

Overview

Lesson One: The Creation - Genesis 1:1-2:3

Theme: In six days the Triune God created all things as a home for mankind, whom He made in His image. Because of His great love for man, to God belongs all the glory.

Lesson Two: The Man, the Woman and Marriage. - Genesis 2:4-25

Theme: From the dust, God formed the man giving him a soul different from the animals. After teaching Adam that he needed a helpmate, God made a woman from the man's rib. God instituted marriage and placed them into it.

Lesson Three: The Fall into Sin - Genesis 3:1-24

Theme: Adam and Eve lose their original righteousness, when they doubt God's Word and listen to Satan. God delivers the first Gospel promise when He foretells the defeat of Satan through a male offspring (Jesus) born of the woman. Adam and Eve believe.

Lesson Four: Title & Text: The Two Sons - Genesis 4:1-15

Theme: Through faith in the promise of a Savior, Abel brings an acceptable sacrifice of thanksgiving. Proudful Cain's works-righteous sacrifice is rejected. Despite God's warning, unbelieving Cain murders believing Abel. Unrepentance Cain is sent away from the church and society.

Lesson Five: The True and False Church & Ten Outstanding Patriarchs- Gen. 4:16-6:7

Theme: After the fall, men were born in the image of sinful man. The true church (of the 10 patriarchs of chapter 5) believed in the promise of the Savior and called on God for help. The false church of Cain and his ungodly descendants (4:16-24 and the infamous sinners of 6:1-7) did not have faith and it could be seen in their ever-increasing outward acts of sinful wickedness. God was gracious to faithful Noah (a believer and a preacher of righteousness) by delivering him from the ungodly and the day of judgment.

Lesson Six: The Flood- Genesis 6-9

Theme: Because of the universal wickedness of unbelieving man who was sinning without restraint, God in His righteous judgment determined to destroy the world with a flood(Law). For years, God sent prophets like Enoch (Jude 14-15) and Noah (2 Peter 2:5) to warn these arrogant men and turn them from their sin. In the end only the Jesus-believing Noah and his family trusted in God's gracious means of salvation (Gospel) and were saved in an ark! Noah, a preacher of Christ's righteousness, gave thanks for God's undeserved kindness.

Lesson Seven: The Nations and the Tower of Babel- Genesis 10-11

Theme: In direct opposition of God's command to "fill the earth," (Gen 9:1) some unbelievers decided to gather in one accord around their own city and religious tower, so that they would not be scattered throughout the earth. Without fear or love of God, they did not praise His name, but in their pride, they sought to "make a name for themselves." God confused their language showing that without true unity, they were scattered. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit restored unity and concord as they gathered around Word and sacrament. Through the Apostle's gift of speaking in tongues, God's name was praised by declarations of "the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11).

1. Title & Text: The Creation - Genesis 1:1-2:3

Theme: In six days the Triune God created all things as a home for mankind, whom He made in His image. Because of His great love for man, to God belongs all the glory.

I. Facts (Grammar):

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

The Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—has always existed. God is distinct from His creation, which did have a beginning, as recorded in Genesis 1-2. The Creator brought all things into existence from nothing (*ex nihilo*) by means of His spoken word. God’s Word teaches us about the work of all three persons (Gen 1:1 Father, Gen 1:2 Spirit of God, Jn 1:1-3 the Word=Jesus) of the Trinity in the creation.

Over the course of six normal days, God created all things. First, God created the formless void. He continued to work with His creation, as well as speaking many other things into existence. God freely created all things according to His good pleasure. This vast and complex universe reveals God’s wisdom, “the greatness of His might and the strength of His power” (Isaiah 40:26).

God’s mercy and love are revealed as this creation was made for man’s benefit. All things serve man’s benefit. In an orderly way, God spreads out a safe and prosperous place for man to dwell. The sun, moon and stars serve as man’s timekeepers. The water is for the fish and the sky is for the birds. The dry ground produces vegetation for the beasts. Saving the best for last, man (both male and female) was created as the crown of God’s creation for “all the earth He has given to the children of men” (Psalm 115:15-16). Having made man in His image of original righteousness, the Creator “crowned him with glory and honor” (Ps 8:5). Man rules over all creatures. They were blessed and told to “be fruitful and multiply.”

The echoing refrain of “it was good” lets us know the perfection of God’s handiwork. However, the concluding, “and indeed it was very good,” emphasizes God’s love and mercy shown to mankind, who receives His Paternal care. With man placed into the creation, all is very good. Man’s response is “to thank and praise, serve and obey Him,” because “of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be the glory forever. Amen” (Rom 11:36).

Thankfully our gracious Triune God is “before all things” (Col 1:17). Although there is no sin until Genesis 3, we know that Jesus “was foreordained before the foundation of the world” (1 Peter 1:20) to redeem us with His precious blood. Thus, in His foreknowledge, “God created us for this very purpose, to redeem and sanctify us” (LC II 64). The heavenly Father “chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world... In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:4,7). Through faith in Christ “we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man” (1 Cor 15:49), once again.

The word sabbath means rest. The seventh day is called the sabbath because God ceased creating on that day. God wasn’t worn out or tired; He simply finished creating on day six. And now we are to enjoy His rest day. “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). This day of rest was made for us, that through faith in Jesus Christ, we rest in Christ’s completed work of salvation. “There remains therefore a

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rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His” (Hebrews 4:9-10).

Creator
Triune God
Creation
“The heavens and the earth” (definition of heavens)
Evolution
Firmament -
Day = *yom* normal 24-hour period
Six days of creation
Man/woman in the Image of God
Dominion (rule) over creation
Good, Very good
Sabbath – 7th day of rest

Trinity
Yahweh/Elohim
Creation/Evolution
Sabbath

Catechism 3 parts

Word
Purpose
Love of F

1st article of the Creed
Natural Law
Without sin
Fool = no god

No one for condemnation
Table of duties
Part of the created order
Order of creation

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1. Title & Text: The Man, the Woman and Marriage. - Genesis 2:4-25

Theme: From the dust, God formed the man giving him a soul different from the animals. After teaching Adam that he needed a helpmate, God made a woman from the man's rib. God instituted marriage and placed them into it.

I. Facts (Grammar):

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

With Genesis two, God backtracks to explain more about events of day six and, in particular, the creation of the man and the woman and the institution of marriage.

The garden of Eden (v.4-6) was the special place God had planted as the habitation for those who were to be made in His image. It was not a vegetable garden, although vegetables were clearly grown there. It was more like a private cultivated park or arboretum where the man and woman would live and work. It was well-watered by four rivers (v.10-14). In addition to the "every tree...pleasant to the sight and good for food," there were also two special trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of life had the promise of eternal life for those ate of it in faith. God had warned Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. By their obedience in refraining from eating, they would learn the difference between good and evil. This tree had the threat of death ("for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" v.17). These trees were like sacraments in that they were ordinary trees, but with a word (promise or threat) from God. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not poisonous, nor did it offer some kind of secret knowledge (as Satan in Genesis 3 would lie and tell Eve intimating that God was keeping something back from them).

As His Creator, God already knew that He had created man for marriage. It was Adam who needed to learn that "it is not good that man should be alone." Naming the farm animals served as the object lesson to teach Adam that a man should normally be united to a woman as his helpmate in marriage. Adam's reaction when he sees her for the first time is one of great joy. She is like him, "bone of my bones." He receives her as a gift from God. She is to work with the man in taking care of the garden. They are to have children together. The man and woman have nothing of which to be ashamed. They are living as God has directed them.

The Prophet Moses, who wrote down these words, rightly understands that God's institution of marriage is to be used by men and women throughout history. He says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

Living in true faith
Following God's direction
Work "to tend and keep it"
Dust (and the return to dust)

[Type here]

God's interest and deliberation in creating the man
Paradise
Relation of man and woman
Comparable to him
Marriage to perpetuate/multiply themselves
To cultivate and govern

Yahweh/Elohim
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2. Title & Text: The Fall into Sin - Genesis 3:1-24

Theme: Adam and Eve lose their original righteousness, when they doubt God's Word and listen to Satan. God delivers the first Gospel promise when He foretells the defeat of Satan through a male offspring (Jesus) born of the woman. Adam and Eve believe.

I. Facts (Grammar):

"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" (Genesis 3:15).

Satan leads the woman to doubt God's Word and thus mistrust God Himself. Satan tells her that it is out of envy and ill-will that God has forbidden her, lest she get something good not evil. Everything that the devil says is a lie. They did not become like God, but lost their original righteousness from God. They did not come to some great treasure-house of knowledge of good and evil. They are now solely evil, dead in their trespasses and sins. The only opening of their eyes was that they realized they were sinners. The result is shame and running away from God.

Rather than strike them dead immediately, God mercifully seeks the return of His disobedient children. He desires to hear their confession. Before the Gospel is delivered, excuses and blame are the best they can offer. The devil made me do it. You gave me the woman who gave me to eat.

God speaks to the serpent/Satan concerning a deadly curse! Satan has not won the battle, for the warfare has just begun between Satan's children and Eve's children. Though the serpent will strike at the heel, the serpent's head will be crushed by a male offspring of the woman. Jesus is that male offspring born of the virgin Mary. Although Jesus will suffer, be crucified and die, through that very sacrifice of Himself, Jesus will defeat the devil and rescue God's people from their sin and death. Jesus will rise from the dead and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire.

As Adam and Eve overhear these words of Gospel promise, faith is created in their heart. They believe and are comforted by God's Word and once again trust in God for eternal life. When God speaks of the consequences of their sin, they bear up under them gladly. These "punishments" are for their good. They will last only until death. And then they shall be saved! Eve is to have pain in childbearing and sorrow in raising children. She will sinfully desire to possess her husband, but he will inordinately rule over her (like a Lord). The ground is cursed. His work of providing for his family will be difficult toil amid thorns and thistles. And finally, it will be through physical death that Adam and Eve will inherit eternal life. We can see Adam's faith by his profession of faith. Adam calls his wife's name Eve, showing that he believes that through her, as the mother of the male-Savior, eternal life will come to all.

The Lord God sent them out from the garden. Now that they had become sinners, they should not eat from the tree of life and reside in that sinful condition forever. God warned them that it was wanting to "become like God, knowing good and evil" that got them into this sinful condition. God mercifully drove them out of the garden and even placed a flaming sword to prevent their return in that way. They now had a better way to life through faith in the coming Savior and his death on the tree of the cross.

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3. Title & Text: The Two Sons - Genesis 4:1-15

Theme: Through faith in the promise of a Savior, Abel brings an acceptable sacrifice of thanksgiving. Prideful Cain's works-righteous sacrifice is rejected. Despite God's warning, unbelieving Cain murders believing Abel. Unrepentance Cain is sent away from the church and society.

I. Facts (Grammar):

"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." (Genesis 4:7).

Eve is to be commended for her faith in God's Word and her desire for the coming male-child Savior. Nevertheless, she is mistaken in thinking that her firstborn son is the "man from the Lord" (Gen 4:1). The name Cain means "to acquire or possess." Not much is thought of the second child Abel—meaning "worthless, vanity"—now that they have "acquired" what they thought was the promised one.

When both sons bring offerings, Cain and his offering are rejected by the Lord (1 Peter 5:5, Proverbs 3:34). Cain is the first prideful pharisee who trusts in his own self-righteous work. But the work does not make the man righteous. The man must first be righteous before there can be a righteous sacrifice.

When corrected by God, you can see by Cain's face that he is offended and angry. The Lord desires to teach him "to do well." Since the fall, each man is born with original sin which puts forth sinful desires. Through confession and the receiving of forgiveness, Cain can rule over his sin, which desires to possess him. But rather than confess his pride and arrogance, Cain hides his anger and seeks revenge. He kills humble Abel in the hope of gaining acceptance. Cain lies to God about his murdered brother. Cain rejects responsibility for lovingly caring for his brother.

Hebrews 11:4 says, "By 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." Abel was righteous through faith in the promised Savior, Jesus Christ. Abel makes a sacrifice of thanksgiving for the Lord's many gifts. Abel is the first Christian martyr to die for his trust in the Savior. Not only does the Lord "respect Abel and his offering," but God seeks justice for His believer after he has been slain. Abel is freed from his sin and receives eternal life. However, "the blood of the righteous Abel" (Mt 23:35) is avenged by God.

God's people are forgiven and willingly bear up under God's correcting rod—as did Adam, who worked among thorns and thistles, and Eve, who bore children in pain. However, Cain's unrepentance is seen in his complaints about God's "unjust" punishment. Cain is sent away (excommunicated).

Matthew 23:35 (NKJV)

35“that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from **the blood of righteous Abel** to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

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4. Title & Text: The True and False Church & Ten Outstanding Patriarchs- Genesis 4:16-6:7

Theme: After the fall, men were born in the image of sinful man. The true church (of the 10 patriarchs of chapter 5) believed in the promise of the Savior and called on God for help. The false church of Cain and his ungodly descendants (4:16-24 and the infamous sinners of 6:1-7) did not have faith and it could be seen in their ever-increasing outward acts of sinful wickedness. God was gracious to faithful Noah (a believer and a preacher of righteousness) by delivering him from the ungodly and the day of judgment.

I. Facts (Grammar):

“Then men began to call on the name of the Lord” (Genesis 4:26b).

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Genesis 6:8).

God created man (both male and female) in His righteous **image** without sin. In the Garden, Adam and Eve possessed original righteousness, including the desire to please God. When they fell into sin, they lost the image of God. When Genesis 5:3 says that Adam “begot a son after his own likeness, after his image,” it means that a sinful nature, including concupiscence (the desire to sin) is passed on to every child. Sinners give birth to sinners. Man is dead in his transgressions and wickedness so “that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen 6:5).

Wicked and unrepentant Cain set up a **false church** teaching his descendants to walk in his wicked ways. Though Cain’s descendants may appear outwardly respectable as farmers, musicians, and craftsmen, they are without saving faith in Christ. They reject God’s order. They produce the **works of the flesh** (Gal 5:19-21). Lamech commits polygamy, and then murder. Like Cain he is unrepentant. The “men of renown” (6:4) are renown for their great wickedness (6:5). They seek a wife “in the passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God” (1 Thess 4:5). The conclusion is thus: “And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart” (Gen 6:6).

Although the Triune God had blocked the way back to the tree of life, He promised a new way of life through faith in the coming Savior, who would “crush the head of the serpent.” God preserved a **true church** who taught repentance, humility, and trust in God’s promise of salvation. The list of **ten outstanding patriarchs** (Gen 5:1-32) are stuck in between two lists of ungodly men (4:16-24, 6:1-7). These prophets preached **judgment** against ungodly deeds, as did the Prophet Enoch (Jude 14-15). These prophets preached the **gospel** learned from Adam, who believed that through Eve, the mother of all the living, would come the promised Seed, the Savior. Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5) through faith in the Gospel.

Seth—the replacement for Abel—and Seth’s son, Enosh, restored true worship and thanksgiving as they called “on the name of the Lord” (Gen 4:25-26). The promise of eternal life is seen not only in Abel, whose blood cries out from the ground, but also in Enoch, who was taken to heaven without death (5:24). Enoch pleased God through trust in the Savior, because “without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Heb 11:6).

The true church is seen in these ten patriarchs, all of whom walked with God. Daily they drown the sinful nature, and daily they rose to live a new life. St. Paul says of believers, “you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Colossians 3:9-10). Through faith in Christ, God has begun to rebuild his image in us. The true church walks in the Spirit and produces the **fruit of the spirit**: “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:16-25).

Jude 14-15 Now **Enoch, the seventh from Adam**, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 “to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Galatians 5:16-26 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now **the works of the flesh** are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Genesis 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and

Ephesians 4:17-24 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on **the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**

Colossians 3:9-11 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to **the image of Him** who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

2 Peter 2:4-11 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved **Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

7 and delivered **righteous Lot**, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked **8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)**— **9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.** They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

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5. Title & Text: The Flood- Genesis 6-9

Theme: Because of the universal wickedness of unbelieving man who was sinning without restraint, God in His righteous judgment determined to destroy the world with a flood(Law). For years, God sent prophets like Enoch (Jude 14-15) and Noah (2 Peter 2:5) to warn these arrogant men and turn them from their sin. In the end only the Jesus-believing Noah and his family trusted in God's gracious means of salvation (Gospel) and were saved in an ark! Noah, a preacher of Christ's righteousness, gave thanks for God's undeserved kindness.

I. Facts (Grammar):

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.... Noah was a just man, blameless* in his generations. Noah walked with God" (Genesis 6:8-9). {*NKJV has "perfect"}

"But I will establish My Covenant with you..." (Genesis 6:18).

"Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark" (Genesis 8:1).

Psalms 1:6, "For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish."

Man "is indeed flesh" (Gen 6:3)—sinful flesh, which "lusts against the Spirit" (Gal 5:17). In His long-suffering God's Spirit continued to seek to turn sinful man for 500 years, but unbelieving Cain and his descendants lived in the way of uncontrolled works of the flesh (lust and violence).

The Prophet Enoch preached, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him" (Jude 14-15). Noah, the preacher of righteousness, taught justification by grace through faith. He taught that faith in the Promised Seed (Jesus Gen 3:15) of the woman gives salvation. "By 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" (Hebrews 11:7). While God's prophets preached, "the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared" (1 Pet 3:20), desiring all men to be saved.

However, the unbelievers had become corrupt and would not listen. Despite their excuse "that all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" (2 Peter 3:4), there would be a coming day of judgment (Gen 6:12). The flood was God's judgment.

Noah was not sinless. Noah was declared "righteous" through faith in Jesus the coming Seed. Noah was "blameless," continuing to confess his sins, and receiving forgiveness. Noah's faith produced the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:16-25) so that "according to all God commanded him, so he did" (Gen 6:22).

The same flood which brought judgment and destroyed the wicked, was used by God to bring salvation to righteous Noah and his family. God provided the means of **an ark by which "eight souls, were saved through water"** (1 Peter 3:21). God's Covenant (Promise) was to preserve their life by means of an ark made of gopherwood. God directed its construction. At the right time He invited Noah to enter "and the Lord shut him in" (Gen 7:16). "Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive" (Gen 7:23). And

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when the danger had passed, “God remembered Noah” (Gen 8:1), and finally told him, “Go out of the ark.... Be fruitful and multiply on the earth” (Gen 8:16,17). God also gave mankind **a rainbow** as a sign of His Covenant, so that man reminded by this visible word would not doubt God’s promise, never to destroy the world by a flood.

Like Abel, Noah built an altar and made an acceptable sacrifice of thanksgiving to His gracious Lord. After the flood, those eight people still struggled with their sinful nature (Gen 8:21). We have an example of this in Noah’s drunkenness and immodesty (Gen 9:20-24). It is also seen in the father of Canaan’s (Ham’s) gossip of Noah (Gen 8:18-27). God’s people must continue to commit their way to the Lord (Ps 37:5) and with faith in Him, “walk according to His commandments” (2 John 6).

1 Peter 3:21 says of the flood, “There is also an antitype which now saves us—**baptism** (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” We are saved through the baptismal water, God’s appointed means. Believers will not be harmed by the final judgment of fire which is to come (2 Peter 3:7). God will welcome His believers into a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

1 Peter 3:18-22 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him

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Without God’s grace working faith in Christ, man does nothing but sin. And so, after 500 years the earth was “corrupt before God.”

because “without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Heb 11:6).

19Now the works of the flesh are evident,

Hebrews 11:6 But 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.

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6. Title & Text: The Nations and the Tower of Babel- Genesis 10-11

Theme: In direct opposition of God's command to "fill the earth," (Gen 9:1) some unbelievers decided to gather in one accord around their own city and religious tower, so that they would not be scattered throughout the earth. Without fear or love of God, they did not praise His name, but in their pride, they sought to "make a name for themselves." God confused their language showing that without true unity, they were scattered. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit restored unity and concord as they gathered around Word and sacrament. Through the Apostle's gift of speaking in tongues, God's name was praised by declarations of "the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11).

I. Facts (Grammar):

"Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech" (Genesis 11:7).

"...we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11).

In chapter ten's record of the nations, we see the descendants of Noah's three sons. The line of the promise, which goes through Shem is picked up again after the Tower of Babel. The account of the true church continues with the calling of Abram (Genesis 12). However, before we can get to that, we see the account of Noah's other two sons: Ham and Japheth. Not much is said of Japheth, but concerning the descendants of Ham and his son, Canaan, we see their defection from the Christian faith (as was foretold in the sinful way Ham dealt with Noah's drunkenness in Genesis 9:22ff).

Genesis 10:25 says, "To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan." Many have understood the account of the Tower of Babel as the division which occurred during the days of Peleg (whose name means separation). If that assumption is correct, it was only 100 years after the flood. Ham's descendant, ungodly Nimrod, boasted that he was "mighty...before the Lord" (10:9). The following verse (10) declares that Nimrod founded four cities in the land of Shinar, one of which was Babel. And thus, we arrive at today's account.

Like unrepentant Cain, who founded his own false church, we see that it didn't take long for an ungodly association to break off from the true church. Instead of the gathering of the true church, which praises "the name of the Lord" (God's revelation), they built their own city/church as a tribute to themselves. Rather than the central doctrine being the promise of the woman's Seed (the Savior of Gen 3:15), they trusted in the work of their hands. They built a religious tower, which they boasted, "whose top is in the heavens." Like Nimrod's false claim of greatness, their claim of closeness to God is patently false. In mockery of their claim, the text says that "God came down to see," as if it were so small that He couldn't tell what it was from heaven. These builders are called "sons of men," because they were not believing "sons of God." It is appropriate to understand the "us" on verse 7 as a reference to the Trinity.

Rather than gathering around God's revelation and the Line of the Promise, they gathered around a city and a tower. The true Christian church always gathers around God's

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Revelation (Word and sacrament) and the chief doctrine (justification through Jesus, the Christ). The decision of God to give them different languages was a judgment that their false religious profession was nothing but confusion (the word “Babel” means confusion). The godly prophets (descended from Shem and listed in Gen 11:10-26) must have warned them ahead of time that if they did not “fill the earth,” that God would scatter them. Although their conscience feared that they would “be scattered,” nevertheless, they thought they could thwart God’s will by unity in their religious tower.

Unity is created by God and concord is seen when we speak in an agreement with God’s revelation. The words, “the name of the Lord” always refer to God’s revelation of Himself and His salvific work for us. On the day of Pentecost, we see God’s plan fulfilled as God’s people “continued steadfast in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship...” (Acts 2:42). Despite the different dialects, each language group, “hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God” (Acts 2:11). St. Peter declares that the Prophet Joel has been fulfilled, “And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.” In the preaching of Jesus Christ there is unity and concord.

Journeyed from the East

Genesis 8:4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the **mountains of Ararat.**

Genesis 10:8-10 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.” 10And the beginning of his kingdom was **Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.**

Table of Nations

v.2-5 Jepheth-ites

v.6-20 Ham-ites

v.8-9 Nimrod

v.10 Babyon, Ninevah

v.15 Canaan

v. 19 Sodom, Gemorrah

v.21-31 Shem-ites or Semites

sons of Eber (Hebrews)

v.32 Summary

Going down (*is an anthropomorphic way of saying that God is going to intervene either for judgment or salvation*)

Genesis 11:5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

Genesis 18:21 “I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”

Exodus 3:8 “So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey,

to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. (also Mt. Sinai, Ex 19:11, 18, 20)

All Nations Descended from Shem, Ham, Japheth

Acts 17:26-31 “And He has made **from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth**, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, **27so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us**; **28for in Him we live and move and have our being**, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ **29Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. 30Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”**

Deuteronomy 32:8-9 When the Most High **divided their inheritance to the nations**, When He **separated the sons of Adam**, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel. **9For the Lord’s portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.**

The Futile Plotting of Unbelievers

Job 42:2 “I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

Psalms 2:1; 4 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ... **4He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.**

Luke 1:51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered **the proud in the imagination of their hearts.** (Psalm 92:9)

The Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 11:7 “Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2He was in the beginning with God.**

Correct Preaching is Calling on the Name of the Lord

Zephaniah 3:8-9 “Therefore wait for Me,” says the Lord, “**Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms, To pour on them My indignation, All my fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy. 9For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the Lord, To serve Him with one accord.**

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Acts 2:1-21 When **the Day of Pentecost** had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.... 11 ...—we hear them speaking in our own tongues **the wonderful works of God.**” 12So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” ... 14But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “...16But this is what was spoken by **the prophet Joel:** 17‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.... 21And it shall come to pass That **whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.**’