

## UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 1 – Summary: Genesis 1 Through Genesis 11

January 27, 2026

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Click on the Lessons link. Scroll down to Scottsdale Bible Church Women’s Bible Study - *Understanding the One Story of Scripture* – Spring Semester, 2026. If you would like to access the lessons from the Fall of 2025, you can do so – *Understanding the One Story of Scripture* – *Fall of 2025*.

Isa. 11:2 - . . .the 7-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit - *the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.* The Holy Spirit gives us understanding of God’s Word! GOD desires for us to UNDERSTAND His word (Dan. 9:22; Dan. 9:20-25). The angel, Gabriel, was sent to the Prophet Daniel to give Daniel skill in understanding the prophecy about the Jewish people and end times.

Have you had difficulty understanding a uniformed message from God in Scripture? Are the Bible accounts fragmented to you? Have you not been able to piece them together?

In Isa. 46:10 – God is...*Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,’* Declaring is in the present tense because the end and the beginning are connected. IT’S ONE STORY! God sees both sides clearly! God knows every detail...everything in between – because He has orchestrated every moment...every event because God is eternal!

When we KNOW Who God is...when we KNOW all His attributes, His holiness, justice, goodness, mercy, grace, faithfulness, longsuffering, steadfastness...when we KNOW that He is all knowing, all powerful, and everywhere present...we can truly stand on His every word in Scripture...and take delight in the inerrancy of God’s word – “inerrancy” – without error.

II Tim. 3:16 – *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (God-breathed), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

I'm not going to ask for your opinions re: a verse or a passage in the Bible. An opinion means a view that rests on grounds insufficient to produce complete certainty!! In our study of the Bible we need to OBSERVE the text – noticing the timeframe, past tense/present tense/future tense... the players in the text and their actions...taking note of conflict/tension. And then begin to ask questions. Observing what we're reading in the Bible makes the Bible come ALIVE!

How many of you have heard that CONTEXT is crucial? Context concerns the setting of a verse/passage in the chapter, in the book, in the entire BIBLE! What was occurring before and following this verse/passage you're studying! Understanding the context of the Bible will help us know how the narratives in Scripture fit into the entire Bible! We as students of God's Word need to recognize God's Word as being significant – WORTHY OF ATTENTION!

Why are Genesis and Revelation considered the bookends of the Bible? We need to know that the book of Genesis provides us with the key to what God has planned FOREVER! It's

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ALREADY BEEN PLANNED! Thus, the one story. AND, Genesis teaches us the way by which God is going to accomplish His purposes!!

There are four words that BROADLY explain the one story of Scripture:

CREATION   FALL   REDEMPTION   RESTORATION

CREATION: God created the heavens and the earth perfectly/completely. Following the first five days of creation, God saw that it was good. Gen. 1:31 - *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

FALL: Temptation from Satan caused man to doubt God thus sin entered the world. Sin disrupted the original harmony, bringing death, pain, and separation from God.

REDEMPTION: God IMMEDIATELY set in motion a plan to rescue and restore. He promised a Redeemer Who would resolve sin by paying the price for man's sin (Gen. 3:15b). We need to know that Jesus paying for our redemption was God's plan from eternity past (Rev. 13:8)!!

RESTORATION: New Creation: new heavens/new earth – the New Jerusalem.

The “one story” of Scripture emphasizes that God's purpose is not only to save individuals but to restore the entire universe to what God had initially intended – Plan A – for the glory of God (Hab. 2:14; Rom. 8:19-22).

God reveals His plan for the world gradually through the Scripture. Not all details were given regarding salvation in Genesis 3. HOWEVER, the Redeemer (“the Seed of the woman”) was declared. And, God laid out the consequences for sin (Gen. 3:17-19). AND, there was HOPE (Gen. 3:20) and God provided tunics/garments for Adam and Eve – understanding that an animal was killed...blood was shed.

Gen. 3:22-24 (READ) – God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden! They now had greater knowledge having experienced the knowledge of evil from eating of the forbidden tree. They knew shame due to their rebellion against God. Eating of the tree of life would make them immortal and living forever in their fallen state.

The “one story” of Scripture is revealed gradually. This is known as progressive revelation. The details of God's revelation become more clear over time.

The OT is divided into two distinct parts:

- God Deals with Mankind: Genesis 1 – 11: covering approximately 2,000 years and encompasses God's dealings with mankind. There were no Jews or Gentiles; there was... mankind!
- God Deals with the Gentiles Through Israel: Genesis 12-Malachi 4: covering approximately 4,000 years...and it continues.

Isa. 66:22 – ‘...for as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the Lord. ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain.’ Israel has an eternal future!

## GENESIS 1 – GENESIS 11:

Genesis 1 - *God created the heavens and the earth* – if we believe these seven words – we can believe the rest of the Bible.

- God created man in innocence with the freedom of choice.
- God created man to serve Him...to represent God on earth. God gave man dominion on earth to rule, serve, and nurture the creation on God’s behalf (Gen. 1:26, 28).

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Genesis 2 - God gave man everything but told them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – or they would surely die (Gen. 2:15-17).

Genesis 3 - By eating from that very tree, Adam and Eve sought to determine for themselves what was good and evil! Man rebelled against God.

- Immediately there was separation from God. And this separation was not imposed by God; it was initiated by men.
- God immediately promised the Redeemer (Gen. 3:15b)...and spiritual warfare began. The “enmity” (hatred; blood feud) between the seed of Satan (accuser; adversary) and the Seed of the woman (Redeemer; Jesus) speaks of an ongoing conflict. Genesis reveals the beginning of the battle with Satan; Revelation closes the battle with Satan’s final defeat!

Genesis 4 – Consequence of sin reflecting spiritual warfare: Adam and Eve’s first son, Cain, disobeyed God...killed his brother, Abel, who had obeyed God. Cain’s lineage was unrighteous.

Genesis 5 - through Adam and Eve’s son, Seth, we are introduced to his lineage and are told that *men began to call on the name of the Lord*. The names in Adam’s line through Seth present the Gospel: “Man was appointed mortal sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching and His death shall bring the despairing rest.”

Genesis 6:5-7 – *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* Sin intensified! The global, catastrophic flood destroyed all but 8 people – Noah, Mrs. Noah, their sons and their sons’ wives...and enough animals for food, for sacrifice and for beginning again. (Week 8 from the Fall Semester, Oct. 28, 2025 - addresses Satan’s attempt to pollute man’s DNA. You might find that a most helpful read)

Genesis 8:21-22 – God’s covenant with creation.

Genesis 9 – Through Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, we are introduced to a distinction re: the line of Shem. Gen. 9:26 presents a narrowing...focusing on Shem’s line: Gen. 9:26 – *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem.* WHY?

Genesis 10 – 70 nations came from Noah’s sons. The genealogies of Noah’s sons are noted. And, the nations become significant in later biblical narratives. WHY? John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world....*

Genesis 11 – We read of the Tower of Babel and global scattering. The narrative of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9) highlights humanity’s pride and desire for autonomy...stating, *let us make a name for ourselves*...underscoring mankind separation from God!

Genesis 11 then provides Shem’s genealogy, narrowed further...narrowing the focus from ALL nations specifically to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber. The descendants of Shem (Shemites; Semites) through Eber are noted as Peleg (division) and Joktan. BUT Peleg is zeroed in on and then narrowed to one family: Terah and his son Abram (later renamed Abraham) – setting up God’s call to Abram in Genesis 12.

The contrast at Babel: humans sought to make their own name great. BUT GOD promised to make Abram’s name great and to bless the nations through him!!

Genesis 12 is the pivotal chapter which continues to Revelation 22!

We read of one family through whom blessing will ultimately reach all humanity and fulfill the hope and need exposed in Genesis 3-11!

In Genesis 3-11 we read of the reach/the extent of humanity, the division of humankind, and the insufficiency of human effort which reminds man of the NEED for the

Redeemer, the Seed of the woman...and prepares the world for God's plan of redemption and restoration for the world through Abraham and his physical descendants!

## Q&A

## QUESTIONS

Introduce yourselves.

What impacted you through this lesson in God's word!?

What are you desiring to learn through this study in Scripture?

What are your questions re: the "one story" of Scripture? Please write them out and give them to your Table Leader.

## SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 1 w/ Bible references.

Jot down observations and questions re: the Bible references in Week 1.

Read Week 2's handout when you receive it.