

Bible Basics Conference 2012: “Genesis 1-12”

Part 14

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[00:00:01] Okay, well, the good news is, there is only one more slide.

The bad news is, you'll need to help me. And there will be a quiz.

And you will need a piece of paper and a pen. And you need to be seated strategically. Because each row will be one group. The papers will be very carefully marked. There will be an evaluation of the papers.

And then we will determine the winning group. And, exactly, the winning group will get free tickets to next year's Bible Basics Conference.

Okay, are you all equipped? Strategically, just think next to whom you want to be sitting now. [00:01:07] Right, there are, I think, around 17 questions that every group needs to answer.

I hope.

And the questions are these. Well, let's start with an easy one. And the picture may help you a little bit. The first question is, what is the topic of the book of Genesis?

Or the character?

You can still change rows.

If you find you want a different neighbor.

Now, just to give you some advance notice of the next 12 questions. [00:02:01] The next 12 questions will be, can you think of one word that gives a good idea of the central thought of each chapter? So, one word for Chapter 1. One word for Chapter 2. All the way down to 12.

In my proposed answers, sometimes I've listed two or three words. So, if you hit one of them, you get a point. Just to make it a bit easier.

So, one word for the heading, Genesis. Then, 12 words, one for each chapter.

And the last four questions I will tell you in about two minutes.

When you've answered the first 13. Well, you've all been here today and yesterday.

[00:03:05] You've heard all this. So, I'm sure it will now just flow out of your pens.

Okay. Are we all finished?

Rusty and Simon, you must have finished already.

Now, if it's too difficult, start with the last one, because that's what you heard most recently. Now, in about 30 seconds, when we've all finished, I would ask you to pass your paper to the row behind you. Who will mark the paper.

And if the last row could pass their paper to the front row, and they will mark those.

[00:04:07] And perhaps put a name on your paper as well. The name of the team leader, the row leader.

So, that's 13 so far. Okay, then.

Let me give you the last four questions. The last four questions are something like this. Think of grouping those chapters into four groups that stand for four different distinct time periods.

Or ages.

Or significant passages in the history of mankind.

[00:05:11] And to give you one more clue, the last one does not finish in chapter 12, but it's started by the time you come to chapter 12.

Something that characterized a time period that may go beyond one chapter.

Five, four, three, two, one.

And stop, please.

[00:06:01] Okay, if you now keep your pen, just pass the paper to the row behind you, please. Okay, I know this is very, very exciting. But can we just take the papers now and watch them, and then we go through the proposed solutions. And maybe you're marking me in the end, and I don't know whether I got them all right. But let's see.

The first question was, what is the character of the main theme of the book of Genesis? Now,

Genesis is the book of the beginnings.

Very good.

Well done.

Well done. That's one out of one so far. Now, it's getting a little more difficult.

What is the key word you have for chapter one?

[00:07:08] Ah, creation.

Very good. I see we have some real Bible students here.

Now, more seriously, in chapter one, we learn a great deal already about the glory of God and the glory of God in creation. It's something that is mentioned in each of the, actually I should have asked that question as well, in each of the three key chapters in the New Testament that speak about the personal glories of Christ. Question 18, which ones are those? John 1, Colossians 1, Hebrews 1, and each time it mentions the creator glory of Christ. The main thought perhaps to take away is that God reveals himself in creation and that his ultimate objective, [00:08:06] and you might say the crowning part of the creation was man, and his ultimate objective is for man, the man, the son of man, to have dominion over creation. And this is what we looked at in chapter one. Now, chapter two, is there anybody, relationship?

Very good.

Is that something that was on Simon's paper, or is that just something he said now? Now, why relationship?

And the question has actually been asked, if in chapter one we already learn about man being made, God created man, male and female he made them. Now, why is it that in chapter two you read again of Adam and that God breathed into him and that he became a living soul? [00:09:05] Why is that? Is that kind of just some duplication or what is happening here? The other question that was asked in one of the presentations was, why does the name of God change? Or why is a different name of God prominent in chapter two? Well, all of those are related. In chapter one, it's a question of the creator and his creature. In chapter two, it's a question of the Lord who enters into relationship with man. And there, of course, you find that he breathes into man. And there you find that the principles of marriage are unfolded. So, chapter two has a suggested key word, relationship. Now, chapter three, what was that?

[00:10:04] Sin. Sin. Anything else? The fall.

Anything else?

The remedy.

Let's see.

Sin. I think fall we'll accept as well.

Redemption.

Covering.

We saw how sin entered the world, but also how there was the promise of the Redeemer and how God found a means for covering, a means that involved death.

Now, number four, chapter four, anybody in agreement here? Sorry. Go back. What's on your papers? [00:11:02] New hope.

New hope.

Well, let me try and explain why I put down what I did put down. Obviously, chapter four is the story of Cain and Abel. And there was a disagreement. And the question is, what was this disagreement about at the core of it? What was at the core? And my suggestion is that at the core there was the question, how can you approach God? And Cain said, I can do that with the work of my hand. And Abel said, it requires a sacrifice. Now, what Cain did is what I would call the principle of carnal religion. Carnal meaning, you know, the natural strength. I can do something and God has got to be pleased with what I do. Whereas in Abel, you find the real way of approach to God through sacrifice. [00:12:01] Now, when Cain then goes away from the face of the Lord, what he essentially does is he becomes the founder of the world. That incidentally got washed away in the flood. But what he does is he builds up a system. And the core idea of that system is, let's make it as pleasant as possible with a city and with technology and music and culture. As pleasant as possible, but without God. And therefore the suggestion, approach to God and the origin of the system of the world. But I'm really intrigued now. If nobody had those two, maybe I'm completely wrong. What about Seth?

At the end, you find the new hope in Seth. Oh yes, okay.

If you focus, yeah. In the last verse, okay, we'll give half a point to Hans Rudi for new hope in Seth in the last verse of chapter four. [00:13:11] Any other suggestions? I didn't want to spread a spanner across this, but I can't help thinking that in some ways chapter four includes the consequences of the flood. Yes. For both Abel and Cain, actually. Yes. Yes, indeed. Half a point for consequences. Sorry, one point.

Yeah, I mean, obviously this is important and it's related to what Cain does. I mean, Cain basically builds a curse alleviation society. And I think we could go through any job that any of us in this room has. Ultimately, every job is in some way part of alleviating the curse and the consequences of the curse. [00:14:09] Whether you work in health or in education or whatever you do. So those are the consequences of sin.

And despite those consequences, there is a way of approaching God. But Cain chooses to go away from God and founds the world. Now, oh, sorry, chapter five.

Any thoughts?

I can see that Rusty at some point must have been a very good pupil.

Yeah, suggestion is that in chapter five, in contrast to the family of Cain, we come to the family of faith. And that family is marked not by great achievements like the line of Cain, but it's marked by faith and by calling upon the name of the Lord. [00:15:12] Sorry, chapter six.

Let's take chapters six and seven.

Well, it's probably too easy, so I'll carry on. Suggestions for chapters six and seven are, on the one hand, the truth that for mankind gone away from God, the inevitable consequence is going to be judgment.

And that's illustrated in a striking way in the flood which came. It took a long time. We heard how many years Noah had to build the ark.

It looked like judgment was never to come, but in the end it came. [00:16:05] But also in those chapters you find that there is not only judgment, but there is salvation. And that's another principle we need to take away, that before God judges, he offers a refuge, a way of salvation, a way of escape to those who believe what he says, to those who have faith. I hope you keep marking.

Chapter eight, obviously, we find Noah on a new and cleansed earth, and it has been connected with new creation. And perhaps we want to add something.

Right.

And this is the point of acceptance. Noah, we heard, builds the altar, he offers sacrifice, and it says that God smelled the sweet savor of that sacrifice. [00:17:12] And so it's not only that Noah is on a new and cleansed earth, but he has acceptance, and that's beautifully illustrated in that chapter. Now, in chapter nine, we come to the time of government.

Well done, Simon.

This is not that long ago now.

Nick explained this afternoon how God instituted government at the time of Noah, and how the command was given that those who shed blood, that their blood should be shed. Chapter ten, put down nations, how the descendants of Noah populated the earth, and in chapter eleven, you find the pride of man, the confusion that God then sent in response.

[00:18:24] Think of Tower of Babel, and what happened was the dispersion of the nations. But also, at the end of the chapter, we come to the matter of the calling. So that, starting with chapter twelve, we really have before us the call, where God now goes a different way. He calls out someone out of that system that had failed, despite of the other three things that had been before. And those are the last few questions you had, in terms of groupings. [00:19:02] Did anybody come up with any grouping? Yeah? One and two?

Let's see. One and two.

Very good.

The time of innocence, in chapters one and two. Then we have a time of, what, chapters three to eight.

It certainly wasn't innocence anymore, but what had man received? A conscience. Very good.

He had eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and Satan had said, you will be like God, and in one respect, it was true. They then knew about good and evil, but at the price of having fallen. [00:20:04] And then we have a time of, I'll give you a hint.

Look at chapter nine.

A time of government.

And then you have a time of...

A point for both.

Calling and promise. Close related.

So I'm impressed.

You have done very well.

The lectures have been obviously a great help to everyone. I just want to add one point, and that's picking up on something Brother Rusty said this morning in the meeting in Plumstead, where he said, ultimately, if we study these things, the objective must be to find Christ in all the scriptures. [00:21:12] And that's a very important point to make. But if you look at this slide here, you might say, you know, there's nothing about Christ, really. This is all theology. This is all sort of difficult words. This is like, you know, relationship and redemption and judgment and so on. Well, is that actually true? Let's have a quick look. Chapter one, I don't need to repeat. You really find the glory of Christ as creator and as son of man set over creation. In chapter two, where we come to relationship, this is actually where Adam falls into a deep sleep. And we saw that this is Christ again going into death, and this is how the church was formed. In chapter three, obviously, death comes in, and it speaks of Christ. [00:22:01] And Christ is the one who brought covering that we can stand before God. Now think of chapter four. It's again death, but it's not exactly the same thing. It's not death as covering. It's now the death of Christ as that which gives us the approach to God. Then you find the family of faith, those who live in a living relationship with Christ. Then in chapter six and seven, obviously, in view of the judgment, what is central is salvation, and we find salvation in Christ. Christ, I think it was pointed out, the Ark of Gopher Wood, how we find Christ there as that which gives us salvation, and therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, just as it was for Noah and his family in the Ark. [00:23:01] The Ark, however, was exposed. Noah was sheltered, but the Ark was exposed to the rain and to the flood. And this is how Christ speaks of the fact that Christ was exposed to the judgment waters from which we have been sheltered. Now then, the new earth, new creation, of course, founded on the work of Christ, and you come to the matter of acceptance. A third aspect, we had covering, we had approach. Now we have acceptance on the basis of the work of Christ. Government, well, there was failure under Noah, but there will be perfect government. The time will come when there will be a perfect government on this earth. And if the nations have been dispersed over the whole globe, Christ has given himself to gather into one those who were scattered abroad,

[00:24:09] the children of God who were scattered abroad. And the wonderful thing that has happened is that a unity has been made that transcends the unity of a nation. This is the unity of the one body that is composed of believers from all possible different nations. And coming to the call and the promise, it came out in the ultimate, in the final lecture we had, that really, what does this promise rest on? It says, in the seed of Abraham you shall be blessed. And there again you have Christ, again in a different aspect. So I just wanted to mention this, that really, you know, we do want to go away with a good framework. We do want to go away and know what chapters 1 to 12 are about, what the key ideas are. But we do want to go away as well, remembering that all of this is really speaking of what the Lord Jesus has done, [00:25:09] what his work means for us and his person.