

1. Before the Flood
2. The Flood and the Scattering
3. The Patriarchs
4. Egyptian Bondage
5. The Wilderness Wandering
6. The Conquest of Canaan
7. The Judges
8. The United Kingdom
9. The Divided Kingdom
10. The Exile
11. Return and Independence
12. Christ and the Church

BEFORE THE FLOOD

- As the heading indicates, the time before the flood includes the events prior to Genesis 6, which actually covers thousands of years.
- In the beginning, God creates the world and everything in it, the most important creation being mankind (Adam and Eve).
- Satan later enters Eden and tempts the woman and the man, leading them to sin, which results in curses and their expulsion from the garden.

BEFORE THE FLOOD

- Adam and Eve have two sons, Cain and Abel, and eventually, due to the jealousy of the former toward the latter, Cain murders his brother.
- Adam and Eve have other children, including a son, Seth, whose genealogy is recorded because of his connection to Noah.
- The world becomes more and more wicked during this time, causing God to grieve over the creation of mankind.

EXCURSUS

- The Bible indicates that God created the cosmos in six literal days (see Gen 1:1-2:3; Exod 20:8-11) simply by speaking it into existence.
- There is a poetic structure to the days of creation that makes it easier to memorize.
- Day 1: Heavens, Earth, Light; Day 2: Expanse, Day 3: Dry Land and Vegetation, Day 4: Lights, Day 5: Water and Sky Creatures, Day 6: Land Creatures and Mankind, Day 7: Rest

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FLOOD AND SCATTERING

- The description “The Flood and the Scattering” obviously includes the two important events, the flood and the scattering of the nations.
- Because of the universal wickedness of mankind, God determined to destroy them with a worldwide flood.
- Yet, Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord, and God saved Noah and his family from the flood with the ark.

FLOOD AND SCATTERING

- After the Flood, people were given meat to eat, capital punishment was legalized, the rainbow became a sign, and Canaan was cursed.
- Also, though God had commanded Noah's descendants to spread out, they disobeyed and attempted to construct a large tower (Babel).
- The Lord, therefore, confused their languages, causing them to cease building the tower and separate to various places.

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PATRIARCHS

- The word *patriarch* means “father-rule,” and so the period known as “The Patriarchs” deals with the fathers of the Jewish people.
- The three most prominent patriarchs are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the sons of Jacob are also included, especially Joseph.
- At the start of (and throughout) this period, God makes promises to Abraham and his seed—ultimately point to Christ (see Gen 12, 15, 18).

EXCURSUS

- Jacob (Israel) had twelve sons, and their decedents eventually become the twelve tribes of Israel—adopting their fathers' names.
- The sons of Jacob are Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.
- The tribes are only slightly different; Joseph is identified with his sons Ephraim and Manasseh, and Levi does not receive a land inheritance.

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EGYPTIAN BONDAGE

- After the patriarch Joseph died, an Egyptian pharaoh came to power who did not remember Joseph and fear the Israelites in Egypt.
- The pharaoh, therefore, enslaved the Israelites, but God heard the cries of his people and raised up a Levite, Moses, to be their deliverer.
- At the age of forty, he killed an abusive Egyptian but, when the Israelites did not rally to him, fled to Midian, becoming a shepherd.

EGYPTIAN BONDAGE

- God commissioned Moses to return to Egypt and deliver the Israelites, promising to perform wonders against the Egyptians.
- The Lord brought ten plagues on the Egyptians, the hardhearted Pharaoh finally releasing the Israelites after the first Passover.
- The period of bondage truly ends after Moses leads the people away from Egypt and miraculously through the Red Sea.

EXCURSUS

- The exodus from Egypt is probably one of the most frequently mentioned events in the Old Testament, as it exemplifies the power of God.
- The ten plagues against Egypt seemingly demonstrated the superiority of Yahweh over the gods of Egypt (see Exod 12:12).
- The plagues were (1) blood, (2) frogs, (3) gnats, (4) flies, (5) pestilence, (6) boils, (7) hail, (8) locusts, (9) darkness, and (10) death.