) Some dinosaurs becoming extinct	1000 years Satan chained Christ rules on earth No deception	End of time No night No sun/moon No death No curse No sorrow No pain Satan banished Redemption complete God dwelling with His people

B. Evolution Time Model

Beginnings??....."all processes continue as they have from the beginning".....??
Lifeless....."Natural Selection"
Chaos....."Survival of the fittest"
Mass....."Mutation"
Forces....."Hopeful Monsters"??
Age of the earth ~ 4,500,000,000 years.....**purpose???**
hope??

BIBLE STUDY #6

Dinosaurs in the Bible

One of the mysteries of our day is the existence of fossil remains of creatures that are not seen by most people on the earth today.

Most people agree that dinosaurs existed at one time on the face of the earth. But, to many, they are relegated to a period of time long ago.

Some common statements that are heard in today's society are:

- After all, "No one has seen a dinosaur."
- And: "They have been extinct for over 60 million years."
- "Even if they were around during the time of Noah, he couldn't have taken them onto the ark."

Is it true that no one has seen a dinosaur?

Are they extinct today?

If they were on the earth during Noah's time (approximately 24th century B.C.), how would Noah have gotten them on the ark?

Another question we will explore is: "Are dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible?"

Then we will look at some legends and artifacts from around the world.

Lesson Outline:

- I. The Days of Creation
- II. The canopy
- III. The Flood
 - A. flood legends
 - B. finding Noah's ark
 - C. after the flood
- IV. Fossils
- V. Dinosaurs in the Bible?
- VI. What happened to the dinosaurs?
- VII. Legends (dinosaurs) and artifacts

I. The Days of Creation

On Day 6 of creation, the scriptures record: 24 "...Let the earth bring forth the living creature..." 25 "...according to its kind...and everything that creeps upon the earth" (Gen. 1:24-25)

This indicates the creation by God of every living creature that moves upon the face of the earth. This includes dinosaurs, both male and female, since this would be necessary in order to propagate the species. (See also Job 40:15 where God tells Job that he created the behemoth along with him.) See also Gen. 1: 27,31, man and beast created on the same day.

This verse also indicates that the beasts were created not eggs which would later be hatched.

We aren't told at what state of life the beasts were created. There must have been some state of maturity for them to continue in their state of existence and to reproduce.

2:19 "God formed every living beast of the field...and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them."
Adam must have seen the dinosaurs.

It is important to note that the creative processes of God ceased once the work of the creation week was finished. (see Gen. 2:1-2)

II. The Canopy

During this time there was a canopy of waters above the earth which created a greenhouse effect on the earth.

"Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so." (Gen. 1:6-7)

The word “firmament” is the common translation of the Hebrew word “raqia.” This word means expanse, or “spread out thinness.” It most likely indicates the space directly above the earth’s surface which we call the atmosphere.

The waters above the “firmament” were most likely a thick blanket of water vapor. This is the likely scenario since it would have to be transparent for the heavenly bodies to be “for signs and seasons...on the earth.” (Gen. 1:14-15)

Additionally, water vapor readily transmits solar radiation but also retains and disperses radiation reflected from the earth, thereby creating a greenhouse effect on the surface of the earth. Temperatures all over the surface of the earth (including the polar regions) would have been maintained at uniform levels.

A water vapor canopy would also be instrumental in filtering out harmful ultraviolet radiation and other harmful energies from space and would contribute to individual and species health and longevity. (See “The Overlapping Ages of the Patriarchs” chart at the end of lesson #5 of this book.)

Now the “waters above” and the “waters below” are positioned to perform their function on the earth of sustaining life.

This would have provided a climate conducive to the continued existence of dinosaurs.

At a later time, this water vapor canopy would provide a reservoir of waters needed by God when bringing the “flood catastrophe” upon the earth. (the fountains of the deep burst forth and the windows of heaven were opened).(See Gen. 7:11)

III. The Flood

Before the flood, when the canopy existed, people lived to be 900 or greater. (see chart: “The Overlapping Ages of the Patriarchs” at the end of lesson #5 of this book)

Noah was 600 when the flood waters were upon the earth. (Gen. 7:6)

But, once the windows of heaven were opened during the cataclysm of the flood (Gen. 7:11), the climate under which they existed was drastically changed. After the flood, the lifespan of man began to reduce rapidly.

When Noah got on the ark, two of every kind of species were with him. The animals he took would most likely have been young, small ones. Young dinosaurs would eat less and take up less space.

A. Flood legends:

Legends abound in the cultures of our times. Often, these legends grow out of a true life event or situation. However, over time, the true stories take on the characteristics of a culture and they become altered to reflect local heroes and culture in the story replacing key figures and descriptive events in terms of local lore.

There are more than 270 flood legends in the various cultures of the world today. These legends talk about a great flood, a boat and a small number of people. They often speak of animals.

A few examples of these legends:

Hawaii – Nu-u big canoe filled with animals, one family

Chinese – Fuhi – wife, 3 sons, 3 daughters escaped a great flood

Toltec Indians of Mexico – great flood, after 1716 years

Ararat – On turkish map – *Noah un Gimisi* “Noah’s big boat”

B. Finding Noah’s Ark

There have been many efforts at finding the ark. There are 3 theories about the existence of the ark today:

1. It may have been torn apart by Noah and his family to build shelters.

2. After over 4000 years of weathering, it has deteriorated and fallen apart so that it no longer exists.
3. It still exists somewhere in the mountains of Ararat.

C. After the Flood

Now, after the flood, the canopy is gone. The climate on the earth has changed. Rain falls from the skies instead of a mist coming up from the earth to water the earth. The inhabitants of the earth are now exposed to the ultraviolet rays of the sun. Many locations on the earth (colder climates, i.e. polar regions) are now not conducive to the life of large, cold-blooded reptiles.

This does not rule out the possibility of dinosaurs still living on the earth but the places where they most likely could continue to exist are in remote, warmer climates such as are found along the equator.

IV. **Fossils**

All dinosaurs that were not on the ark were drowned in the flood. As the waters subsided, the sediment that was in the waters settled like a covering burial sheet over the face of the earth.

This burial took place very quickly. (necessary for fossilization to occur)

Fossilization occurred over a period of time as the dead plants and animals lay under the layers of sediment. The bones of the buried animals turned to stone as minerals carried by the ground water replace the bones and teeth of the animals.

Later, the fossils become exposed as the ground around them eroded away.

V. **Dinosaurs in the Bible**

The term “dinosaurs” was created by Richard Owen in 1841. Prior to this time, they were called “dragons.” (See the following scriptures – from AKJV)

- A.. Tannim -Hebrew word for dragons, monster, sea-serpent, whale, jackal
Job 30:29 “I am a brother to dragons...”

Ps 44:19 “though Thou hast sore broken us in the place of dragons...”
 Ps 148:7 “You great sea creatures” (the Heb. word for dragon: *tannim*)
 Isa. 34:13 “...and it shall be a habitation of dragons...”
 Jer. 9:11 “I will make Jerusalem... a den of dragons...”
 Jer. 14:6 they snuffed up the winds like dragons...”
 Mic. 1:8 I will make a wailing like the dragons...”

B. Other descriptors:

Sharaph Mewpep Isa. 14:29 “...a fiery, flying serpent...”

Leviathan Job 41:19-21 Leviathan sparks of fire...nostrils goeth forth
 smoke

:21 flame goeth forth out of his mouth

Behemoth Job 40:15* “Now look at the Behemoth, which I made along
 with you.”

(God says he created them when he was making man.)

They can look and see him in the present moment.

Thus, God confirms that during the creation week, when God was making man, He also made the Behemoth (probably a Brachiosaurus or a Suprasaurus. (see descriptions below)

:17 tail like a cedar

:18 bones of iron

:19 chief of the ways of God

* The Reese Chronological Bible places this text at 1967 B.C. This is the time that Abraham was on the earth. Logically then, Abraham may have seen or been aware of dinosaurs.

Job 41:8 Leviathan – you’ll never do it again

Dan 13-14 Apocryphal (non-canonical) book in the Catholic Bible. Although this book is not recognized as a part of the Scripture canon, it does give evidence that man was familiar with these creatures.

14:22 great dragon

- :25 Daniel: I will kill the dragon without sword or club.
- :26 Daniel took pitch, salt and hair, boiled them and made lumps
Got the dragon to eat the lumps – he burst asunder
Pitch – sticky tree sap used to coat ships to make them
waterproof
Salt – animals like the taste of salt
Hair – will not digest

These verses indicate the presence of dragons (dinosaurs) during the days after the flood. They also show that man and dragons (dinosaurs) were in existence together; e.g. God tells Job to look at the behemoth. He would not have told him to look at the beast if he were not visible. (The behemoth was definitely not a hippopotamus or elephant as some commentaries would have you believe.)

NOTE: Some Creationists hold that the word “dragon” referenced a number of different types of large reptile creatures:

- Dinosaur: land-dwelling, legs directly under the body
- Dimetrodon: legs out to the side
- Plesiosaurs: marine reptile
- Pterosaur: flying reptile

VI. What happened to the Dinosaurs?

There are several reasons the dinosaurs became mostly extinct:

1. Some species from the ark became extinct simply because they could not survive the change in the earth’s climate after the flood with the canopy destroyed.
2. Dinosaurs may have been hunted for meat.
3. They also could have been hunted because they presented a danger to the people and a competition for the land. Certainly the large carnivores such as the Tyrannosaurus Rex would have been a big threat

along with the larger dinosaurs (e.g. Brachiosaurus, Apatosaurus) who would have had huge appetites.

4. A T-Rex tooth or Megaraptor claw would have been a great trophy for the hunters wall display.
5. There are indications that some dinosaur parts may have been used for medicinal purposes.

Another possibility regarding the existence or non-existence of dinosaurs is that dinosaurs do exist on the earth today, but only in remote climates that are conducive to their survival. (e.g. equatorial regions)

VII. Dinosaur Legends and Artifacts

Chinese – Yu – drove off snakes and dragons

326 B.C Alexander the great – scared by great dragons that lived in caves

2nd cent A.D. Roman mosaic depicting 2 long-necked dragons fighting

275 A.D. Saint George slaying the dragon

583 A.D. Beowulf – slew many dragons

At age 88, he killed Grendel, the dragon, by pulling off one of its arms and it bled to death.

ICA stone shows a man and a dinosaur together

600 B.C. Babylonian cylinder seal pictures a man pulling an arm off of a dragon

Africa: Likouala swamp – 55,000 square miles

In last 200 years – many reports of dinosaurs, identified from drawings as an Apatosaurus

Loch Ness – over 11,000 documented sightings of an Elasmosaurus

In many of these sightings, the people who saw the beast were asked to draw or describe what they saw. There is an

amazing correlation between many of the accounts and the figures drawn often closely resemble an Elasmosaurus.

1272 A.D. Marco Polo – China – emperor raised dragons to pull chariots in parades

1611 A.D. Chinese emperor – posted a position for a “royal dragon feeder”

ABOUT PASTOR DAVID

I grew up in Illinois; my wife, Brenda, in Oregon. It was a path of many twists and turns to get the two of us connected in California! We entered into our marriage covenant in 1986 after she had agreed to my proposal for a life of adventure. Brenda claims that she scarcely comprehended the adventure that our life would be simply by saying those two little words (I do).



We had both been Christians for a number of years and determined to make God the center of our marriage. In order to make a good beginning, we structured our wedding vows around the instructions of Scripture. We are convinced that this is the reason for our successful, growing relationship.

I received my BS in Civil Engineering in 1966 from the University of Missouri. Having taken ROTC in college, I next served as an officer in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany.

After returning home to the states, I attended Golden Gate Seminary in California and received a Master of Divinity in 1972.

I worked for three Engineering companies before settling in with GE Nuclear Energy in San Jose, California. I finished my engineering career with 25 years of service at GE.

I was ordained a minister of the gospel in 1991.

Brenda is blessed with musical gifts and has played numerous instruments, e.g. bassoon, flute, guitar, piano, bass. She taught piano to children for 14 years until our move to Wilmington, NC. I also had some musical inclinations, growing up in a musical family in which everyone played at least one instrument. Brenda also has a heart for and is involved in a local "Special Touch" ministry, a ministry to people with disabilities.

Several years ago, we began attending Calvary Chapel San Jose, CA where Don McClure was pastoring. The emphasis on God's Word and the presence of God's Spirit in the worship kept us coming back until we felt confident that this was to be our church home.

Brenda became involved with the Praise team playing flute and singing. She also led the worship for two Women's Bible studies. I became involved in the teaching ministry working principally with the mature adults class (ages around 50-95, they called themselves the "Sonshiners") and also a young married couples class.

Even though we felt like we were settling into the San Jose Fellowship, in early 2004 we were presented with a company relocation, and we began to feel that God was leading us to a significant change, relocating from the West Coast to the East Coast. Little did we know what was in store for us in Wilmington, NC.

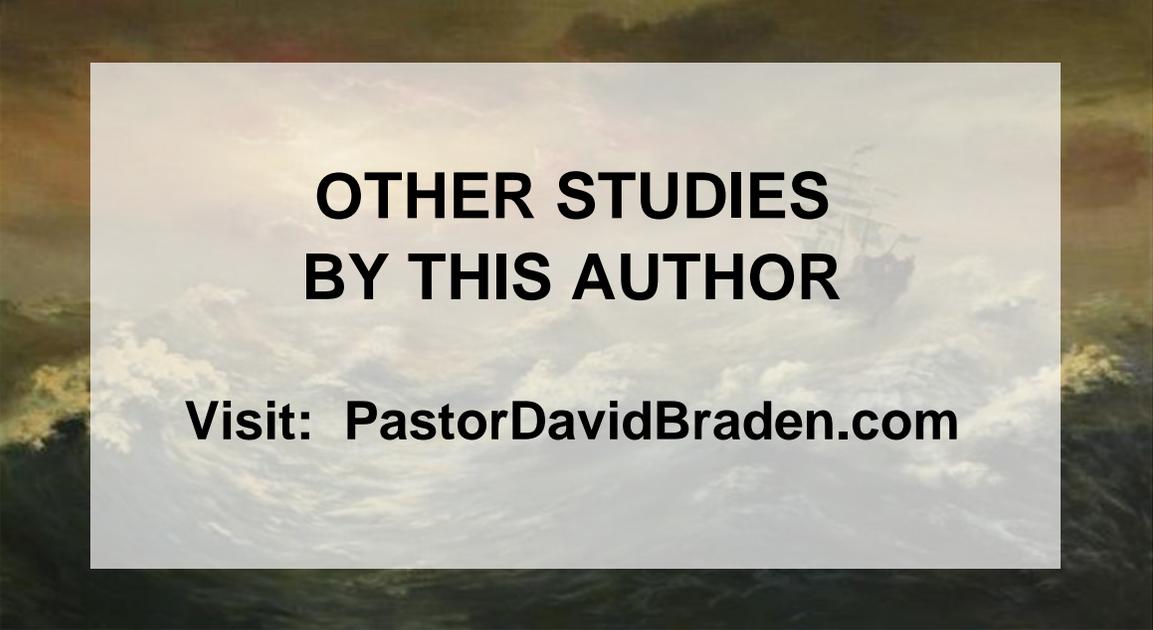
We often felt like Abraham who was told to leave his homeland but was given no information regarding what he would encounter when he arrived at his destination.

The next very shocking surprise was my early retirement, something we had not even considered when planning the move to the east coast. Nevertheless, God made it very clear that my engineering career of 37 years was soon to be ended. The retirement occurred almost 5 years in advance of my plan. But God had a bigger (and better) plan. One of my reoccurring supplications to God has been that I would rather be expending the main energy of my life teaching the Word of God than pouring it into the management of engineering projects and writing technical engineering reports. Now, God was giving me the desire of my heart.

I eventually came on staff with a local church and served for 7½ years as an associate pastor teaching Bible studies and ministering principally in the Equipping the Saints ministry. Brenda was involved in several ministries... Praise Team, Special Touch, hospitality/helps, Home Fellowships, to mention a few.

After a 1-year sabbatical in 2014, God has led us to begin a new fellowship which is called Safe Haven Berean Fellowship. Our focus is principally on the Word of God, with both Bible book studies and doctrinal teachings in progress at this time. Principal focuses are on the assurance of salvation, knowing what God in Christ has done for us, learning to live in a way that honors and glorifies God, and a continual focus upon our End Times preparations for our coming King.

Looking back now over the years that led us to this place in life, we are amazed at the Sovereignty of God and how he has orchestrated the events that have brought us to this place in this time. His loving and merciful hand has been seen time and again as he has opened doors and brought us quickly to where He wants us to be. He is, without question, an awesome God.

A painting of a ship on a stormy sea with a white text box overlaid. The ship is a three-masted vessel, possibly a galleon, sailing on a dark, turbulent sea under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The text box is centered and contains the following text:

**OTHER STUDIES
BY THIS AUTHOR**

Visit: PastorDavidBraden.com