

Creation and Fall



Reference: Genesis 1 – 11

Characters: God, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth

Events: Creation; life in the Garden of Eden; first sin; humans sent out of the Garden; Cain kills his brother Abel; Noah’s ark and the flood, the Tower of Babel

God Creates The beginning of the Bible focuses on God as the Creator of everything, and everything God creates is inherently good.



Image Bearers Humans are the pinnacle of God’s creation. They are created in the image of God, bearing something of God in who they are.



Humans Rebel God set simple boundaries for humans to keep, but they chose to cross those boundaries, dooming humanity to separation from God.



Devastating Consequences Generation by generation, the reality of separation from God spoiled every human relationship and endeavor.



Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob



Reference: Genesis 12 - 50

Characters: God, Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; Joseph and his 11 brothers

Events: God chooses Abraham; God establishes a covenant with Abraham; God gives Abraham and Sarah their own son Isaac; Esau and Jacob are born to Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob steals the blessing; Jacob has 12 sons; Joseph’s brothers sell him into slavery; Joseph rescues his family from famine

God Chooses God chose one person, Abraham, and promised to bless him and then through his descendents to bless the whole world—blessed to be a blessing.



Unconditional Covenant God’s promise to Abraham took the form of an unconditional covenant—a binding agreement that God will fulfill no matter what else happens.



Radical Faith Even when evidence of God’s faithfulness was hard to find, Abraham believed God. Such trust is revealed to be the response that God most desires.



Twelve Tribes The descendents of Jacob’s sons became the 12 tribes of Israel and received from God his continued faithfulness to his promise—blessed to be a blessing.



Exodus

Reference: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Characters: God, Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh, Joshua, Caleb

Events: God's people enslaved; God sends Moses; ten plagues reveal God's power; Pharaoh releases then pursues; God parts the Red Sea; Israelites complain to God; God reveals his law; Joshua and Caleb give a good report of the Promise Land; God prevents the Israelites from entering the Promise Land for 40 years.

God Delivers God remains faithful to his promise. He sends his less-than-perfect servant Moses to deliver the Israelites from oppression at the hands of Pharaoh.



God Commands God instructs the Israelites on how they are to relate to him and to each other. God includes blessings and consequences in his covenant with his people.



God Dwells God directs his people to build a tent of meeting in which he will reside in a special way in order to give them access to him through the ministry of the high priest.



Israel Wanders Due to their disobedience, God prevents the generation whom he rescued from Egypt to enter the Promise Land—a privilege God grants to their children.



The Bible has one primary theme: The Promise.

The Bible presents one primary actor: God.

The Bible requires one primary response: Faith

Coming soon ...

July – August

Explore why the Promise Land is so important to the Jews and reasons why their experience there has led to so much conflict.

August – November

Get to know the ups and downs of Israel's kings, God's prophets, and the legacies of their leadership.

December

Discover how the Old Testament storyline points to the person of Christ.