**Lesson 2- Creation to Patriarchs**

1. Creation in Genesis (Gen 1-2)
2. Genesis was written by Moses (Luk 24:27)
3. Gen 1:1- Key word is “beginning.”
4. God *is* the beginning. God creating *in the beginning* implies He is before all created things. He is the only eternally existing being, the uncaused first cause.
5. John 1:1 begins with “in the beginning.” This shows us that Jesus is the eternal Son of God, uncreated.
6. The Holy Spirit “hovered over” the face of the deep at creation. This is phrase that implies the Holy Spirit had a control or power over creation.
7. Creation *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) (Heb 11:3) God did not use pre-existent matter to create anything.
8. “Let us”- Picture of the trinity. This was not God speaking to angels because man is not made in the image of angels.
9. Plural of Majesty- When God is referred to in the Hebrew in plural form even though surrounding verbs or adjectives indicate a singular God.(Ex: *Elohim* is plural form, but is consistently used with singular verbs or adjectives and the proper translation is “God” not “gods.” Elohim implies a plurality of majesty.)
10. 6 days of work, 1 day of rest. The concept of Sabbath rest is a repeated theme in scripture.
11. Image of God
12. Man as ruler/head over creation.
13. Walking in communion with God.
14. Male and female
15. Moral creature
16. Fall (Gen 3)
17. Tree of life v. tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
18. Curses
19. Serpent- Seed of the woman will crush his head.
20. Woman- Sorrows increased. Pains of childbirth.
21. Man- Ground cursed. Sweat of brow.
22. Cain and Abel (Gen 4)
23. Both brought offerings. Cain’s was not accepted (1 John 3:12 makes sense of this)
24. Eve was looking for the “Seed” that would crush the serpent. Seth was the third brother and his name implies perhaps Eve expected it would be him.
25. Heb 12:24- Christ’s blood speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
26. Genealogies (Gen 4-5)
27. Gen 4:16-24- Line of Cain. Many worldly accomplishments from the cursed line.
28. Gen 4:25-26, Gen 5- Line of Seth. No accomplishments. Lots of death for the righteous line that was living for a different world.
29. The Flood (Gen 6-10)
30. Great wickedness (6:5)
31. Grace (6:8)
32. Noahic covenant (8:21-22)- Not destroying by water again
33. Ark & dove- Foreshadows of Christ (1 Pet 3:20 & baptism of Christ)
34. Babel (Gen 11)
35. Worldly unity is not a good thing when the world is evil
36. An example of man v. God (Psa 2)
37. Abram (Gen 11-20)
38. Abram from Ur called to the land of Canaan.
39. Gen 12- Abrahamic Covenant
40. There is an emphasis on the land itself in God’s covenant.
41. There is also an Emphasis on Blessing (fulfilled through Christ)
42. Melchizedek- type of Christ (Gen 14)
43. Faith accounted as righteousness (Gen 15:6, Rom 4:5, 16)
44. Exodus foretold (Gen 15:13-14)
45. Hagar & Ishmael (Gen 16)- From whom come Arabians, also representative of the law in Galatians 4:23-30 in comparison to grace. Ishmael is not the legitimate son. This is important in foreshadowing Christ when we get to Isaac.
46. Isaac (Gen 21-25)
    1. Isaac offered (Gen 22)- Referred to as Abraham’s “*Only* son” even though Ishmael existed. This shows him as the only begotten son. The only one who is of the promise. God provides the lamb in place of an only son. This is a foreshadow of Christ.

1. Jacob (Gen 25-36)
2. Gen 25:21-28- Picture of two different brothers, Jacob and Esau. Jacob from the beginning is one who takes what he wants.
3. Gen 25:29-34- Selling of birthright
4. Gen 28- Deceit to steal the blessing
5. Gen 32- Wrestled with “a man.” This is clearly an interaction with God, a preincarnate Christ. God changes his name to Israel and from here we get the “children of Israel” or the “Israelites.”
6. Joseph (Gen 37-50)
7. Gen 37- Dreams that family will bow to him.
8. Gen 37:14-17- “A man” met him and pointed him to his brothers.
9. Joseph is he who was betrayed by his brothers, only for God to use that very betrayal as a deliverance. Though he was seemingly dead in a pit, he was resurrected as the savior they all needed.
10. Genesis 49:1- Prophecy from Jacob
11. Gen 49:10- Scepter in Judah
12. Genesis 50- Joseph in a coffin in Egypt. Last request: Bring his bones out of Egypt to the land promised by Abraham when they leave. This is what the Hebrews author says about Joseph’s faith as it demonstrates to us the importance that these people were saved by faith.

**Bible Study Discussion Questions**

1. In Genesis 1:1, why is the word "beginning" significant? How does it emphasize God's role as the uncaused first cause? (**To say that God was in the beginning is to say that He was before anything that was created. He is the only one who exists without needing anyone/anything else to bring Him into existence)**
2. John 1:1 parallels Genesis 1:1 with "in the beginning." What does this reveal about the eternal nature of Jesus Christ? (**Christ also is before all things)**
3. Explain the concept of "creation ex nihilo" (out of nothing) as described in Hebrews 11:3. Why is this important in understanding God's creative power? **(To say that God created using pre-existent matter is to make that matter part of the uncaused first cause. That would mean that matter would itself be in some sense part of God. Such an idea is totally unbiblical and would lead to pantheism, the idea that everything is God, including ourselves.)**
4. How does 1 John 3:12 shed light on why Cain's offering was not accepted while Abel's was? What do Cain and Abel's offerings reveal about their hearts and their understanding of God's requirements? **(Cain was evil. That is ultimately what was wrong with his offering. When God did not receive his worship, he complained against God. He thought God owed him His approval no matter what his heart was like. This is a picture of people today who try to rewrite God’s standards and then get mad at their “brothers” who try to warn them these are not God’s standards. In a sense, they murder them with their hatred just as Cain did to Abel.)**
5. In Genesis 4 and 5, compare the descendants of Cain and Seth. What are the contrasting themes between these two lineages? (**Cain’s descendants are filled with worldly achievements. Seth’s simply live and die. They are living for another world)**
6. Discuss the importance of faith in God's covenant with Abraham, as mentioned in Genesis 15:6 and referenced in Romans 4:5, 16. **(We are justified by faith. That means we are declared righteous not by our works or goodness, but by Christ’s righteousness imputed to us.)**
7. What is the significance of Isaac being offered as a sacrifice in Genesis 22? How does it foreshadow Christ? **(Isaac was a son who was offered by a father on a mountain. A lamb was provided instead. Years later, God would provide His own Son as the lamb and not hold back the knife)**
8. Why is the concept of Joseph requesting that his bones be taken of Egypt when they leave so important to the author of Hebrews? **(Joseph was living by faith. He was looking to the promises of God)**