

Introduction

Genesis Overview

Review:

- I. Geography Overview
- II. Timeline Overview (1 and 2/3/4) Green sheet
- III. Patriarch Overview (2 and 3 and 4a/4b) Grey sheet
 1. Pre-History
 2. Abraham
 3. Isaac
 - 4a. Jacob
 - 4b. Joseph

Geography

The Book of Genesis is typically divided into two parts: Pre-history (Genesis 1-11) and The Patriarchs (Genesis 12-50). When we describe the first 11 chapters as pre-history we don't mean that the stories described are only myths, made up by man. Each and every story describes a historical event, revealed by God to Moses, who wrote it down. God created the world in six normal days just as it describes. Adam and Eve were real people created on day six. There was a world-wide flood in which Noah and his family was saved by an ark. Nevertheless, we don't have written history or archaeological proof to corroborate their authenticity. These events happened before written history. When we get to Genesis 12, the events increasingly describe geography and towns and kings and peoples which are mentioned in history. In Genesis 12 we have Abram in Ur who then traveled to Haran and finally to the land of Caanan. We know where those town and places are. Abraham situation fits right in with the timeframe in which people are known by their flocks and servants. Thus, the prophet Job also lived during this time frame. When we get to the lessons beginning with Genesis 12, we will include maps, etc. to show where these events occurred.

What about pre-history? Well, we don't really know. Not only are we not able to pinpoint places like the Garden of Eden, but with the world-wide flood and the catastrophic events of Genesis 6, the face of the earth was surely a different place than it was before. That being said, many Bible scholars would place the cradle of civilization in the Ancient near East, where Abraham began. Part of the reason may be because of the names of two of the rivers (Tigris and Euphrates) match up with the Genesis account. Furthermore, Mt. Ararat which is just north of there is considered the resting place of Noah's

ark(8:4). The city of Babylon is often connected with the tower Babel and Ninevah is mentioned in Genesis 10.

Timeline

Archbishop James Usher (or Ussher) furnished a chronological system in the seventeenth century. Understanding the Biblical genealogies of Genesis as descriptive of a strict linear succession, he concluded that the world was formed at 4004 B.C. This system was incorporated into the margins of the reference edition of the Authorized Version of the Bible published in 1611. Some editions of the King James Version still contain this chronology.

Upon closer examination at some of the genealogies in 1 Chronicles, it is noted that these genealogies are not a strictly linear succession. Sometimes names were left out and the time periods are not necessarily consecutive. For example the genealogy in Genesis has two groups of ten, while the genealogy in Matthew has three units of fourteen. All that being said, though we may not be able to accurately determine that the world began in 4,004 BC. That date is probably as good a date as any. Those Bible scholars who consider the Bible to be the inerrant word of God might quibble about individual dates, but they would all agree that Bp. Usher was probably close. The Scriptures present to us a relatively young earth. The world in which we live is less than 6,000 years old.

Chart of The Antediluvian Period
(where did I get this chart?)

Classical Education

1. Grammar (Facts)
2. Logic (Understanding)
3. Rhetoric (Application)

You can't do everything. You can't teach everything. The children won't be able to retain everything. Some abstract concepts are too difficult for young minds. Therefore, we need a plan which selects a limited amount of material and understanding based on those facts with which to impart to the children.

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All learning is built upon a natural progression of facts, followed by understanding, and then application. Before you can drive a car, you will need to learn the road signs (facts). A red octagonal sign is a stop sign. A yellow triangle is a caution sign. Second, you will need to gain some understanding concerning what needs to occur when you encounter that sign. A stop sign requires the car to come to a complete rest. With a yellow caution, you or you may need to yield to other traffic before your car proceeds. Finally, after learning the signs and their meanings, you will need to apply this learning by driving a car so that you can put it into practice.

With the study of God's Word, there will be plenty of facts which will need to be learned. First there will be facts: The Triune God created the heavens and the earth in six days. After learning the facts, then we can start to impart the meaning of the facts. God is not a part of creation (heaven and earth). He is the Creator. He created the world so that man would have a place to live. The creation of man and a place for him to live, reveals God's great love for us. Finally, we need to apply these facts/understanding to our life. When we come to believe that God created and sustains all things, we need not worry about food, drink and clothing, because God loves us, and is directing all things for our benefit. When we learn of our sin, we realize that God has continued to take care of us only out of Fatherly divine goodness and mercy, and not because of our merit. Finally, as God's redeemed creatures, we should "thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

With lesson one, you will need to define term, so that the children will understand the facts.

In the beginning – Our God did not have a beginning, but this creation did have a beginning point. When time began...

God = The one true God is the Triune God. There is one God, but three persons. You don't have to explain it (for no one can). Just profess what the Scriptures say. The heavenly Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit were there creating all things.

Created – God didn't just make something, like we make cookies—first collecting the ingredients. He created by means of His Word out of nothing.

Heaven and earth – Shorthand for "everything." Heaven is a tricky term. It can refer to the final resting place of believers. However, here it is referring

to the sky above. For example, God set the sun, moon, and stars “in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth” (Gen 1:17).

You have an hour, how many different ways can you bring the facts to the children. You can tell the story. You can show them pictures. You draw the parts of the story. You can sing about the facts. You can chant the facts to a memorable ditty. First and foremost, you need to teach certain facts.

The second stage involves explaining the understanding of those facts. This doesn't mean that you need to engage in some kind of advanced Socratic method in order to do draw the meaning out of the student's inner self. Most of the time, this understanding based upon the facts are simply told to the child.

For example, God created the heaven and the earth. Evolution directly contradicts the Bible's own account. Things didn't happen by chance and don't happen by chance. Our God, who created the world is still sustaining it by His mighty power. If God made all things, then nothing is impossible with God.

Finally, the third stage is the application. We apply the facts and meaning of the Scripture to the life of the child. Sometimes this means that we need to show our sinful lack of trust. When we worry, we show that we don't really believe that God is all powerful, or that He loves us. Our lack of thankfulness, is a sure sign that we think we control our own life.

Approach to Genesis

It is most important, that we approach the book of Genesis with the understanding that this book is intended to teach the way of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Savior. The Old Testament properly distinguishes law and gospel. It teaches salvation by grace through faith in the coming Savior and it condemns works-righteousness behavior as worthy of eternal death.

Just as the Creed presents who God is and what He has and is doing, so the book of Genesis teaches us about creation, redemption and sanctification. We ought to expect to see the Triune God working through His church and her preachers in every age. The only difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is the timing of the coming of the Savior. From Genesis 3 on, the prophets have been pointing forward to the coming of the Savior so that through faith in Him we might be saved. The New Testament

presents to us the completed account of the Savior's coming and His atoning work upon the cross. After the resurrection and ascension, the Apostles (and the pastors who followed them) point to the Savior who has already come.

The beginning of Hebrews chapter 11 interprets the pre-history of the book of Genesis in terms of faith and the righteousness that comes by faith. In verse 4 Abel's sacrifice is described as the witness of his righteousness in Christ. And after works-righteous Cain killed him, martyred Abel is said to be alive. Verse 5 declares that Enoch pleased God, and thus God took him to Himself apart from Enoch's death. Hebrews declares that without faith it would have been impossible for Enoch to please God. Jude 14, tells us that "Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men {*hypocrites in the church*} also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints....'" In verse 7, Noah believed God's warning and moved by fear and faith made an ark. The mere presence of that ark showed forth God's warning to others. Noah was an heir of righteousness. In 2 Peter 2:5, we find that Noah is not just an obedient layman, but "a preacher of righteousness."

Hebrews 11:1-22

1Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
2For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

4By faith **Abel** offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

5By faith **Enoch** was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7By faith **Noah**, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

There are many who use the Old Testament stories to teach moral lessons for holy living. There is the promise of the savior.

Instead, we ought to be looking for the church and find the

Cain killed Abel and murder is wrong. Others have sought to teach the psychology of family relationships. Isaac showed favoritism toward Esau and Rebekah showed favoritism toward Jacob, and it caused family troubles.

Jesus Christ

Immediately after man's fall into sin, the first promise of salvation through Jesus Christ was proclaimed by the Lord. Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." Jesus is that Promised Seed, which comes from the woman (Virgin Mary), and who will be attacked by the devil. Nevertheless, Jesus will bruise (crush) the head of the Serpent and defeat Him. Adam believed the Lord's promise of salvation and called His wife, "Eve" (mother of all the living). She would not actually be the mother of the Savior, but would be in the long line of women, through whom the Savior would come.

Jesus tells his enemies in John 5:39 that the Old Testament speaks of Himself. Jesus said, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and **these are they which testify of Me.**" After His resurrection, Jesus told the Emmaus disciples in Luke 24:25-27, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in **all that the prophets have spoken!** 26 "Ought not the Christ **to have suffered these things** and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." This promise of salvation in Jesus was already there "beginning at Moses," who wrote the first five books of the Holy Scriptures. And once the witness of the Apostles was going out, St. Paul says, in Ephesians 2:19-21 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on **the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone**, 21 in whom **the whole building**, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

We must interpret the book of Genesis as the first book in the Holy Scriptures leading men to repentance and proclaiming to them the promise of salvation through Jesus.

Law/Gospel

Acts 10:43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, **whoever believes in Him** will receive remission of sins."

John 20:31 but these are written **that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

[Type here]

Galatians 3:6-9 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” 7Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” 9So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Line of the Promise

1. From whom will the Savior come?
2. Father Abraham’s Blessing –yellow sheet
 - a. People
 - b. Land
 - c. Abraham honored/blessed
 - d. Blessing to others (Savior)

Playful methods -See Luther

Genesis 15:6 And he{Abraham} believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Gal 3:6-9 above, James 2:23

Romans 4:18-25 {*Abraham...*} who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” 19And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. 20He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21and being fully convinced that **what He had promised He was also able to perform.** 22And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

23Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

A. Pre-History

Doctrines in each story – Catechism topics

Gen 1 – Creation

[Type here]

Gen 2 – Man
Gen 2 – Marriage
Gen 3 – Fall into Sin, Sinful Nature
Gen 3 – Promise of Savior, Law and Gospel
Gen 4 – Cain, Abel, Seth – Temptation, Confession
Gen 4 & 5 – Two Churches
Gen 6-9 –The Flood
Gen 10 – Table of Nations
Gen 11 – Tower of Babel
Gen 11:10-32 Line after Flood, Intro to Abraham

B. Patriarchs

Abram's Call - Gen 12

Savior, Land, People = Jesus, Church, Communion of Saints

[Lot's Rescue, Melchizedek Gen 13-14](#)

Covenant with Abraham, [Hagar's Gives Birth to Ishmael](#) – Gen 15, 16

Circumcision – Gen 17

[Visitors and Sodom Destroyed](#) – Gen 18-19

[Isaac' Birth, Hagar/Ishmael Sent Away](#) – Gen 16, 21

Sacrifice of Isaac – Gen 22

Jacob/Esau Steals Blessing – Gen 25, 27

Jacob's Ladder – Gen 28

[Jacob's time with Laban, Two Wives, Many Sons](#) – Gen 29-31

Jacob Wrestles with God – Gen 32

Joseph's Dreams, Sold into Slavery – Gen 37

Joseph's Rise Fall Rise – Gen 39-41

Joseph's Brothers and Reveal – Gen 42-45

Jacob Moves to Egypt, Deaths of Jacob and Joseph Gen 46-50

Hebrews 11:1-22

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7By faith **Noah**, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

8By faith **Abraham** obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as **an inheritance**. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10for he waited for **the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God**.

11By faith **Sarah** herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

12Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

13These all died in faith, not having received **the promises**, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16But now they desire a better, that is, **a heavenly country**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

17By faith **Abraham**, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” 19concluding that **God was able to raise him up**, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

20By faith **Isaac** blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21By faith **Jacob**, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

22By faith **Joseph**, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Overview for Genesis.docx --4 pages of rough notes

List of Lessons

Lesson	Title	Text	Doctrine
#1	The Creation	Genesis 1:1-2:3	

Luther on play

-see German mass

Large Catechism (OFDP Septuagesima)

Chronology

4,004 B.C. Creation

3,400/2,348 B.C. Noah/Flood

2,165 – 2,039 B.C. Abraham/Patriarchs

--Chronology explanation for Bp Usher

(comparison to secular timeline)

Books of the Bible

Author = Moses

Time = 4,004 B.C. to 1805 BC (2,200 years)

Date Written = 1,430 (during the Exodus)

Grammar (Facts)

Logic (understanding)

Rhetoric (Application)

A. Law

B. Gospel

Doctrines

Sidebars : Angels

Heaven (Place of God's presence)

Altars and Sacrifices

See p. 14 for Total time in Ark

Catechism

Antidiluvian (BEFORE THE FLOOD)

Dispersion (FLOOD TO PROMISE)

Line of the Promise

Genealogy of the Patriarchs

Why did God create the heavens and the earth (3 pink pages both sides)

[Type here]

Gen 1

Color Page for Days 1-6

Creation Opus ad extra / Opus ad intra -diagram (change slightly)

Sabbath

Importance of Creation (no Evolution)

Gen 2

Body and Soul (mind)

Chicken or the egg

God to Man

One Command

Rivers (map)

Gen 3

God > Adam > Eve > Serpent OR Serpent > Woman > Man > God

Call to Confession

First Promise page Fill in blanks

Marriage 1 Timothy

Gospel

Gen 4

First Line of Promise Adam/Eve, Cain/Abel, Seth

False and True Church

Gen 5

Sacrament

Shadow till Christ came

Baptism

1 Pet 3:18-22

Birth order of Japheth, 2nd Shem, 3rd Ham

2 Peter 2:5

Two churches

Line of Promise (ten generations)

Gen 6-9

Line with 3 sons in it

Line of Promise with Noah, to Abram (Peleg its)

Name of the Lord (revelation)

Yahweh?

Allegories

[Type here]

Line of the Promise
Adam to Abram ???

Gen 10 Table of Nations

Which commandments broken
Causes for removal from pastoral office
See charts
First civilizations
Major dates from Usher
Adam – Flood Noah Japheth/ Shem/Ham
Over the earth

Gen 11

Shem to Nahor/terah/Abram
Call on the name
Pentecost

Lesson on Job

Beginning with Genesis 12

Chronology of Patriarchs
Blessing of Abraham
Abraham's PROMISE TO EXODUS
Line of the Promise II

