



CONCORDIA'S BIBLE HISTORY

in the

WORDS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

With Illustrations, Maps, and Notes



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THE OLD TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus said to the Jews, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me” (John 5:39), He was referring to the Old Testament. The New Testament had not yet been written. Even in the Old Testament, however, God had given words of promise concerning Christ and our eternal life.

Similarly, the apostle Paul referred to the Old Testament when he wrote to Timothy, “From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:15–17). Both the Old Testament and the New Testament were given to us by God to teach us that we have salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and to guide us in a life of good works.

For many centuries, the Old Testament was the only part of Scripture that God’s people had. It was the only writing that taught about God’s plan to provide eternal life for His people through faith in the promised Savior and from which they could obtain all the instruction and guidance necessary for true children of God.

The Old Testament portion of Holy Scripture contains the revelations, works, miracles, guidance, mercies, promises, prophecies, and accounts of how God worked with people during a period of waiting and longing for the Savior’s coming into the flesh. This longing found its climax, ending, and fulfillment in the New Testament.

As you begin your study of the Bible, think of the Old and New Testaments as the Holy Word of God meant for your instruction so that you may share in the life of God’s people both now and in eternity.

The stories of *Concordia’s Bible History* that are taken from the Old Testament are divided into seven periods, or epochs, as follows:

First Period: Primeval History, from creation to the events at the tower of Babel (ca. Creation–2200 BC); 7 stories

Second Period: The Patriarchs (ca. 2200–1500 BC), from Abraham to Joseph and Job; 17 stories

Third Period: Moses and Joshua (ca. 1500–1375 BC), from the birth of Moses to the death of Joshua; 16 stories

Fourth Period: The Time of the Judges (ca. 1375–1050 BC), from Gideon to Samuel; 5 stories

Fifth Period: The First Three Kings (ca. 1050–930 BC), from Saul to Solomon; 10 stories

Sixth Period: From the Division of the Kingdom to the Captivity in Babylon (ca. 930–586 BC); 10 stories

Seventh Period: From the Babylonian Captivity to the Birth of Christ (ca. 586–6/5 BC); 7 stories.

THE FIRST PERIOD

Primeval History

(ca. Creation–2200 BC)

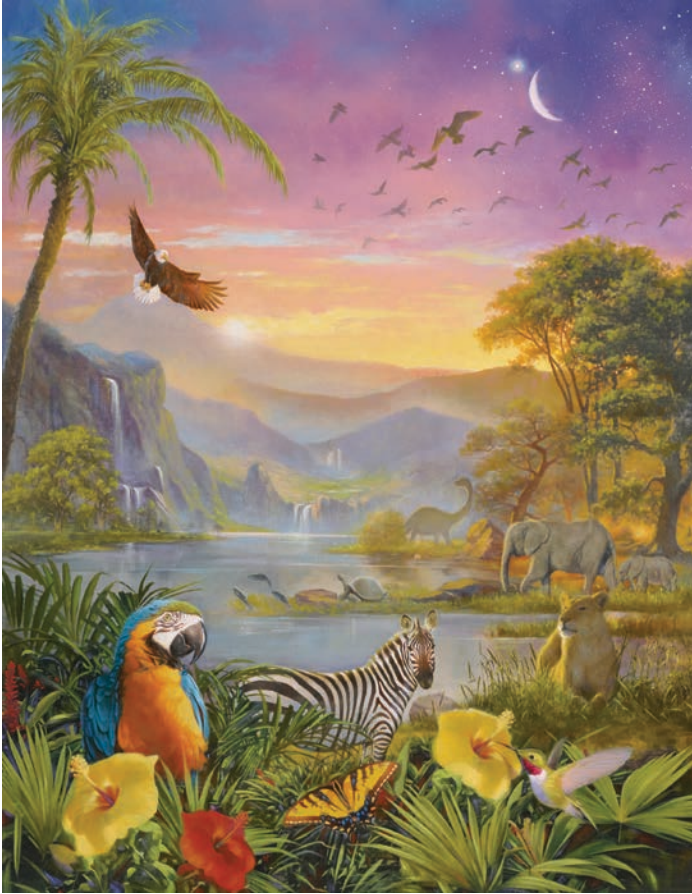
Primeval means “relating to the very earliest ages of the world.” In Genesis, which is a Greek word meaning “origin,” God reveals the beginning of all things. God states that He is the origin of heaven and earth in all their greatness, beauty, and perfection. God tells us that He began time. God reveals how He alone created all things: the entire natural world, animals and plants, and human beings, originally in perfect communion with Him in the Garden of Eden. God tells how He began marriage and government. In the early books of the Old Testament, God tells of the fall of humankind into sin and the terrible results of that fall. Our Lord also tells of His first promise of a Savior and the history of His people from Adam to Noah, who accepted this Savior by faith.

Since people lived a very long time during the earliest period of the world’s history (for example, Noah died at the age of 950, living 600 years before the flood and 350 years afterward), the Holy Spirit used them to tell one another of God’s promises and activities. In the portion of His Word concerning this period, God tells of the beginnings of the Church and public worship as well as the origin of various languages through the confusion of tongues at Babel.

While only seven stories in *Concordia’s Bible History* are devoted to this time period, the period itself covers about half of the Old Testament record and is the longest of the six Old Testament periods. Think of the tremendous time span for this period, a period of several thousand years. Just remember that all of these stories are intended by God to show His great love for you for all time and to make you wise about the salvation He has for you in Jesus Christ.

1. The Creation

Genesis 1



Heaven and Earth; Light; Night and Day. In the beginning, God created¹ heaven and earth. The earth was without form; it was empty. Darkness was over the surface of the deep water. And the Spirit of God moved over the surface of the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness Night. And evening came, then morning—the first day.²

1 Made out of nothing using the power of God’s Word.

2 Twenty-four hours.

The Sky. And God said, “Let there be a space in the waters to separate the waters.” And God made the space, dividing the waters that were under the space from the waters that were above the space; and it was so. And God called the space Sky. And evening came, then morning—the second day.

Land and Seas; Plants. And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; the waters gathered together He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth plants that produce seed and fruit trees that produce their own kind of fruit from seeds inside the fruit.” And it was so. And evening came, then morning—the third day.

Sun, Moon, and Stars. And God said, “Let there be lights in the sky to divide the day from the night; and let them be signs that mark seasons and days and years. Let there be lights in the sky to give light to the earth.” And it was so.

And God made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars. And God saw that it was good. And evening came, then morning—the fourth day.

Birds and Water Animals. And God said, “Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the sky.” And God created great creatures of the sea, every living creature that moves in the water, and every winged bird. And God saw that it was good. He blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply; let creatures fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And evening came, then morning—the fifth day.

Land Animals and Man. And God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures, each according to its kind, cattle, creeping things, and the living things of the earth, each according to its kind.” And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, “Let Us³ make people in Our image, after Our likeness.⁴ Let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, over the cattle, over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the ground.” So God created people in His own image, in the image

3 The triune God.

4 Different from the other creatures that God made; resembling God: rational, knowing God, righteous, holy.

of God He created them; He created them male and female. And God blessed them. God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, replenish the earth and control it; rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

And God saw that everything He had made was very good. And evening came, then morning—the sixth day.

The Seventh Day. So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were finished. And God rested on the seventh day. He blessed the seventh day and sanctified⁵ it, because on that day He rested from all His work.

Items for Study

First Article

O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures. Psalm 104:24

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

LSB 507:4

Review Questions

1. Make an outline indicating the various things created on each day of creation.
2. What statements in the creation account indicate that the triune God created everything?
3. People were created in God’s image. Explain what this means.



5 Set it apart for God’s purposes.

2. Adam and Eve in Paradise

Genesis 2



The Creation of the Man. The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,¹ and man became a living being.²

Paradise. The Lord God planted a garden to the east in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow that are pleasant to the sight and good for food, including the tree of life³ in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.⁴

1 Gave him life.

2 A rational, immortal being.

3 Its fruit gave life forever (Genesis 3:22).

4 A tree placed there to test man's obedience to God.

Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and take care of it.

The Divine Commandment. The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, but you shall not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. On the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die.”

The Creation of the Woman; the Institution of Marriage. Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper for him.” When the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air out of the ground, He brought them to the man (Adam) to see what he would call them, and whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but no suitable helper was found for Adam.

Then the Lord God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. After He took one of his ribs, He closed up the flesh. From the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man, He made a woman and brought her to the man. Adam said, “Now this is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall live with his wife, and they shall be one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked and didn’t feel ashamed.

Items for Study

First Article

Sixth Commandment

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:14

O Father, all creating,
Whose wisdom, love, and pow’r
First bound two lives together
In Eden’s primal hour,
Today to these Your children
Your earliest gifts renew:
A home by You made happy,
A love by You kept true.

LSB 858:1

Review Questions

1. What are some ways that God shows His love for people?
2. How is the creation of Adam different from the creation of Eve? How are they similar?
3. What responsibilities did Adam and Eve have in the garden?

