



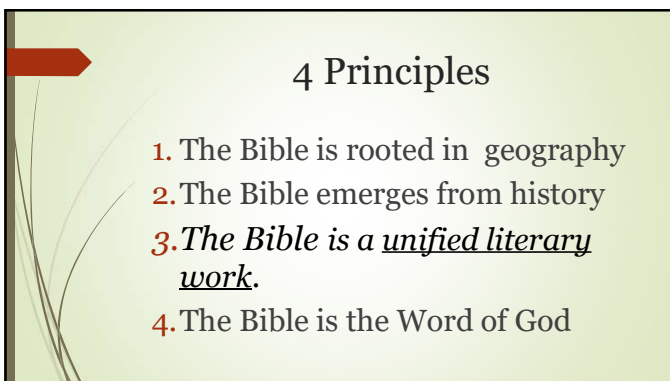
Week Three
Sin Enters the World

PASTOR'S
BIBLE STUDY



Review

Our 4 Principles and Understanding as we read



4 Principles

1. The Bible is rooted in geography
2. The Bible emerges from history
3. *The Bible is a unified literary work.*
4. The Bible is the Word of God

To understand the Bible you need to understand the World to which it is written. Our cultural assumptions:


- *Patriarchal*
- *Monarchical*
- *Polytheistic*
- *Slaveholding*

Where we left off

Hebrew Scripture
Poetry

Creation stories take many forms

Creation in Chaos Creation bringing Order



We learned about Creation

- Creation in Chapter 1 was a balanced harmonious act
- Day One led to Day Two, etc. Each in ending with “And God saw that it was good”
- Day Six we see God creating Man. And “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good”.
- Day Seven God rests
- God Point of View
- Elohim – Majesty – hint of the triune God

Parallelism

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

A

B

²⁷ So God **created** mankind **in his own image**,

B

in the image of God he created them;

A

male and female **he created them**.

Inclusio

(sometimes double inclusio):
 Repetition of same language at beginning and end of a section of literature forming bookends. An inclusio tells the reader that what is in the middle of the two bookends is support or an explanation of what the words making up the bookends

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The word order in Hebrew is different. In the beginning:

Created God heavens and earth

Created	A
God	B
Heavens and the earth	C

Then we looked at the end of the story

Chapter 2 verse 1

C

Thus **the heavens and the earth** were completed in all their vast array.

B


² By the seventh day **God** had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

A

³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of **creating** that he had done.

Then we studied the Second Creation Story

- Recapitulated back into the first story at day six.
- Man's point of view – Gardens point of view
- Intimate covenant relation
 - YHWH Elohim
 - End of Genesis Chapter 2 – Adam and Eve were in love with one another
 - ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."
 - ²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.




We ended our session

²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.



Conflict Enter in Chapter 3
Sin enters the world



Genesis 3:1-5 NIV
The Fall
³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"
² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"
⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Who is the serpent

Created being

Revelation 20:1-6 NIV

The Thousand Years

20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. **2** He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. **3** He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They^d had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **5** (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

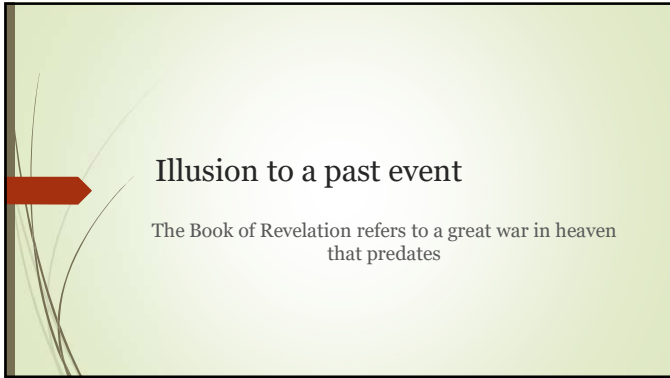
Luke 10 NIV

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

16 “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

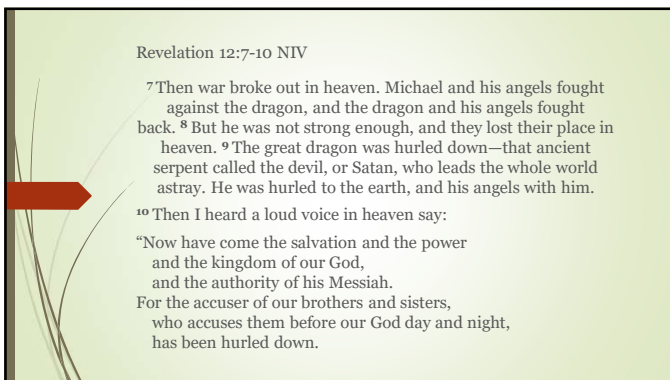
17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

18 He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **19** I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. **20** However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”



Illusion to a past event

The Book of Revelation refers to a great war in heaven that predates

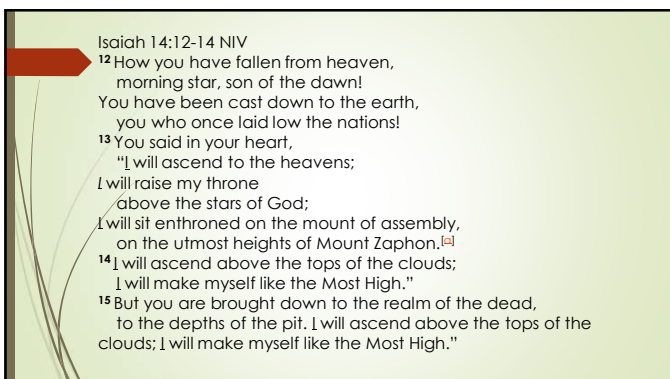


Revelation 12:7-10 NIV

7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.



Isaiah 14:12-14 NIV

12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

13 You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.^[a]

14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

15 But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

Ezekiel 28 NIV

Note: Ezekiel was taken captive in the second wave of attack by the Babylonians in 597 BCE. He is writing about the King of Tyre. Tyre is a major deep water port in modern day Lebanon.

God is speaking about the King of Tyre

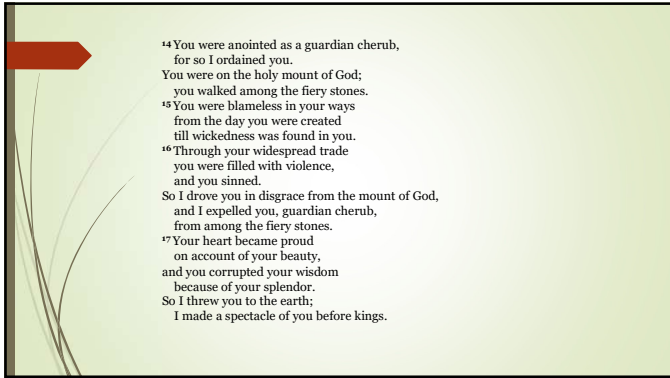
A Prophecy Against the King of Tyre

28 The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

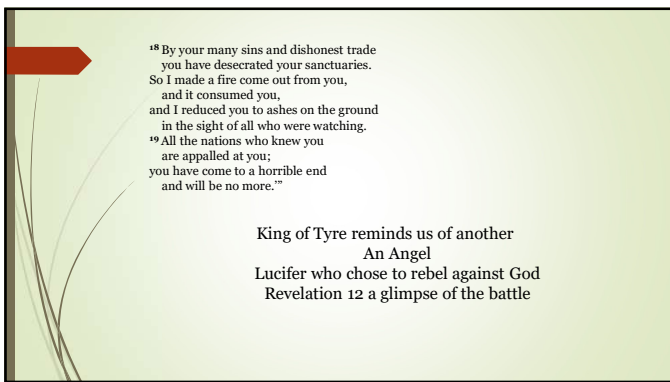
"In the pride of your heart
you say, 'I am a god;
I sit on the throne of a god
in the heart of the seas.'
But you are a mere mortal and not a god,
though you think you are as wise as a god.

³ Are you wiser than Daniel?⁴
Is no secret hidden from you?
⁴ By your wisdom and understanding
you have gained wealth for yourself
and amassed gold and silver
in your treasuries.
⁵ By your great skill in trading
you have increased your wealth,
and because of your wealth
your heart has grown proud.
⁶ "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
"Because you think you are wise,
as wise as a god,
⁷ I am going to bring foreigners against you,
the most ruthless of nations;
they will draw their swords against your beauty and
wisdom
and pierce your shining splendor.
⁸ They will bring you down to the pit,
and you will die a violent death
in the heart of the seas.

Will you then say, "I am a god,"
in the presence of those who kill you?
You will be but a mortal, not a god,
in the hands of those who slay you.
¹⁰ You will die the death of the uncircumcised
at the hands of foreigners.
I have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord."
¹¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ¹² "Son of man, take up a
lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what
the Sovereign Lord says:
¹³ "You were the seal of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
¹⁴ You were in Eden,
the garden of God;
every precious stone adorned you:
carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,
topaz, onyx and jasper,
lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl."¹⁵
Your settings and mountings¹⁶ were made of gold;
on the day you were created they were prepared.

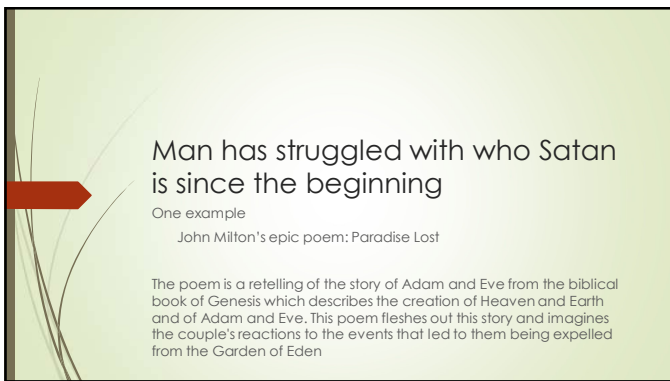


¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.
You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.
¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.
¹⁶ Through your widespread trade
you were filled with violence,
and you sinned.
So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,
and I expelled you, guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.
¹⁷ Your heart became proud
on account of your beauty,
and you corrupted your wisdom
because of your splendor.
So I threw you to the earth;
I made a spectacle of you before kings.



¹⁸ By your many sins and dishonest trade
you have desecrated your sanctuaries.
So I made a fire come out from you,
and it consumed you,
and I reduced you to ashes on the ground
in the sight of all who were watching.
¹⁹ All the nations who knew you
are appalled at you;
you have come to a horrible end
and will be no more.”

King of Tyre reminds us of another
An Angel
Lucifer who chose to rebel against God
Revelation 12 a glimpse of the battle



Man has struggled with who Satan
is since the beginning

One example
John Milton's epic poem: Paradise Lost

The poem is a retelling of the story of Adam and Eve from the biblical book of Genesis which describes the creation of Heaven and Earth and of Adam and Eve. This poem fleshes out this story and imagines the couple's reactions to the events that led to them being expelled from the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:1-5 NIV

The Fall

3 Now the serpent (**Hebrew** word 'nachash' meaning the **shining one** has been rendered '**snake**' or '**serpent**') was **more crafty** than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

Is that what God said?

Genesis Chapter 2

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. **5** "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

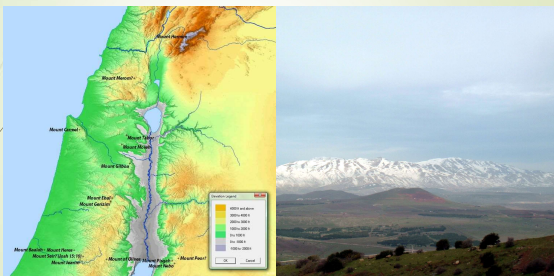
Something happened?

Matthew 17 NIV

The Transfiguration

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. 4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Mt Hermon – 9,232'



⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring^[a] and hers;
he will crush^[b] your head,
and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶ To the woman he said,
"I will make your pains in childbearing very
severe;

with painful labor you will give birth to
children.

Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you."

Not just pain in delivery

¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

²⁰ Adam^[c] named his wife Eve,^[d] because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

*Death enters the world
The Lord God limits a man's life it is no longer
eternal*

Living a life in sin is by definition hell

Sin has entered the world

- It is not an act

When Adam and Eve eat the fruit, *sin* enters the world, the conflict of our story. The Hebrew word for "sin" suggests "missing the mark", but in scripture it is more complex. "Sin" is not simply an act of disobedience that one commits, but an ongoing condition that one is in. For the purpose of our narrative, we might define sin as "a condition of alienation and separation from God that manifests itself in outward, sinful actions."

- It is a condition
 - Sin is subtle – just like the serpent as he undermines Eve's understanding
 - Sin distorts our judgement – what should Adam and Eve do when they ate of the fruit
 - Sin escalates – It gets bigger and bigger until it kills you
 - Sin cascades down through generations

A symbol for sin in the Bible is Leprosy

Note: Not modern day Hansen's disease

Luke 5:12-16 NIV

Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy

¹² While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy.¹³ When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

¹³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

¹⁴ Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

¹⁵ Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

A symbol for sin in the Bible is Leprosy

Leviticus 13:9-33 NIV

⁹ "When anyone has a defiling skin disease, they must be brought to the priest. ¹⁰ The priest is to examine them, and if there is a white swelling in the skin that has turned the hair white and if there is raw flesh in the swelling, ¹¹ it is a chronic skin disease and the priest shall pronounce them unclean. He is not to isolate them, because they are already unclean....

Chapter 3 comes to a close

²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^[e] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

In Chapter 4 we begin to see the consequences of sin in the world

Genesis 4 NIV

Cain and Abel

¹ Adam^[a] made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.^[b] She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth^[c] a man." ² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."^[d] While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

^{6 10} The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

The story continues

Woman is no a longer partner

¹⁹ Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. ²⁰ Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. ²¹ His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes. ²² Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of¹⁴ bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain’s sister was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives,
“Adah and Zillah, listen to me;
wives of Lamech, hear my words.
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for injuring me.

²⁴ If Cain is avenged seven times,
then Lamech seventy-seven times.”

One Action leads to another

By Verse 6 we read:

Wickedness in the World

6 When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, **2** the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. **3** Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with ^[a] humans forever, for they are mortal^[b]; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.” **4** The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. **6** The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

So what does God do?

7 So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.”

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.


So Chapters 6 through 9 is the story of God giving man a second chance.

But in that second chance what did Noah do?


18 So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. **19** All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another. **20** Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.


21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though^[a] every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

 We jump ahead and things are good:

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

 ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.

 Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.

So now we see what Noah does to return us back to square one

20 Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded^[a] to plant a vineyard. 21 When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. 22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. 23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.

24 When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said, "Cursed be Canaan!
The lowest of slaves
will he be to his brothers."
26 He also said,
"Praise be to the LORD, the God of Shem!
May Canaan be the slave of Shem.
27 May God extend Japheth's^[b] territory;
may Japheth live in the tents of Shem,
and may Canaan be the slave of Japheth."

The condition of sin was not washed from the earth and man has not changed

So, the story continues

The Tower of Babel

11 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. **2** As people moved eastward,^[a] they found a plain in Shinar^[a] and settled there.

3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. **4** Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

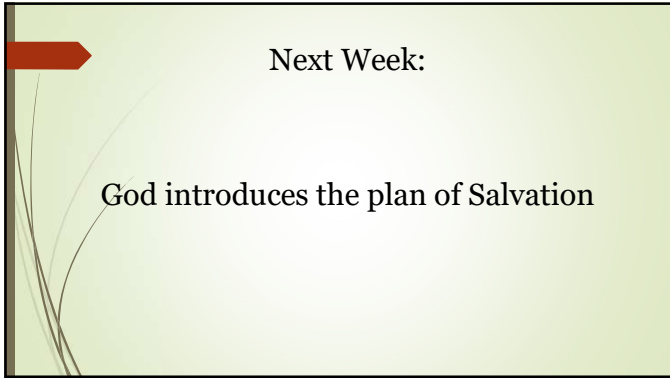
6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. **7** Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. **9** That is why it was called Babel^[a]—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Conclusion:

After reading these chapters what is the one conclusion you can draw

Left to our own devices, we cannot resolve the issue of sin – this is the conflict in the story.



Next Week:

God introduces the plan of Salvation
