



CONSISTENTLY IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE

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Old Testament People of Faith

The purpose of these notes are to assist in developing a proper understanding of the course presented. They are not a comprehensive evaluation of the material and are intended to supplement instruction given.

A sincere attempt has been made to acknowledge different authors. However, if any omission of acknowledgement has occurred, The Barn will gladly rectify the matter in future editions.

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COURSE PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to make a study of Old Testament events and characters, from the perspective of faith operating in their lives. In analyzing the lives of these "People of Faith", we will learn vital lessons on how to live by faith. As we look at their successes and their failures we should be inspired to victory in our Christian walk as we too please God through a lifestyle of faith.

Outline

1. Introduction / Creation.
2. Creation to the Flood.
3. The Patriarchs.
4. The Exodus.
5. The Judges.
6. The Kingdom.
7. Exile & Restoration.

Supplementary Reading

1. Hebrews Chapter 11.

Acknowledgements

1. S Schultz Old Testament Speaks.
2. L Vecueil The Bare Facts

Lesson 1 – Introduction.

Outline

1. Defining Faith
2. In the beginning
3. Summary of Genesis 1-11
4. The Account of Creation
5. The Order of Creation
6. Theories of Creation
7. Evolution
8. Additional Thoughts on Creation

Hebrews 11

1. Defining Faith.

- 1.1 Faith is the substance of things hoped for.

Hebrews 11:1-3

- 1.2 Faith is the “substance” of the spirit realm that brings things hoped for, from the spirit realm to the natural realm.

1.2.1 In other words faith gives substance to things not seen, it brings them into the realm of experience.

1.2.2 It takes the promises from the pages of the Bible and makes them real in everyday life.

1.2.3 Faith is the bridge that connects things hoped for to the realm of experience.

- 1.3 When you have faith from the Word of God, and release that faith based on what can not be seen in your life, the result will be something that will be seen in your life.

2. In the Beginning

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God . . . (NKJ)

2.1 Guidelines

2.1.1 Everything has a beginning except God. The author of Genesis does not attempt to prove the eternal existence of God; rather he assumes this from the very first line!

2.1.2 We must guard against:

2.1.2.1 Reading into the narrative

2.1.2.2 Interpreting it in scientific terms

2.1.3 The author obviously used symbols, figures of speech and other literary devices and yet it still is a sensible, unified record of the beginning of all things made known to him by God.

2.1.4 We can with relative accuracy determine the time of Abraham but before this we have very little accuracy in determining times as the genealogical account does not seem to be exact nor chronological.

2.1.5 Neither are the geographical locations likely to be identified.

3. Summary of Genesis 1-11

The account of creation	1:1-2:25
The universe and its contents	1:1-2:3
Man and his habitat	2:4-25
The fall of man and its consequences	3:1-6:10
Man's disobedience and expulsion	3:1-24
Cain and Abel	4:1-24
The generation of Adam	4:25-6:10
The Flood: God's judgement on man	6:11-8:19
Preparation for the Flood	6:11-22
The deluge	7:1-8-19
Man's new beginning	8:20-11:32
The covenant with Noah	8:20-9:19
Noah and his sons	9:20-10:32
The tower of Babel	11:1-9
Shem and his descendents	11:10-32

4. The Account of Creation

Hebrews 11:3

4.1 The result of God releasing what was not seen - was something that could be seen.

4.2 The Word of God produces the substance of what the Christian is believing for.

Genesis 1:1-5

4.3 "In the beginning . . ." This dateless date refers either to God's original creation or to God's initial act in getting the world ready for man.

4.4 Did God create the universe in 6 consecutive days? If so, when did it happen?

4.5 Theologians have attempted to reconcile the days of Genesis with science, especially geology and paleontology.

4.5.1 Geology - study of the history of the earth and its life especially as recorded in rocks.

4.5.2 Palaeontology - study of life of past geological periods known from fossil remains.

4.5.3 Fossils - remnants, impressions or traces of an animal or plant of past geological ages

4.6 Some evidences of dating the earth:

4.6.1 The earth is covered with sedimentary rocks (rocks built up layer upon layer). Many fossil remains have been found at various levels of these rock coverings. Shells of sea animals have been found in limestone sedimentary rock.

4.6.2 Coals and oils in the earth, scientists believe, come from very ancient animal and vegetable life. They are sometimes referred to as hydrocarbon or fossil fuels. There are perfect prints of leaves and plants in various forms of coal.

- 4.6.3 Carbon 14 atomic dating is based on the theory that uranium turns to lead in a given number of years. Many scientists believe this makes it possible to establish fairly accurate dates for the age of fossils or rocks.

5. Order of creation:

First Day:	Light created and separated from darkness
Second Day	An expanse (atmosphere) between the earth and the sky
Third Day	Separation of land from water on the earth
Fourth Day	Luminaries (sun, moon, stars) in the heavens
Fifth Day	Living creatures in the water below and the sky above
Sixth Day	Land animals and man

6. Theories of creation:

6.1 **The 24-Hour-Day Theory** – This is a literal interpretation of Genesis 1 IE a period of 6 literal, 24-hour days. Those who hold this theory emphasise God’s power to create instantaneously out of nothing. Fossil evidence is explained by:

- 6.1.1 Noah’s flood having major effects on the earth’s topography (description), accounting for the appearance of age.
- 6.1.2 Gaps in the early genealogies of Genesis making the earth much older than the 6 000 years suggested.
- 6.1.3 God creating Adam and Eve with the appearance of age and so the earth could have been created similarly.

6.2 **The “Day-Age” or “Age-Day” Theory** – The days of Genesis are very long historical eras, and these eras could correspond with the geological ages. This is consistent with other uses of the word “day” in the Word.

6.3 **The Pictorial-Day or Revelation-Day Theory** – God could have taken billions of years to create the universe before He created Adam; He then could have revealed the process of creation to Moses in 6 successive days.

6.4 **The Gap Theory** – According to this theory God created a perfect earth which “became without form and void” thus providing a gap between verses 1 & 2 which could be of almost limitless duration. Isaiah 14 and Jeremiah 4 suggest that God’s perfect creation became without form and void through a catastrophe linked to Satan’s fall.

Genesis 1:1-2; Isaiah 14:9-14; Jeremiah 4:23-26

6.5 All four of these are theories i.e. none of them can be scientifically proved. However evolution is also a theory which cannot be proved.

- 6.5.1 Evolution, however needs more faith than creation to believe as it violated not only the laws of Genesis “everything reproducing after its own kind” but also the laws of genetics.
- 6.5.2 It is not important which theory a person believes, what is important is that we believe the Bible IE creation as opposed to:
 - Evolution &
 - Theistic evolution.

7. Evolution

7.1 The theory that all forms of life are derived from earlier or simpler forms - i.e. that something complex is developed by itself from a simple beginning.

7.2 Evolution accepts the existence of the cause of the first substance and so the theory begins with something already in existence without attempting to explain how it (the cause) began.

7.3 Evolution says that all living things arose from an original non-living or dead source, ie spontaneous generation took place within non-living material.

7.4 Evolution breaks the laws of science, genetics and physics.

7.5 The idea of survival of the fittest has been replaced by the survival of the `luckiest' as scientists know that there have been periods where life has been wiped off the face of the earth.

7.6 "NOTHING WORKING ON NOTHING, BY NOTHING, THROUGH NOTHING, FOR NOTHING PRODUCED EVERYTHING." P Dake

7.7 Creation and Evolution

7.7.1 God created everything perfectly and due to sin the creation has been deteriorating.

7.7.2 When God created out of nothing, each aspect of creation was perfect and complete.

7.7.3 God had a plan and a design, and therefore everything that exists has order and purpose.

Romans 1:20

7.7.4 Creation and evolution are diametrically opposed and so both cannot be right.

7.7.5 There are also those who believe in theistic evolution i.e. that God controlled evolution but this is also impossible in the light of the above as how can God break the laws He has put in motion?

CREATION MODEL	EVOLUTION MODEL
1. Creation was planned for a purpose.	1. Everything came about by chance
2. There was a designer.	2. No designer. It is all haphazard.
3. Living things were made separately, uniquely complete at creation.	3. Living things came from a single life-form by evolution. This life came from inanimate matter.
4. Man is a special creation, different from animals.	4. Man is just an animal having evolved from animals.
5. Basic plant or animal kinds were made complete in the first representatives.	5. Gradual change took place from simplex to more complex forms.
6. Sharp boundaries exist between kinds. There are no missing links.	6. Transitional forms link the different kinds. There are many missing links.
7. Legs, arms, wings, sex etc. complete from moment of creation.	7. Gradual evolution of organs by natural selection.
8. Nature was created perfect but was spoiled when man disobeyed God.	8. Nature is always growing better and perfect by evolutionary change.

7.8 Evolution Violates Laws:

- 7.8.1 Physics:- The second Law of Thermodynamics says that everything is winding down but the theory of evolution teaches that things are becoming better organized and more efficient.
- 7.8.2 Genetics:- For evolution to work there would have to be a genetic change in the copying of cells. A change is called a mutation and results in disease or deformity. The body itself has a protection mechanism against this change.

8. Additional Thoughts on Creation

8.1 The two important factors of creation are:

- 8.1.1 Man is made in the image of God and
8.1.2 God deserves the glory for the creation:

Psalm 8:1-9

8.2 There are 4 repetitive passages in Genesis 1:

“And God said...”
“It was good.”
“... according to its own kind.”
“The earth brought forth...”

8.3 The only name of God revealed in Chapter 1 is Elohim which is the plural form of El. This designated God as the Highest. The plural form of the word refers to all three parts of the Godhead being involved in creation.

Genesis 1:26

8.4 In chapter 2 God is revealed as The Lord God, from the Hebrew word Yahweh or Jehovah - the covenant name of God.

8.5 Faith Lesson: If God created with His Words and requires us to imitate Him, then our words are crucial to creating our worlds around us!
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Lesson 2 – Creation to the Flood.

Outline

1. A Good Testimony
2. Abel – Simple Obedience
3. Enoch – The God Pleaser
4. Noah – A Righteousness Preacher

Hebrews 11

1 A Good Testimony

Hebrews 11:2

For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

- 1.1 If the elders (the people of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11) obtained a good testimony through faith then it is important that we make this our goal.
- 1.2 The only way a believer should live is by faith (“the just shall live by faith”) – it is also the way in which we please God.

Romans 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:6

- 1.3 Faith comes by hearing the Word of God **Romans 10:17**

2 Abel: Simple Obedience

Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:1

- 2.1 Based on the fact that his sacrifice was accepted we can deduce that he was taught by his parents (Adam and Eve) regarding sacrifice. **Genesis 3:21**
- 2.2 Abel feared and respected God, and out of obedience, he offered a sacrifice that was acceptable to God.
- 2.3 Abel's sacrifice
 - 2.3.1 Abel brought the firstlings of his flock - acknowledgment that all belongs to God, and the fat thereof - his best.
- 2.4 Cain's sacrifice

Genesis 4:5-7

- 2.4.1 Faith is obeying what God has commanded!

I Samuel 15:22

“In bringing the offering he did, Cain denied that he was a sinful creature under the sentence of divine condemnation. He insisted on approaching God on the ground of personal worthiness. Instead of accepting God’s way, he offered to God the fruits of the ground which God had cursed. He presented the product of his own toil, the work of his own hands, and God refused to receive it.” Arthur W. Pink (Gleanings of Genesis)

- 2.5 Faith Lesson: Obedience is key to faith. When God gives an instruction, we must obey regardless of our own ideas!

3 Enoch – The God Pleaser.

Hebrews 11:5-6; Genesis 5:18-24

3.1 The Bible records little of Enoch.

3.1.1 We do know that he did prophecy. **Jude 1:14-15**

3.1.2 He lived a life that pleased God. **Hebrews 11:6**

3.1.3 He had an unusual yet glorious end. **Hebrews 11:5**

3.2 Faith Lesson: Enoch's life pleased God? How? By Faith. The way that God has ordained for us to live is by faith. Not only is this the way to live but it is the only way to please Him!

4 Noah – The Righteous Preacher.

Hebrews 11:7; Genesis 6:13-22

4.1 Noah's background

4.1.1 Noah is the son of Lamech - of the line of Seth.

4.1.2 Nothing is known of his early years, he only appears on the scene at the age of 500.

4.1.3 In the midst of an age of moral darkness, Noah was perfect (just, righteous, lawful, undefiled, upright, sincerely sound and without blemish) in his generation. **Genesis 6:9**

4.1.4 He walked with God and had a life evident of righteousness.

4.2 Noah's Faith Project.

4.2.1 Noah was given the strange and nearly impossible task of building a vessel large enough to shelter his family and at least one pair of every bird and beast on the earth.

4.2.2 This was to save his family and the animals from a flood while God judged a world that had never seen rain!

4.2.3 He was ridiculed continually as he relentlessly preached to a generation of godless people.

4.2.4 Noah walked with God in spite of the surrounding iniquity. **Genesis 6:8-12**

4.2.5 Noah was obedient in the midst of persecution. **Genesis 6:14-2; Genesis 7:5**

4.2.6 God honoured Noah's faith delivering him. **Genesis 8:1**

4.2.7 Noah was a preacher of righteousness. **2 Peter 2:5**

4.2.8 God honoured Noah with an everlasting covenant. **Genesis 9:12-17**

4.3 Faith Lesson: God may require a believer to do something that is quite out of the ordinary. Once the believer is sure he has heard from God, obedience must follow. This is faith!