

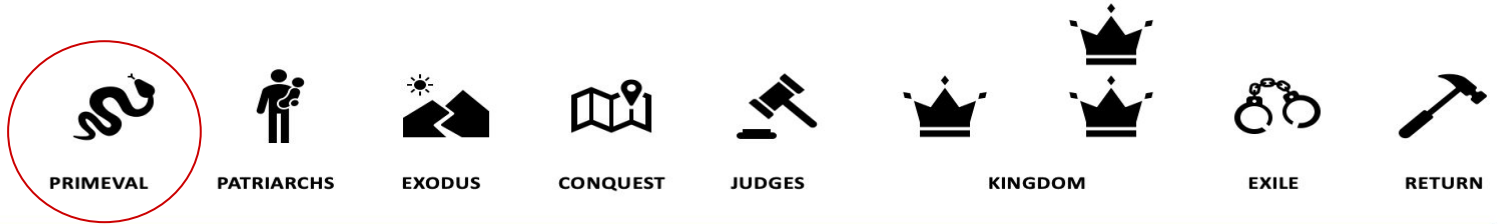
# Story of the Bible

## NIGHT SCHOOL

Week Three



# Where are we in the story?



TURNING POINTS	God calls Abraham	Joseph dies	Moses dies	Joshua dies	Samuel	Rehoboam & Jeroboam	Jerusalem captured	Cyrus's decree	
KEY FIGURES	Adam; Eve; Noah	Abraham; Isaac; Jacob; Joseph	Moses	Joshua	Gideon; Samson; Ruth	Samuel; Saul; David; Solomon	Daniel	Zerubbabel; Ezra; Esther; Nehemiah	
BOOK/S	Genesis 1-11	Genesis 12-50	Exodus - Deuteronomy	Joshua	Judges - Ruth	1 Samuel – 2 Chronicles	Ezekiel - Daniel	Ezra - Esther	
SUMMARY	God creates the world; humankind rebels against Him	God chooses Abraham and his descendants	God rescues the Israelites from Egypt. They fail to trust Him and spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness	Joshua leads the Israelites to conquer the Promised Land	The Israelites consistently turn away from God	The Israelites demand a king. Saul is followed by David's line	Israel becomes two nations (Israel and Judah), both eventually taken into exile	Judah lives in exile in Babylon, which is then conquered by the Medo-Persians	Cyrus allows the Jews to return, where they rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem's city walls

# Creation

God has inspired Moses to record these events, not simply to share what He did, but to share what He is like.

God purposely and deliberately brings order from chaos.

- o Leviticus 20:26 You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

Primeval  
Stage

## God formed man and breathed life into him

Genesis 2:7

We are created in God's image. Reflective of, but not equal to Him.  
Sub-rulers tasked with stewarding the Earth.

Our Cosmology affects our identity.

From the beginning humankind was given identity (formed by God in his image), purpose (stewardship, work) and relationship (belonging).

## Free will + trust

Genesis 2:17

"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."

"It is important to note that these humans have a choice as to how they are going to build this world, represented neatly in the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Up until now, God has provided and defined for them what is good and what is not good, but at this point, God gives them the freedom and dignity to choose. Will they trust his definition of good and evil, or will they seize autonomy and define good and evil for themselves? The stakes are high here. To rebel against God is to embrace death by turning away from the tree of life, which represents the gift of life itself." - The Bible Project

# Something is not good

Genesis 2:18

"The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

"Helper" created. Hebrew term *ezer* ≠ subordinate/lesser. Used to describe God's help (Exodus 18:4, Psalm 33:20).

We have a habit of elevating certain gifts over others. The gifts of the helper and the gifts of the leader are complementary.

# Serpent casts doubt

Genesis 3:1-5

"from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Why is this course focussed on understanding God's character? Root of sin = God cannot be trusted as Lord.

Humanity's original purpose is to rule while submitting to God's rulership.

The reason that we see death around us is because we carry death in us. – Ben Mays

" The tragic irony, of course, is that the humans are already like God, as they are a reflection of his image. But instead of trusting God, they seize autonomy and take the knowledge of good and evil for themselves. In an instant, the whole story spirals downward." – The Bible Project

**BREAK TIME**

# Sin and rebellion against God

Romans 1:18-20

Creation supported by science.

- o Irreducible complexity of living things (the eye, blood clotting mechanisms)

Even from a philosophical standpoint

- o If objective moral values exist (true right and wrong, not just preferences, universally held moral instincts) then there must be transcendent source for those values.

Our God-given consciousness is an inner witness which nudges us toward accountability. To resist this is a choice of ignorance and giving of Lordship to desire.

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Stage

# Evil cast out of Eden

Genesis 3:23

Evil cannot coexist with eternity so humanity is cast out of Eden

Relationship with God + each other fractured by fear, shame and blame

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Biblical story isn't one of a compromising

God

Genesis 3:15

"Adam and Eve left the garden walking east, but they don't go alone. God goes with them. He's not lowering the standard of holiness, but He is coming after us. The biblical story isn't one of a compromising God. It's one of a pursuing God." – Tyler Staton

- o The scarlet thread of redemption is interwoven in scripture from the very beginning. Genesis 3:15 **And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.** God's first response to human sin is an act of grace. The humans have just rebelled and God promises to rescue them before he instructs them of their consequences.

## The genealogy from Adam to Noah

Genesis 5:1-31

**Adam** = man (all of man), **Seth** = appointed (Put here on purpose. A replacement for Abel. God had a plan for Man.), **Enosh** = mortal, frail, miserable (refers specifically to the weakness of human nature), **Kenan** = sorrow (also, lamenter), **Mahalalel** = the Blessed God, **Jared** = shall come down, **Enoch** = teaching, **Methuselah** = His death shall bring, **Lamech** = despairing (poor, made low), **Noah** = bring relief or comfort

'Man was appointed by God with purpose, but the weakness of humanity brought mortal sorrow. The Blessed God shall come down teaching us His ways. His death shall bring the despairing, those who are poor in spirit, relief and comfort.'

# Sin spreads

"Again, the story spirals downward. Chapters 3-11 trace the widening ripple effect of the rebellion and the fracturing of human relationships at every level.

The next story, about two brothers, Cain and Abel, shows this fracturing as well. Cain is so jealous of his brother that he wants to murder him. Despite God's warning not to, Cain kills Abel. After the murder, Cain goes on to build a city where violence and oppression reign. This is epitomized in the story of Lamech, who is the first man in the Bible to have more than one wife, accumulating them like property. Lamech also sings a song about how he is more violent and vengeful than Cain ever was."

- BP

Primeval  
Stage

# Flood

Genesis 7

"In response, we are told that God is broken with grief—humanity is ruining his good world as well as each other. Out of a passion to protect the goodness of his creation, he washes the world of humanity's evil with a great flood. But he protects the one blameless human, Noah, and his family. God commissions Noah as a new Adam, repeating the divine blessing and commission." - BP

The flood is closely linked to the story of creation. It is God rescinding his control and his boundaries and returning creation to chaotic waters.

Messianic picture = Noah.

# Noah and his family are the new start

Taking up Adam and Eve's mission to steward the Earth.

Things that are reiterated after the flood:

- God will keep covenant with us
- We continue to bear God's image; and
- Even after the world is cleansed sin resides in the human heart

"Our hopes are high, but soon Noah fails too, and in a garden no less! He plants a vineyard, gets drunk out of his mind, and then one of his sons, Ham, does something shameful to him. Our new Adam also ends up naked and ashamed. The downward spiral continues." - BP

“Adam and Eve left the garden walking east, but they don’t go alone. God goes with them. He’s not lowering the standard of holiness, but He is coming after us. The biblical story isn’t one of a compromising God. It’s one of a pursuing God.” – Tyler Staton

**Q&A**

# Discussion Questions

**What was man and  
woman's original purpose in  
the garden?**

**What do you think it meant to eat  
from the Tree of Knowledge of Good  
and Evil?**

**Why was God justified in  
bringing the flood?**

**THANKS FOR YOUR  
TIME!**

See you next week!