

BIBLE OVERVIEW

1. Eden to Babel: From Paradise to Pandemonium

Genesis 1 & 2 and Revelation 21 & 22 – ‘bookends’ to biblical library:
River – Paradise – Tree of Life

Genesis 1-11 – *Primeval history*.
Seed plot of the whole Bible
Prologue to *Salvation history*

Key question: What kind of literature?

‘Prophecy backwards’? ‘Pictorial history’?
Factual, not fictitious.

Creation

Genesis 1 & 2.
Introduction to Genesis and the Bible.
7 days/3 beginnings (*bara*’ in vv. 1, 21 and 28) – creation of matter, life and humans.

God the Creator
Humanity the climax of the creation.

Two accounts: 1.1-1.3 (universal focus); 2.4ff (human focus).

People as the custodians of creation.

- Work is honourable
- Rest is essential (Sabbath)
- Family is sacred
- Morality is paramount – two Trees
- Culture is important – Adam named the animals (2.19)
- Ecology (‘have dominion’ 1.28) and technology (‘and subdue it’ 1.28) together.

Key question: Scientific or symbolical?

Fall

Genesis 3
Consequences of disobedience
Alienation from God
Inevitability of death.
Alienation between man and woman

Key question: Elevated animal or fallen angel?

Murder and Violence

Genesis 4 & 5

Key question: 'Am I my brother's keeper?'

Noah and the Flood

Genesis 6-10

- Judgment comes
- Salvation experienced
- Covenant made (9)

Key question: Local or universal?

Tower of Babel

Genesis 11

'The Lord came down to see' (v. 5). Irony!

Key question: Why scatter the people?

(1) To negate human autonomy

'...so that we may make a name for ourselves' (v. 4)

(2) To curb human barbarity

'... nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them' (v. 6).

(3) To manifest divine sovereignty

To fulfil Gen. 1.28

Alienated from God, the alienation spreads like cancer.

- Husband from wife (Gen. 3)
- Brother from brother (Gen. 4)
- Children from parents (Gen. 9)
- Peoples from other peoples (Gen. 11)

Babel = the godless society.

Judgment > Pandemonium reigns.

Primeval history at an end; salvation history about to begin.

Abraham - ca 2000 BC.