

Bible - Chapter 1

The Law

Review of the Overview

1. The Law
 - a. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
 - b. Books primarily describing the beginning of history, interspersed with other bits
 - c. History / timeframe runs from Creation to on the bank of Jordan, about to enter Canaan (the Promised Land)
2. Books of History
3. Books of Poetry
4. Books of Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

Where are we? Nowhere. With nothing. No people. Not the slightest breath of wind. Perfect silence. Utter stillness. Nothing. That is, nothing but God. And then God spoke. In this section we'll begin at the moment God spoke and continue through the first few thousand years after that moment.

What happens in this chapter? Called the Law, the Pentateuch or the Books of Moses, the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy are generally accepted to have been written by Moses. They cover three basic eras: 1) Creation, Fall and Flood; 2) the Patriarchs; and 3) the Exodus.

As a reminder, when you begin to read each day **pray** that God would open your eyes, then consider the following questions. Journal at least one response to Question 4:

1. What happens? (major characters, events, places; this workbook provides space for this)
2. What does it say about God? About Jesus?
3. What questions does it raise? (Write down at least one in the box provided on each page)
4. How should I respond? (Write down at least one practical, tangible adjustment to your life and /or thinking in the space provided. It will take some thinking narrow it down to a phrase that will fit the space provided - and that you can remember throughout the day.)

What questions do you have?

What happens during Creation, the Fall and Flood? Creation shows the creative side of God. The Flood shows the wrathful side. The story of creation starts us off: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1). God separates light and darkness, separates land and water, then makes the fish, birds, plants and animals, and finally man then woman. Things are good. But not for long. Adam and Eve have minds and wills (it's part of being made in God's image) and step away from God's perfect world. Humanity goes downhill rapidly to the point where God does something drastic. He tells Noah to build a huge boat in the middle of the desert - not only are there no lakes nearby, but it doesn't even rain all that often. So God's plans and commands don't always make the most sense to us, but like the poem, "The Weaver," we only see the underside of His great masterpiece, and while He sees and weaves for the sake of the upper, eternal side.

Where are we?

1. The Law
 - a. **Creation**
 - b. **Fall**
 - c. **Flood**
 - d. **Babel**
 - e. Patriarchs
 - f. Exodus
2. History
3. Poetry
4. Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

"The Weaver" by Benjamin Malacia Franklin

My life is but a weaving between my Lord and me;
I cannot choose the colors; He worketh steadily.
Oft times He weaveth sorrow and I, in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper, And I the underside.
Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful in the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.

God destroys His creation then paints a rainbow as a promise to never flood the earth again, but that doesn't make people any better. This time they band together in attempt to reach God their own way. He confounds their efforts by confusing their language. Unable to communicate, they disburse and begin to fill the earth.

Where does Jesus first appear? When God makes Adam, He says, "*Let us makes man...*" What does the plural "us" imply, if not that God has company. The next foreshadow is when God curses the serpent for deceiving Eve, saying her descendent would "*bruise [his] head*". Jesus did just that when He defeated sin and death on the cross, but we're getting ahead of ourselves...

For further study: Consider Romans 1:20. What evidence do you see of creation and an intelligent Creator in the world around you?

What questions do you have?

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
1. Creation		
<i>Gen 1</i>		
<i>Gen 2</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
2. The Fall, Cain and Abel, Really Old People		
<i>Gen 3</i>		
<i>Gen 4</i>		
<i>Gen 5</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
3. The Flood, Part 1		
<i>Gen 6</i>		
<i>Gen 7</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
4. The Flood, Part 2 and Babel		
<i>Gen 8</i>		
<i>Gen 9</i>		
<i>Gen 11:1-9</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

Who are the Patriarchs (Part 1)? The Patriarchs begin with Abram and his wife Sarai. We know them by different names because God changes Abram, whose name meant “exalted father” to **Abraham**, “father of many,” and his wife Sarai, “my princess” to **Sarah**, which means “princess.”

For reasons unknown to us, God selects Abraham and sets him apart to begin God's chosen family. God promises that he will have tons of *descendants*, but Abraham laughs when God tells him his wife will have a son, because they are both near 100 years old. Sarah eavesdrops to hear that promise and laughs. Nevertheless, Sarah bears a son and he's named **Isaac** which means "he laughs," go figure. God also promises to give Abraham the *land* to which He brought him and informs Abraham that all the families of the earth will be *blessed* through him. A generation later, God repeats these same promises to Isaac: land, countless offspring and blessing to all nations. He repeats them again to **Jacob**, Isaac's son. Together, these promises are called **the Abrahamic Covenant** (land, descendents and blessing).

Where is Jesus? God works through one man, Abraham, who takes God at His word and obeys Him. One day, God will work through one Man, Jesus, who takes God at His word and obeys Him completely, even to death.

Where are we?

1. The Law
 - a. Creation
 - b. Fall
 - c. Flood
 - d. Babel
 - e. **Patriarchs**
 - i. **Abraham**
 - ii. **Isaac**
 - iii. **Jacob**
 - iv. Joseph, 12 tribes
 - f. Exodus
2. History
3. Poetry
4. Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

What questions do you have?

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
5. Abraham, Isaac, Esau and Jacob		
<i>Gen 12</i>		What does God promise in 12:3 and 12:7?
<i>Gen 14:17 - 15:21</i>		What does God promise in 15:5 and 15:18?
<i>Gen 17:1-18:33</i>		
<i>Gen 21:1-7</i>		
<i>Gen 24</i>		
<i>Gen 25:19-26:5</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
6. Jacob / Israel		
<i>Gen 27</i>		
<i>Gen 28</i>		
<i>Gen 29</i>		
<i>Gen 30</i>		
<i>Gen 31</i>		
<i>Gen 32</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

Who are the Patriarchs (Part 2)? Isaac has two sons, Esau ("red") and Jacob ("he grasps the heel" or "he deceives"). Like He did with Abraham his father, God renames Jacob Israel ("he struggles with God"), from which we get the name of the "Israelites." With four different women Jacob/Israel has 12 sons who become the 12 tribes of Israel. **Joseph** is the favorite son and so just like they would nowadays, his brothers are jealous and hate him. He also has dreams about ruling his brothers – and tells them! – so they hate him even more. Rather than kill him, however, they sell him to a passing caravan of Midianites who take him to Egypt. He becomes a model slave then a model prisoner after being wrongly convicted. In prison God tells him the interpretation of several dreams culminating in the prediction of a seven-year drought. Pharaoh appoints Joseph as second in command so Joseph can prepare Egypt for the terrible famine, during which Joseph's family comes begging for food. Because of his position, Joseph can help them, though he takes the opportunity to determine if they have truly repented of their actions toward him. From our bird's eye view, clearly God orchestrated the entire story, putting Joseph in a position from which he could save his family, which is God's chosen family. The whole clan ends up coming to Egypt where they grow from 70 to more than 600,000 men alone in the next 400 years. That's an estimated 2.5 million people total! As Egypt changes rulers, however, the growing family ends up as slaves, crying out to God.

<u>Where are we?</u>
1. The Law
a. Creation
b. Fall
c. Flood
d. Babel
e. Patriarchs
i. Abraham
ii. Isaac
iii. Jacob
iv. Joseph, 12 tribes
f. Exodus
2. History
3. Poetry
4. Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

Here's the family tree (all references are in Genesis, the 12 Tribes of the Israelites are in **bold**):

Terah (11:27)	Nahor (11:26)	Bethuel (22:20-22)	Rebekah (22:23, who marries Isaac)
		7 others (22:20-23)	Laban (24:29)
	Haran (11:26)	Milcah (who becomes Nahor's wife, 11:29)	
		Iscah (11:29)	
		Lot (11:29, 31)	Moab & Ammon (incestuously, by his daughters, 19:37-38)
	Abraham (11:26)	(w/ Hagar) Ishmael (6:15)	
(w/ Sarah) Isaac (21:3)		Esau (25:25-26)	
		Jacob (continued below)	

Jacob (renamed Israel)	(w/ Leah) Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun , Dinah	
	(w/ Rachel) Joseph (30:24)	Manasseh (41:51)
	(w/ Rachel) Benjamin (35:18)	Ephraim (41:51)
	(w/ Bilhah) Dan, Naphtali (30:6-8)	
	(w/ Zilpah) Gad, Asher (30:11-13)	

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
7. Jacob's death, Joseph		
<i>Gen 35</i>		
<i>Gen 37</i>		
<i>Gen 39</i>		
<i>Gen 40</i>		
<i>Gen 41</i>		
<i>Gen 42</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
8. Joseph in Egypt		
<i>Gen 43</i>		
<i>Gen 44</i>		
<i>Gen 45</i>		
<i>Gen 46</i>		
<i>Gen 47</i>		
<i>Gen 48</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

Where was Jesus among the Patriarchs? Joseph's whole story! He was hated and betrayed by his brothers, as Jesus would be by His brothers the Israelites. He was sent to be a nobody in a foreign land, as God sent Jesus as a humble servant on Earth, far from Heaven. Joseph served well and faithfully, as did Jesus. Through one man, Joseph, God saved His whole chosen family. Through Jesus, God will save His whole chosen family. In the end, God raised up Joseph as He will raise up Jesus.

What is the Exodus (Part 1)? The Exodus begins with **Moses**. I like Moses, because he's a lot like me. He's a little afraid to go public but God exerts His authority with His famous "I am Who I am" statement. Then Moses whines because he doesn't like public speaking and again God gives him a bigger perspective: "Who gave you your mouth?

Who makes a person deaf or mute or sighted or blind...? Now go! I will teach you what to say"¹ (my paraphrase).

Again, God gets his man inside Pharaoh's house in order to carry out God's plan. The Israelites had become slaves. Because they were so many, Pharaoh's fear drove him to command the Israelite midwives to kill all the male babies. Nevertheless, God not only arranges for Moses to escape death, but for Pharaoh's daughter to pay his own mom to nurse him. Eighty years later after God talks to Moses from the burning bush, he goes to Pharaoh, who repeatedly backs out on his promise to let the Israelites go. In response God sends **plagues**: water turned to blood, frogs, lice, flies, disease on livestock, boils on man and animals, hail, locusts, darkness, and finally death...

Where is Jesus in Moses' story? In the desert for 40 years, God prepared Moses to serve Him. Is it any surprise then, that God prepared Jesus to serve by banishing Him to the desert for 40 days at the beginning of His ministry? Also, the Israelites knew no other "*prophet...whom the LORD knew face to face*"² but one day, Moses promises, "*The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.*"³ Any question who that might be?

Where are we?

1. The Law
 - a. Creation
 - b. Fall
 - c. Flood
 - d. Babel
 - e. Patriarchs
 - f. Exodus**
2. History
3. Poetry
4. Prophecy
5. Gospels
6. Acts and Letters

What questions do you have?

¹ Exodus 4:11-12

² Deuteronomy 34:10

³ Deuteronomy 18:15

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
9. Moses beginnings		
<i>Ex 1</i>		
<i>Ex 2</i>		
<i>Ex 3</i>		
<i>Ex 4</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
10. Plagues		
<i>Ex 5</i>		
<i>Ex 6</i>		
<i>Ex 7</i>		
<i>Ex 8</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

What is the Exodus (Part 2)? The last plague, the plague of death, is known as the first **Passover** when God passed over the Israelites and killed every Egyptian first born son. Only after this did the Egyptians finally kick the Israelites out, giving them generous gifts of silver and gold as they left.

Where is Jesus? Few events in the OT foreshadow Jesus as clearly as the Passover: requirement of the lamb without blemish, blood required in exchange for life, death of the first born son, etc. What else?

What happens next? The story of the Exodus doesn't end there. The Egyptians have yet another change of heart and pursue their former slaves to the edge of the **Red Sea**, where God works another miracle, holding the water of the sea back so His people can pass on dry land. But when the Egyptians try to follow them, their army gets stuck in the mud and falls into disarray, such that they recognize that it is God fighting them on behalf of the Israelites.⁴ In the end all the Egyptians die.

- Where are we?**
1. The Law
 - a. Creation
 - b. Fall
 - c. Flood
 - d. Babel
 - e. Patriarchs
 - f. **Exodus**
 2. History
 3. Poetry
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From the eastern bank of the Red Sea, following the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, the Israelites cross the Sinai Peninsula to the brink of the Promised Land. Rather than obeying God and invading right away, they send in spies whose fearful report stops them. To discipline them, God sends them back to wander in the desert for 40 years until that entire generation of adults dies (Exodus 12-40).

Along the way, God gives them the 10 Commandments. They are:

Don't have any other gods before God		
Don't make idols	Honor your parents	Don't steal
Don't misuse God's name	Don't murder	Don't give false testimony
Keep the Sabbath day holy	Don't commit adultery	Don't covet

But the Israelites aren't so good at keeping the commandments, even though God gives them a choice between the blessing that comes with their obedience or the curse that come with disobedience. God calls this choice a **covenant**, the **Mosaic Covenant**.⁵ The remaining stories in the Law reflect the Israelites' cycle of disobedience, punishment, repentance, reconciliation... forgetfulness... disobedience, punishment, repentance, reconciliation... forgetfulness... and so on.

What questions do you have?

⁴ Exodus 14:25

⁵ See also Exodus 19:5-6, Deuteronomy 11:26-28 or Deuteronomy 30:15-19

Read...	Summarize...	Notes, comments, questions
11. Exodus and Red Sea Crossing		
<i>Ex 9</i>		
<i>Ex 10</i>		
<i>Ex 11</i>		
<i>Ex 12</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		
10. Plagues and Exodus		
<i>Ex 13</i>		
<i>Ex 14</i>		
<i>Ex 19</i>		Note Ex 19:5-6: What does God promise if the people obey? This is the Mosaic Covenant.
<i>Ex 20</i>		
Date:	Key Verse:	
Take away:		

What about the other books in the Law? **Leviticus** details God's laws, teaching the Israelite ex-slaves how to live well with each other. **Numbers** contains more about the time in the wilderness as well as several censuses numbering the people were, hence the title. **Deuteronomy** seems to be a collection of sermons or a synopsis given by Moses over a 40 day period of time just before Moses' death and the Israelites' entrance into the promised land. Deuteronomy reviews the previous 40 years, so there is significant overlap between Deuteronomy and the previous books. The Ten Commandments, for example, are repeated from Exodus.

Are there events I should take special note of during this time? So glad you asked. Yes! In what we now call the **Abrahamic Covenant**, God promised Abraham *land, descendants* and *blessing* to all nations. While they were in Egypt, Abraham's descendants multiplied from 70 to roughly 2.5 million. Not a bad start. Keep watching as the Bible unveils more of the Master Artists' painting.

But that's not all! You read a very brief summary of what God promised to Moses in Exodus 19:5-6. It is clearer in Deuteronomy: "*I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life...*"⁶ "Who wouldn't?!" you say. But first the Israelites (and now we today!) still struggle because sin is so very sticky... Unfortunately for the Israelites, in this **Mosaic Covenant** the blessings depend on the people keeping their end of the bargain. Keep this in mind; you'll see it again.

Point to ponder: Have you ever seen the cycle of "disobedience, discipline, repentance, reconciliation, and forgetfulness" in the present day, or in your life? What encouragement is there in the fact that such cycles have gone on since creation? And what do they say about who God is and how He works?

For further study: Why did God give the Israelites a Law, a standard of living? What did it do for them? What does it show us today? Consider the following verses as you think about these questions: Matthew 22:37-40, Galatians 3:24-27, Hebrews 10:1 and Romans 3:19-23.

Summary: Review your take-aways from each day during this Section. Are there any themes that stand out? What has God been teaching you or asking you to do or change?

Note: Timeline courtesy of Columbia International University, Bib 5112 - Genesis to Song of Solomon, Terry C. Hulbert, Th.D. Spring 2009

⁶ Deuteronomy 30:19

PERIODS OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

UNIT I

1. **Pre-Abrahamic: Creation - 2166 B.C.** *Genesis 1-11*
 - a. Creation 1-2
 - b. Fall of Man 3-5
 - c. Flood 6-9
 - d. Nations 10-11



2. **Patriarchal: 2166-1804 B.C.** *Genesis 12-50*
 - a. Abraham 12-25
 - b. Isaac 25-26
 - c. Jacob 27-36
 - d. Joseph 37-50



3. **Birth of the Nation: 1804-1404 B.C.** *Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*
 - a. In Egypt *Exodus 1-12*
 - b. Egypt to Sinai *Exodus 13-18*
 - c. Sinai *Exodus 19-Leviticus-Numbers 9*
- The law and the tabernacle *Exodus 19-40*

UNIT II

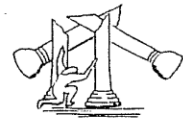


- d. Wilderness *Numbers 10-21*
 - e. Plains of Moab *Numbers 22 - Deuteronomy 34*

4. **Conquest of Canaan: 1404-1390 B.C.** *Joshua*
 - a. Entrance into the Land 1-5
 - b. Conquest of the land 6-12
 - c. Division of the Land 13-21



5. **Judges: 1390-1050 B.C.** *Judges, Ruth, I Samuel 1-8*



UNIT III

6. **United Kingdom: 1050-931 B.C.** *I Samuel 9-31, 2 Samuel, I Kings 1-11, I Chronicles 10-29, 2 Chronicles 1-9*
 - a. Saul *I Samuel 9-31*
 - b. David *2 Samuel, I Chronicles 10-29*
 - c. Solomon *I Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 1-9*



7. **Divided Kingdom: 931-722 B.C.** *I Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17, 2 Chronicles 10-28*

8. **Surviving (Southern) Kingdom: 722-586 B.C.** *2 Kings 18-25, 2 Chronicles 29-36*

UNIT IV

9. **Babylonian Exile: (606) 586-536 B.C.**



10. **Restoration: 536-400 B.C.** *Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*



Books of Wisdom and Poetry: *Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon*