

Search for Truth #1

Home Bible Study Course

Teacher's Manual

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LESSON ONE

Creation through the Flood

A. Rules

1. First of all, we want to discuss the rules of our Bible lessons. We are not here to discuss denominations. It matters little what you or I think. Our main concern is “what does the Bible say?”
2. Our second rule is that we are not here to ask you to join a church.
3. Our third rule is that we will not argue.

B. Theme

1. The theme of our Bible lessons is “Open your heart when you open your Bible.” It is very important that we put aside biased opinions and prejudice in this study and open our hearts to the truths of God’s Word.

C. The Search

1. The story is told of a very poor family who lived in a large two-story home that had been built many years before. This family hardly had enough to eat and struggled from week to week to barely exist. For many years they had been in dire need of the necessities of life, but one day, out of curiosity, they decided to explore the attic of their home. To their amazement, they found a chest full of gold, silver, and jewels! Unbelievable riches right at their fingertips, but they had been in poverty all those years! The very same story is true in

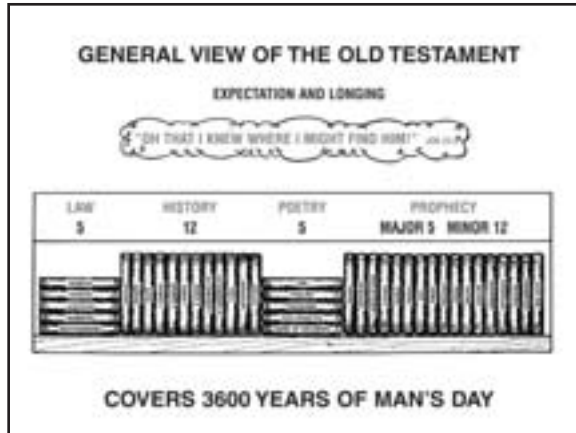
millions of homes all over the world. Right within the pages of our Bibles lie the greatest riches this world will ever know, yet men pass it by daily and fail to heed the message it contains. Our Bible is not only a guide for a richer, fuller life in this world, but is also a guide to tell us how to reach that place God has prepared for those who obey the pages of this Book.

2. The search we are beginning tonight is of far greater significance than that made by our forefathers in their search for gold in California in the year 1849. People all over America sold their homes to join the army of prospectors searching for riches. But the gold those historical fortune seekers found soon passed away and was gone. The riches we will find in our search will last us for time and eternity. This study will be the greatest search of my life for truth, and we hope the greatest search of your life.

D. The Hands

1. This Book we hold in our hands has been opened by kings and rulers, by rich and poor alike. Many mothers have shed tears on the pages of these sacred writings. But the reason we are opening this blessed Book tonight is to search through its pages for truths that have been hidden from our view and to let God talk to our hearts.

Lesson 1 – Chart 1 General View of the Old Testament



A. Expectation and Longing

1. Throughout the Old Testament there is a theme of expectation and longing to find God. Job said, "Oh that I knew where I might find him!" Within the heart of every man there is a longing to fill that empty space which was put there by God. Eternity is placed in the heart of every man, and nothing can fill that longing but the eternal God.

B. Books of the Bible

1. The number of books in the Old Testament is quite easy to remember. The word "old" has three letters; the word "testament" has nine letters. Put three and nine together and you have 39: the number of books in the Old Testament.
2. Division of the Books
 - a. Law – Five books consisting of both ceremonial and moral law, including the Ten Commandments, all written by Moses
 - b. History – Twelve books consisting of the history of the nation of Israel
 - c. Poetry – Five books of promise, praise, prayer, prophecy, and commandments
 - d. Prophecy – Seventeen books—five major and twelve minor prophets. Prophecies in these books deal with Israel at the particular time of their writings and also foretell events to take place in years to come, such as the Messiah, the church age, the end times, Tribulation, and the kingdom age.

C. Covers 3,600 Years of Man's Day

1. The Old Testament was written over a period of 1,400 years by thirty-two writers

and covers 3,600 years of man's day. These writers came from all walks of life, yet each is in perfect harmony with all the rest. Amos was a country preacher; Isaiah was a brilliant court preacher; Moses was an heir to the throne of Egypt; David was a king and a beautiful song writer, and Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, but still there is no contradiction in their writings because there was just one author of all thirty-nine books—the Holy Ghost. (Read II Peter 1:21.)

2. We quote from an eminent theologian as he apologizes for the Bible, "Of course, there are scientific errors—we must excuse such mistakes; after all, the Bible is not a textbook of science. We cannot expect it to be scientifically perfect." He is right about one thing; the Bible is not a textbook of science. The Bible is the Word of God written for salvation of souls and deliverance from damnation and hell. There is only one way to be saved, and it is revealed in this Book. However, this book is scientifically correct. Our God made this world, and all the scientific marvels that man is just now discovering were there from the beginning. Man did not surprise God with waves that could broadcast a radio or television program. God made those waves in the beginning. Jet propulsion is not a surprise to God. That force was made in the beginning. The Bible contains no scientific mistakes because God knew every fact of science from the beginning.
3. What would the Bible be like if we tried to change it to suit every scientific fad? Any science book over one year old is obsolete. What would the Bible have been like in 500 B.C.? A.D. 1000? even 1970? It would be full of absurd scientific ideas and monstrosities. In 1861 the French Academy of Science published a booklet stating fifty-one scientific facts that contradicted the Word of God. It was really impressive when published. Yet today, not one scientist in the world who believes a single one of those so-called facts lives. The most phenomenal thing of all is that the Bible has not changed. Every syllable is the same as when it was written.
4. Let's be sure of what the Word of God says. Satan loves to make a fool of people and confuse them. A religious theologian from a university spent much time, money,

and years of research to prove that apples do not grow in the Mesopotamian Valley. He was assuming the Bible said Adam and Eve ate an apple from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. However, the scripture does not tell us what kind of fruit it was.

5. All we know of God, we will find between the covers of the Bible. A study of this nat-

ural world will never teach us. We can look at the sunset and think of His beauty; we can look at the thunder and lightning and think of His power; we can think of our conscience and know He is righteous. But to really know Him personally, how He deals with man, what the expectations from man are, how much He loves man—only the Bible reveals this to us.

Lesson 1 – Chart 2 The Creation



A. In the Beginning

1. Now let's turn to the first verse of the Bible and read it all together. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." It doesn't say HOW He did it, WHY, or WHERE He performed the Creation. It doesn't say where it came from, what He made it of—just the bold fact—"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." To "create" in its proper sense, is the divine act of absolute creation without the use of preexisting material, or to call into being that which was not. It is by faith that we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear, Hebrews 11:3.
2. Moses, who wrote the book of Genesis, was trained to be the pharaoh and was learned in the science of Egypt. Archaeologists have dug up and put together things Moses read and studied. Moses studied in his day the far-fetched idea of how the earth hatched from an egg. However, Moses does not mention an egg; only that God created the heaven and the earth. He studied evolution, too. Egyptians taught that man sprang from little white worms found in slime and mud after the annual overflow of the Nile River. This idea might have come from watching a caterpillar change into a butterfly. Their theory of evolution was not far behind those of today. Yet Moses mentions none of this in his writings. The Bible does not reflect the scientific background of the day in which it was written. It was kept from error by the Holy Spirit of God.
3. Genesis is a book of beginnings. If you try to go back beyond the beginning, you have only God. He had no beginning, for He is eternal. Before Creation there is only God and eternity, and at the end of all things there will still be God and eternity, and we must plan to spend that eternity somewhere.
4. The length of eternity could be illustrated in this way. If the world was one gigantic, stainless steel ball and a little sparrow would come by every thousand years and simply brush his wing against it, when this gigantic ball was completely worn away and nothing was left, eternity would have just begun.