

This week's reading:

January 1: Genesis 1 – 3

January 2: Genesis 4 – 6

January 3: Genesis 7 – 9

January 4: Genesis 10 – 12

January 5: Genesis 13 – 15

January 6: Genesis 16 – 18

January 7: Genesis 19 – 21

January 8: Genesis 22 – 24

Summary:

January 1: Genesis 1 – 3

Genesis 1: God has made everything by His power and the creation is a reflection of the character of God—It is good.

Genesis 2: God makes man (humanity) as His crowing act of creation; a creature that shares the image of God and is therefore a “reflection” of Him in the world.

(Note: on why reading our Bible is so important: Who noticed Adam was alone? Adam was not lonely; he had perfect fellowship with his Creator. God declares it is not good for the man to be alone not the other way around.)

Genesis 3: Eve is deceived by the serpent (Satan), Adam is disobedient of the command of God, and sin enters the world to the detriment of humanity and the creation itself.

(Note: Adam & Eve's symbol of sin (nakedness) was covered by a sacrifice offered by God. Even in the beginning of sin & rebellion we have the justifying work of God. We also have the promise of the Savior (Messiah) to come. This hope colors every action of God's people from this point forward in Scripture.)

January 2: Genesis 4 – 6

Genesis 4: Shows us the effect of sin and how it affects everything and everyone.

(Note: Was Cain forgiven? Interesting point to chew is that he isn't a wanderer, but settles and builds a city. Is that mercy or did Cain see true forgiveness in repentance?)

Genesis 5: This gets us from Seth to Noah; the next person we focus on in Bible history.

Genesis 6: we see how much sin is infesting mankind; and the invitation of judgment as God will not tolerate sin forever. Even in judgment, God is metered in His response and makes provision for mercy.

January 3: Genesis 7 – 9

Genesis 7 gives us a glimpse of the judgment of God against sin; it is terrifying and complete in its destruction. **(Note:** God provides for the continuation of His creation.

Also the sadness of judgment coming and so few being saved, this is a precursor of the work of Christ; the road is narrow that leads to life.)

Genesis 8 reminds us of the mercy of God in the midst of judgment. He has remembered Noah and His promises to Noah (as well as Adam & Eve) and is faithful to them. **(Note:** Sin is still prevalent; God's judgment does not remove sin. There must still come a Savior (as promised in the Garden) if sin is to be defeated.)

Genesis 9 gives us a glimpse to the future; God will not blot out sin by destroying His creation. **(Note:** sin must then be dealt with some other way). And even in the face of sin (Ham) and sins consequences (Canaan) God is faithful to the plan He has made.

January 4: Genesis 10 – 12

Genesis 10 gives us the Table of Nations as it is known; the descendants of Noah, filling the earth; eventually. I say eventually, because of the next Genesis.

Genesis 11 gives us the Tower of Babel; the sinful disobedience of the nations as they refuse to fill the earth. Instead of obeying the command they seek to make themselves great and are dispersed by the work of God. This Genesis ends with a focus on Shem and how that gets us to the next singular person of focus, Abram. **(Note:** As was pointed out, sin is still present in humanity. God's judgment will not remove sin, only the fulfillment of the promised son of Genesis 3 will accomplish that.)

Genesis 12 gives us God calling and promising to Abram. This promise becomes the lens and backdrop for everything that happens in the Bible from this point forward.

Abram quickly demonstrates his unworthiness of God's promise through his sin **(Note:** We are still waiting for that promised seed in 3:15, Abram has been revealed to be the father of a great blessing, hence the Bible follows his descendants moving forward as the source of this promise. Also note the use of very imperfect people by God. This story of Abram, and later Israel, is a story of God's faithfulness; and never of human worth & achievement.)

January 5: Genesis 13 – 15

Genesis 13 shows some providence as God keeps Abram in the land while Lot chooses to go to the valley and separate from Abram. **(Note:** Abram is again promised the land by God; but also notice the blessing of God in provision to Abram. He is to be a blessing and a testimony and already that is beginning.)

Genesis 14 again shows the provision of God and the blessing to Abram as he is victorious in battle. We also get a prototype of a non-Levite priest (Hebrews) who worships God. **(Note:** Notice the details given in this chapter. The Bible is not a fairytale, but a historical account of God's working.)

Genesis 15 is the faith of Abram and a repeating of the promise to Abram. You also have the cutting of a covenant by God, as He swears to keep His promises. **(Note:** God alone is the one who enters the covenant by passing through the pieces. Abram is passive and the recipient of God's promise. God is engaging in deal making so that His human agents will know that He has promised and will fulfill.)

January 6: Genesis 16 – 18

Genesis 16 begins with the continued sin and lack of trust of Abram and the difficulties that sin brings as Ishmael (son of Hagar/Abram) introduces more strife to the life of Abram.

Genesis 17 shows God's commitment to Abram, now Abraham, and the ability of God to accomplish what is humanly impossible. The sign of the covenant (circumcision) is now introduced and commanded. **(Note:** The sign of the covenant, the symbol of being God's people is to cut off a portion of the male. This is a foreshadowing of the work of salvation in Christ as the old self is dead, and the new creation in Christ is spiritually reborn.)

Genesis 18: Isaac is promised and it is revealed the cities of Sodom & Gomorrah have had judgment (rightly) passed against them. **(Note:** There were no righteous residents in Sodom as Genesis 19 will demonstrate. Therefore Abraham's declaration of God in v. 25 is absolutely correct.)

January 7: Genesis 19 – 21

Genesis 19 outlines the debauchery of Sodom and the deliverance of Lot for the sake of Abraham and the covenant God has with him. Just as Noah is delivered from destruction and falls into sin, you see the same pattern with Lot and his daughters. None are deserving of salvation. **(Note:** Lot, and his family, are not righteous; thus the city is destroyed. Lot is spared for the sake of Abraham upon whom God has set His love.)

Genesis 20 shows the continued sin of Abraham and the protection of God of Abraham & Sarah. **(Note:** We've seen this sin before, and will see it again in Isaac. Sin corrupts the heart and convinces people that dumb things are good ideas; like trusting in self rather than God. God's love and salvation are not dependent upon Abraham's goodness; but God's mercy.)

Genesis 21 introduces the promise fulfilled; the birth of a child to Abraham and Sarah, Isaac. You see the continued blessing on Abraham extended to Hagar & Ishmael, but from this point forward; Isaac is the focus of the promises of God.