



COGNWM Youth Bible Lessons – Lesson 2

Man's History Begins

You may be surprised to learn that just a few short chapters of the Bible contain more than one fourth of man's entire history. A period of time covering more than 1,600 years! These early chapters of the book of Genesis are jam-packed with the exciting events of man's beginning days, the rise of a civilization and finally, the near destruction of all mankind.

In this lesson, you will learn about the first children born on earth, the first murder and who committed it, the families of mankind that came from Adam and Eve, and the great wickedness of mankind as they continued to believe Satan and disobey God.

You will learn about God's plan to destroy all mankind by a great worldwide flood and to continue human life through the only righteous man on earth.

Throughout the lesson, there will be scriptures to look up and questions to answer. If you have your Bible and a pen or pencil with you, you are ready to begin. If not, get them before you read any further.

We are not told how long Adam and Eve lived obediently in the Garden of Eden. But the story in the book of Genesis seems to show that it was a short period of time. In fact, Satan may have come to tempt them on the very next day following that first Sabbath when God had taught them about their purpose for being alive on the earth.

However, it is certain that Satan did not waste much time. He soon began trying to destroy God's wonderful master plan. Satan knew that Adam was being given the chance to become the new ruler of the earth. So, his first action was to make sure that Adam would not take this position of rulership away from him.

How did Satan plan to do that? Satan knew that God expected Adam to lead, provide for and protect his wife Eve. He also knew that if Adam failed to do these things he would disqualify himself from becoming the new world ruler. So, Satan watched carefully for the chance to talk to Eve.

When this chance came, Satan disguised himself as a serpent. Complete this question to Eve (Gen. 3-1): "Hath God said, Ye shall _____ of

_____ of the garden?” Of course, Satan already knew the answer to his question, but he wanted to set Eve at ease and lead her into conversation.

Eve answered Satan by explaining that God allowed them to eat the fruit of all the trees except for the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. God had said they were not to eat of it or even touch it, or they would die.

What was Satan’s reply (Gen. 3:4)? “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall_____.”

“God is keeping this fruit from you because He knows that if you eat it you will receive great wisdom,” Satan lied to Eve. “Your eyes will be opened and you will become like gods, knowing good and evil” (vs. 4-5).

Eve now had to make a choice. Whom was she going to believe and obey? God had told her one thing, and now Satan was telling her the exact opposite. As she thought it over, she considered the facts. She could see that the fruit of this tree was pleasant looking and appeared to be good for food. She could see no reason for not eating it – a better understanding of right and wrong. “What could be wrong with receiving wisdom and becoming more like God?” she reasoned. “Isn’t that what He had planned for us, anyway?”

The more she thought about it, the more convinced she became that the serpent was right – maybe God really was trying to hold back something good from them!

Finally, Eve could resist no longer. She rejected God’s instructions and believed Satan’s lies. She took the fruit of the forbidden tree and ate of it. Then she gave some to Adam, who also ate.

The battle for the future rulership of the earth was over in this short space of time! Adam had allowed his wife to lead him into disobedience. Instead, he should have led her to believe and obey God and His laws. Thus, Adam had proved himself to be unfit to replace Satan as the ruler of the newly recreated earth.

Satan, the sneaky serpent, had cleverly deceived Eve into believing his lies. She had been tricked. Eve didn’t know that she was making the wrong choice. She thought she had seen all the facts clearly and was doing the right thing. She trusted her own wisdom, instead of believing the plain, simple instructions of her Creator.

You and I are faced with this same choice every day. Whom will you believe? Will you believe what Satan tells you through friends at school and through radio, television,

magazines and newspapers? Or will you believe what God tells you through your parents and God’s ministers?

Satan is still working overtime to deceive everyone he can. He wants as many people as possible to believe his lies instead of God’s wonderful truth. He knows God’s plan still calls for human being to take his place as ruler of this earth. Satan knows his time on this earth is short. Therefore, he is doing all he can to keep people from believing what God says.

Do You Remember?

1. Was Satan happy to see human beings on the earth? Explain your answer.

2. How did Satan try to ruin God’s plan for His human creation?

Because of their disobedience, the eyes of Adam and Eve were opened –but not to know the wisdom that Satan had promised. Their eyes were opened to see the evil of what they had done. They were now afraid to face God. They tried to hide themselves in the Garden.

But it is not possible to hide from God. He can see us no matter where we try to hide. God found Adam and Eve in the Garden.

“I hid myself because I was afraid and naked,” Adam explained to God.

“Who told you that you were naked?” God asked Adam. “Have you eaten of the forbidden tree in the middle of the garden” (Gen. 3:11)? God could see that their attitude was changed. They had been naked before, but it had not concerned them. Now they were ashamed. They had enjoyed God’s visits before. Now they were fearful and hid from Him. What had happened to them?

They now had a knowledge of evil, as well as good. They had experienced evil firsthand. By obeying Satan and eating the fruit of this symbolic tree, they began receiving a different nature. Their nature, or way of thinking, was now a mixture of good and evil. Before, it had been only good.

Now it was Satan’s attitudes of suspicion, distrust and disobedience which had entered into their minds. Since Satan is made of spirit, he is able to put these thoughts and attitudes into people’s minds. This different nature is commonly called

“human nature.” It is really Satan’s nature in human beings. Adam and Eve now had a part of Satan’s nature within them.

When God questioned him, Adam tried to shift the blame. Complete what Adam said to God (Gen. 3:12): “The _____
_____ me, _____
_____ of the tree and I did eat.” He didn’t want to admit that he had failed in his duties of caring for and leading his wife. He tried to put the blame on her and on God.

When Eve was questioned, she also sought to put the blame elsewhere. What was Eve’s answer to God (Gen. 3:13)? “The _____ beguiled _____ and I did eat.” The word beguiled here means tricked or deceived.

They were not willing to admit their sins and to ask God to forgive them. They knew they had done wrong, but they felt it was not their fault. They blamed someone else!

Everyone has had this same nature ever since. We all find it difficult to admit to having done something wrong. We don’t naturally want to ask for forgiveness. We try to hide our sins and hope nobody will find out. We try to put the blame onto someone else.

This attitude comes from Satan. He was not willing to admit that he was wrong in trying to take over God’s position. In fact, Satan still thinks his way is right and God’s way is wrong. And he is busy trying to make all humans think this same way. But God wants us to learn to admit our mistakes and to turn to Him for forgiveness.

Whenever God’s laws are disobeyed, a penalty must be paid. This was true for Adam and Eve, and it is true for you and me today.

After God talked to Adam and Eve about their sins, He made clothes for both of them. He told Eve that, as a result of her sin, she must suffer sorrow and pain as she gave birth to her children. This has continued with all mothers throughout history.

Adam was told that now he must work hard just to provide food and shelter for himself and his family. These things had been provided by God in their garden home. Now, most of Adam’s time would be spent working the soil and removing weeds and thorns from it.

God also drove them out of their beautiful garden home. He knew it would be cruel to allow them to eat of the Tree of Life and live in unhappiness forever. God placed angels and a blazing sword at the only entrance to the Garden. They stopped anyone from entering the Garden of Eden and taking of the Tree of Life.

Adam and Eve now lived a totally different life. God no longer walked and talked with them, as He had in the Garden. Their days were spent struggling to supply their needs.

Do You Remember?

1. How did Adam and Eve feel after eating the forbidden fruit? _____

2. Did they want to find God and ask for His forgiveness? _____
3. Whose nature did they receive as a result of their disobedience? _____
4. How did God punish them? _____

5. Why did God send them out of the Garden of Eden? _____

As time passed, the first of Adam and Eve's children was born. This child was a son whom they named Cain. His name meant "gotten" or "acquired." He was named this because his parents felt that they had gotten him from God.

Later, a second son was born. He was given the name Abel. The meaning of his name isn't clear in the Bible. It seems to be from a Hebrew word that meant "breath."

As these boys grew from childhood into manhood, they became very different from each other. Cain became a farmer, working the soil to produce food. Abel however, was a herdsman or a keeper of sheep.

Adam and Eve were happy to have two strong young men around. Their help was needed, with all the work to be done in their new life outside the Garden. Adam and Eve taught their sons, as best they could, the laws of right living that they had been taught by their only parent – God. But they had no real closeness to God as they had in the Garden. And neither did their children.

Part of God's teaching concerned special offerings. From time to time Adam and his family gave offerings to God.

At one such time, Abel brought the finest young animal from his herds as an offering to God. But Cain offered only produce from his farm.

Cain had little interest in or use for this kind of thing. He wasn't feeling any thankfulness toward God. His attitude was much the same as that of most people on earth today. They don't respect what God says, and they see no reason to worship Him.

Neither Cain's attitude nor his offering was proper. (He knew he should have been offering from his animals, not from his produce.) So, God was displeased with him. He accepted Abel's offering, but not Cain's. This made Cain very angry! He became jealous and envious of his brother. Cain actually began to hate Abel.

At this point God talked to Cain: "Why are you angry?" God asked. "If your deeds are good I will accept you. But if you continue to disobey, sin will finally overcome you and destroy you."

Shortly after this, when Cain and Abel were alone in the field, Cain turned on his younger brother and killed him! He had again rebelled against what God had told him. Instead of conquering his hate and anger, he let them conquer and control him. Now he had brought shame upon himself and his parents. He had become the world's first murderer!

When Cain realized what he had done, he tried to hide from God. But God's voice called to him in his hiding place.

"Where is Abel, your brother?" God asked. Cain didn't want to admit his evil deed and ask God's forgiveness. Instead, he lied to God! Complete Cain's answer to God (Gen. 4:9): "And he said, _____

_____ Am I _____
_____?

This disrespectful answer to God's question showed that Cain's attitude was not repentant. He was bitter and hostile toward his Maker. He felt that he had good reason for killing Abel!

But God was fully aware of what had happened. He said to Cain, "The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground."

Satan must have been pleased with the course of events on the earth. Of the first four human beings on earth, three had disobeyed God and now the fourth was dead.

Once again, God had to punish one of His human children for disobedience. But God's punishment is always done in love and for a reason. God doesn't punish out of hate. He doesn't seek to get even with the sinner or to make him pay for his wrongdoing. God's punishment is for the purpose of correcting the evildoer. It is done for his good. God

wants to correct that person’s wrong ways and bring him back to the right way of life – the way of happiness.

So it was with Cain. As punishment, God sent him away from the other human beings on the earth. He was to be a vagabond – a fugitive – fleeing from his evil deed. And the ground was no longer going to yield as abundantly for him. These things would be a constant reminder to him of what he had done.

This all seemed to be too much for Cain. He called out to God (Gen. 4:13): “My punishment _____ than I _____.” He was afraid that without God’s protection, whoever might find him would kill him.

To prevent this from happening, God put a mark of identification on Cain. He also warned all people that if anyone should kill Cain, the murderer’s punishment would be seven times greater than Cain’s punishment had been.

So, Cain left his parent’s home. He traveled eastward with his wife to a land called Nod. This name meant “a land of wandering.” He wandered in this land for the rest of his life.

Do You Remember?

1. What were the names of the first two children born on earth?

2. As these children grew up, what kind of work did each do?

3. Why did God not accept Cain’s offering? Give two reasons.

4. Who became the first murderer, and whom did he murder?

5. Why does God punish those who disobey Him?

Now, let’s look more closely at how the human family grew. It all started with the two people whom God had created in the Garden of Eden. They were told to “be fruitful and multiply” – to fill the earth with people. In this they were obedient to God.

As the years passed, Adam and Eve had many more sons and daughters. These children grew to adulthood, chose husbands and wives from among themselves and raised families of their own.

You may wonder why these people married their own brothers and sisters. Today there are biblical laws that forbid marriages between closely related people. But, at this time in man's history, it was not wrong. There simply were no other people around for them to marry!

Later, in Abraham's lifetime, God showed that it was not proper for a man to marry his sister, though it was allowable for him to marry his half-sister. By the time of Moses (Lev. 18), God gave very clear laws forbidding marriages to close relatives. Experience since that time has proven that when these laws are broken, the result is a weakening of the family strain and even possible defects in the children born of such marriage.

When Adam and Eve were 130 years old, Eve gave birth to another son, whom she named Seth. This son was very much like Adam and like his older brother, Abel. His name meant "appointed" or "put." He was named this because Eve felt that he was appointed to take the place of her murdered son Abel.

Through the families of Cain and Seth, God has recorded in His Word a very brief history of the first 1,600 years of mankind's history on earth. No written record is given in the Bible of any of the other children of Adam and Eve or of the families that grew from them.

After Cain left his parents, he and his wife had a son named Enoch. Cain built a city in the land of Nod and named the city after his son.

Enoch's wife had a son named Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael. The son of Mehujael was Methusael, and his grandson was named Lamech. Except for Lamech, only the names of these descendants of Cain are recorded (Gen. 4:18).

Lamech had two wives – Adah and Zilah. They each had sons whose names are listed in the Bible record. Adah's first son was named Jabal. Jabal became the ancestor of tent-dwelling cattlemen (Gen. 4:20). His children were nomadic (wandering) herdsmen, much like some of the Arab tribes of the Middle East still are today.

Adah had a second son, whose was named Jubal. Jubal was the father of the first musicians on earth. He and his children were known for their abilities to play music on the harp and flute (Gen. 4:21).

Lamech's second wife, Zilah, was the mother of Tubalcain. He and his children started the metal working trade. They forged tools made of iron and bronze (Gen. 4:23).

From this very brief history we can learn a little of the beginnings of man's civilizations here on earth.

You may be surprised to learn that the first book of the Bible, Genesis, actually has within it several others books. Moses included them as part of his written history of mankind. One of these books is found in the 5th chapter of Genesis. It is called the “Roll (or Scroll) of the Generations of Adam?”

This book lists the descendants of Adam through his son Seth. From this we know the names of at least one man in each generation from Adam to Noah. Also, we are told how old each man was when his son was born and how long he lived after that son was born. With this information, it is possible to draw a chart that will show the 10 generations from Adam to Noah, how long each man lived, when he was born and when he died. By doing this we find that there were about 1, 650 years from the creation of Adam to the time of the great Flood of Noah’s time.

The 7th man on this list was named Enoch. He was different from the others in several ways. First, while everyone else lived to be about 900 years old. Enoch lived only 365 years. Also, we read in verse 22 of Genesis 5 that he “walked with God.” And verse 24 tells us that at the end of his life, “God took him.” This does not say, as many suppose, that he went to heaven. The Bible tells us clearly that no man has gone to heaven except Jesus Christ (John 3:13). God physically removed Enoch from the evil around him as a sign that he was indeed a man of God.

Next in the list is Enoch’s son, Methuselah. He is listed as having lived longer than any other human being – 969 years, just 31 years short of 1,000 years! It is possible that he lived until the great Flood.

The Generations of Adam

Adam – 930 years; Seth – 912 years; Enos – 905 years; Canan 910 years; Mahalaleel – 895 years; Jared – 962 years; Enoch – 365 years; Methuselah – 969 years; Lamech – 777 years; Noah – 950 years

Do You Remember?

1. What was the name of Adam’s son who was born when Adam was 130 years old?

2. What three types of work were begun by three of Lamech’s sons?

3. How many generations were there from the creation of Adam to the Flood?
_____ About how many years was this? _____
4. Did God take Enoch to heaven? _____ What scripture prove your answer?

5. Who was the oldest human being to ever live? _____ How long did he live? _____

During these early years of human history, very few people were looking to God or trying to live according to His laws. Enoch as we have just seen, had been of the rare exceptions. But, evil grew worse and worse on the earth.

God looked down upon the earth and saw this great lawlessness. Every thought or desire of man was turned to evil continually (Gen. 6:5) His heart, or nature, was totally corrupted by Satan’s influence. All men were rejecting God’s way of good and were following Satan’s way of rebellion and evil. They were all going the way of Cain.

God saw that the ways of man were rotten to the core. Conditions on earth had gotten so bad that God was sorry He had created human life. What did God say He would do because of the evil on the earth? Read Genesis 6:7 and write the verses on the lines below:

How would God destroy all life from the earth? Read verse 17 and write the verses on the lines below:

God saw just one bright spot in this world of spiritual darkness and wickedness. One righteous man was to be found on the earth. This man, Noah, found grace and favor in the eyes of the Eternal God. We read that he, like Enoch before him, “walked with God.” Noah was the only really righteous man living on the earth at this time. His heart (attitude) was set on trying always to live according to God’s way.

God talked to Noah and told him what He was planning to do to the wicked world around him. He told Noah that He was going to make “an end of all flesh” (Gen. 6:13). He had decided that the only way to correct the evil conditions upon the earth was to bring it all to an end and start over again! With this in mind, God gave Noah detailed instructions of how to prepare for the coming destruction of all life from the face of the earth.

God told Noah to build a huge ship (Gen. 6:14). It was to be about 450 feet in length and 75 feet in width. This ship, or ark, was to be made of gopher wood. Noah

was to cover it inside and out with tar to make certain it would be waterproof. Inside he was to build three decks

God designed this huge floating box (the word ark means “box” or “chest” in the Hebrew language) to carry Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives, and at least one pair of every kind of air-breathing animal on earth.

With these instructions from God, Noah and his family began the giant task of building the biggest boat the world had ever seen! A boat that God would use to preserve the human race and all animal life from total destruction!

Do You Remember?

1. How did God feel about the way men were living at this time?

2. Who was the one righteous man God found on the earth? _____

3. What did God tell Noah He was about to do? _____

4. What was Noah instructed to do to prepare for this great destruction?
