

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 **Search the scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me.**

Last week we began a new series that I trust will honor the Lord Jesus Christ and be a special blessing to our congregation. We are doing as He directed us in Jn. 5:39. Tonight, we will start with the book of Genesis.

The Old Testament Is The New Testament Concealed: The New Testament Is The Old Testament Revealed

Augustine is often cited as the source for this famous quote, defining the meaning of the Bible, but it's origin is actually from the Bible itself. After Jesus had risen from the dead, He appeared to the disciples and told them: *“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. ~Luke 24:44*

<https://robertcliftonrobinson.com/2020/05/23/the-old-testament-is-the-new-testament-concealed-the-new-testament-is-the-old-testament-revealed/>

Some have divided Israel's history into ten periods, not always agreeing upon the dates:

1. Primeval Period: from Creation to the Patriarchs, (Creation – 2166 BC)
2. Patriarchal Period (2166 BC—1446 BC)
3. Exodus Period (1446 BC—1406 BC)
4. Conquest of Canaan (1406 BC –1390 BC)
5. Time of Judges (1390 BC – 1050 BC)
6. United Kingdom (1050 BC – 931 BC)
7. Divided Kingdom (931 BC – 722 BC)
8. Surviving Kingdom (722 BC – 586 BC)
9. Babylonian Captivity (586 BC – 538 BC or 516 BC)
10. Restoration (538 BC – 400 BC)

Paul N. Benware, *Survey of the New Testament (Revised)* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1990), 22.

The book of Genesis begins with Creation and closes with a coffin. In between those events are many wonderful facts that should be an enlightening encouragement to the reader.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

A. The Creation, 1:1—2:25

1. Introduction, 1:1

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

❖ Our introduction to the Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament is Gen. 1:1.

Eph. 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, **who created all things by Jesus Christ:**

Col. 1:16 For **by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and **by him all things consist.**

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things he might have the preeminence.**

2. Narration, 1:2-31

Gen. 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; **male and female created he them.**

3. Conclusion, 2:1-7

Gen. 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and **man became a living soul.**

4. Consummation, 2:8-25

Gen. 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: **she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.**

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

B. The Curse, 3:1—4:15

1. The Fallen Race, 3:1-24

Gen. 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said**, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.

- ❖ The “fall of man” was initiated by the god of this world, the adversary of God and all believers, the deceiver who encourages mankind to question God’s words and to “be as gods.”
- ❖ After “the fall,” is the Protoevangelium:

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and **thou shalt bruise his heel.**

The PROTOEVANGELIUM

The protoevangelium is the term used to describe the first mention of the gospel in reference to Genesis 3:15:

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

- ❖ This verse is a *pre-incarnate* reference to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus met Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Jn. 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

46 **Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.**

Jn. 12:45 And **he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.**

❖ After “the fall,” is “Paradise Lost.” (See John Milton’s book.)

Gen. 3:22 And **the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us**, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

2. The False Religion, 4:1-15

Gen. 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

❖ The first account of worshipping God involves God's way vs. Man's way.

Prov. 14:12 **There is a way which seemeth right unto a man**, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death. (Prov. 16:25)

❖ Instead of repenting, Cain tried to eliminate the source of truth, his brother Abel.

1 Jn. 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Original Word: σφάζω

Transliteration: sphazó

Definition: to slay, slaughter; **Usage:** I slay, kill by violence, slaughter, wound mortally.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4969.htm>

❖ Religion emphasizes works for salvation – The Bible emphasizes that salvation is “the gift of God – NOT OF WORKS!”

Eph. 2 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

Titus 3:5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Conclusion

The first few chapters of Genesis glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as the Creator, as well as pointing us to the cross for redemption.

Jn. 5:39 **Search the scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me.**

2 Tim. 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**