



MEMORY VERSE WEEK #1

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE: GENESIS 2:3

"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."

Why Genesis 2:3?

Well, note the context of this verse. This is the "seventh day." When cross-referenced with II Peter 3:8, we find that

it is a 1000 year day. A day, unlike the previous six days in that it has no evening or morning, and a day that God specifically blessed and sanctified (set apart) for Himself as a day of rest, (obviously, not because He was tired!).

When you take all of those components and run them through the rest of the Bible, you find that in Genesis 2:3, God is actually laying down the theme of His entire Bible: "The Day of the Lord," (Also referred to in Scripture as "that day").

Biblically, "The Day of the Lord" is...

- the Day of days to God!
- the Day that God has in His heart!
- that Day to which all 6000 years of human history is pointing!
- that Day when God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, comes to this earth the second time, to receive the glory that is due His name!
- that Day when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess
- that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father!
- that 1000 year Day of rest on this planet that has no evening or morning!
- that Day God specifically set aside for Himself, as His Day!

As we hide this verse in our hearts, may we have in our hearts for "that Day," what God has in His!

DAY 1 – JANUARY 1

TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 1-3

OVERVIEW:

Creation of all things; creation of Adam and his bride; their commissioning; temptation by Satan; Adam and his bride rebel against God, forfeiting the Garden of Eden, their relationship with God, and the ability to fulfill their commission.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The word "genesis" means "beginnings." The Book of Genesis records the beginning of the universe, man, woman, marriage, the family, sin, judgment, sacrifice, salvation, worship, civilization, false religion, and war.

In the first 10 words of the Bible (Gen. 1:1), God concises the five elements of science: TIME ("beginning"); SPACE ("heavens"); MOTION ("created"); MATTER ("the earth"); and ENERGY ("created"). In this simple verse, God destroys atheism ("GOD created"), denies polytheism ("GOD (singular) created"), and dispels evolution ("God CREATED").

Man is the crown of creation. God formed the first man "in His own image" and "likeness," and gave him the place of dominion over the whole earth from Eden, the Garden of God. Lucifer once held the position as the crown of creation (Ezek. 28:11-17; Isaiah 14:12-14) and held dominion over the whole earth from Eden, the Garden of God. Since Lucifer could not have the place of God in the universe, he sought to have the place of God in the life of men. Sadly, he was successful.

Some interesting things to note...

The first recorded words of Satan (Gen. 3:1), come in the form of a question, and the question is about the Words of God ("Yea, hath God said?"). Some things never change!

When you compare Genesis 3:6 with Matthew 4:1-11, you find that Satan tempted the Lord Jesus Christ the same way he tempted the woman: through "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (I John 2:16). In Christ's case, however, the temptation was resisted. James 4:7 says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

In the first chapter of the Bible God made us in His image. In the twenty-first century in America we attempt to make God in our image. Instead of, "This is the day which the Lord hath made," as it says in Psalm 118:24, society says "This is Lord which the day hath made." Rather than submitting to the control of God, our Designer, we seek to design a God we can control.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As CREATOR – Gen. 1:1 (John 1:1-4; Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:16-17)

As the SEED OF THE WOMAN – Gen. 3:15 (Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; Gal. 4:4) In ADAM – Gen. 2:21-24 (John 19:34; Eph. 5:28-32)

*Note: God caused a sleep to fall upon Adam, and from the substance that came from his side, God formed for him a bride. God caused a "sleep" to fall upon the second Adam, Christ (I Cor. 15:45-47), and from the substance that came from His side, God formed for Him a bride.

As the SACRIFICIAL LAMB – Gen. 3:21 (Prov. 27:26)

DAY 2 – JANUARY 2

TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 4-6

OVERVIEW:

The sacrifices of Cain and Abel; Cain murders Abel; genealogy from Adam to Noah*; the days of Noah; Noah's ark.

*Note: Through the 10 men listed in this genealogy, God actually outlines the entire course of human history!

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The physical and spiritual implications of the entrance of sin into the perfect environment into which man was placed were unbelievably devastating. The curse of sin that entered into the world in chapter 3 is already clearly manifest in chapter 4 as Cain murders his own brother.

Cain's is the religion of human works. He offers to God the fruit of his own labor. His offering recognized God as Creator, but it did not recognize Cain as a sinner. Abel's religion, however, is that of faith. His offering recognized God as Creator and his own sinfulness. He recognized that the blood sacrifice of a lamb was necessary to atone for his sin (Heb. 9:22; 11:4).

Notice that God asks Cain a question in verse 9, giving him the opportunity to confess his sin. Rather than repent (v.16), Cain goes “out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.” (Note that every positive move in the Bible is always from east to west. Every negative move in the Bible is west to east.) “Nod” means “to stray” or “to wander.” Even the land Cain chose speaks of his willful choice to refuse to confess his sin, his refusal to trust the blood of the lamb, and his refusal to move toward God.

Where did Cain get his wife? It’s the age-old question. Obviously, Cain married one of his sisters. By the time he takes a wife, Adam and Eve have many descendants, and there has been given no Divine prohibition forbidding him from taking one of them to be his wife. The very idea of marrying a relative sounds strange and even repulsive to us, until we realize that though in a much larger sense, all of us are descendants of Noah, and all of us who are married have likewise married another descendant of Noah.

As God describes the sinful days of Noah in chapter 6, we find that there is not much difference between his time and ours. Jesus said in Matthew 24:37, “But as the days of Noe (Noah) were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

Through Abel’s BLOOD SACRIFICE – Gen. 4:4 (Heb. 9:19-22)
Through Abel’s SACRIFICIAL LAMB – Gen. 4:4 (John 1:29; Heb. 11:4)
In METHUSELAH (meaning “the man of the sword”) – Gen. 5:27 (John 1:1,14; Eph 6:17; Heb. 4:12; Rev. 19:15)

DAY 3 –JANUARY 3

TODAY’S READING: GENESIS 7-9

OVERVIEW:

Noah, his family, seven pairs of clean and one pair of unclean of every living creature enter the ark as God had commanded; the great flood; the Rainbow Covenant; the new beginning; the curse upon the descendants of Ham (the Canaanites).

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

“The Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark” (Gen. 7:1). The ark was God’s secure refuge from the judgment that was to come. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus said, “Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest.” In Acts 16:31, Paul said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” Just as Noah was saved from the wrath to come, and found rest within the ark, Colossians 3:3 says to those of us who have called upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, “your life is hid with Christ in God.”

The fact of the flood is proved by God’s record of it here in Genesis through Moses, as well as by the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 17:36), the prophets (Isa. 54:9), and the apostles (I Peter 3:20; II Peter 2:5).

The flood teaches us that God will punish sin, and that there must be death to the old before He will establish the new. God begins again with eight souls (Noah, his three sons, and each of their wives). Note that from this point in the Bible, eight is the number of “new beginnings.”

In chapter 9, verses 8-17, God enters with Noah what verse 16 describes as an “everlasting covenant.” This is the first of five covenants in the Bible that God refers to as “everlasting.” The other four “everlasting covenants” include: 1) The Abrahamic (Gen. 17:7); 2) The Priestly (Num. 25:10-13); 3) The Davidic (II Sam. 23:5); 4) The New (Jerm. 32:40).

As God replenishes the earth through Noah's three sons (9:18-19), note that through Shem come the Asians, through Ham come the Africans, and through Japheth come the Europeans.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

Through the ARK – Gen. 7:1,7 (Acts 4:12; II Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:3; I Thess. 1:10)

*Note: To be delivered from the wrath of God to come, you must be "in Christ," the only "Ark" of safety.

DAY 4 –JANUARY 4

TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 10-12

OVERVIEW:

The descendants of Noah; Babel: the origin of races and languages; God's call and covenant with Abram; Abram's journey to Canaan and Egypt.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

After listing one name after the other in the midst of the genealogy in chapter 10, when you get to the name Nimrod (10:8-10), all of a sudden God interrupts the list to give you a commentary on him. You might say that this is God's way of taking a highlighter and trying to communicate to us, "Don't miss this!" (Note that the same thing happens in the genealogy that lists Nimrod in I Chronicles 1:10.)

Interestingly, Nimrod is the grandson of Ham, which, as we've already seen, is associated with a curse. His name means "rebel," and his epithet is that he was "a mighty hunter before (or, against) the Lord." He was, obviously, a keen hunter of animals in the land of Shinar, but the context lets us know that he was also hunting something else...Men! He was hunting men to become a part of a kingdom (10:10). Nimrod wanted to set himself up as a king over a kingdom of rebellion against God!

Keep in mind that the theme of the Bible is all about a kingdom, where Jesus rules over all the earth from His throne for a period of 1000 years (Gen. 2:3; II Peter 3:8). The history of mankind and God's record of history in the Bible is really nothing more than God moving to put His Son on the throne, and Satan doing everything he can, not only to stop Him, but to put himself there! (Isa. 14:12-14) Note that the first mention of "kingdom" in the Bible is in reference to a king whose name means "rebellion," who is seeking to establish a world empire. If you are unfamiliar with the principle of "First Mention" in terms of Bible study, God has so orchestrated the revelation of His Word that the first time a key biblical principle is mentioned, the context foreshadows its future scope. For example, the first time "love" is mentioned in the Bible, (Gen. 22:2), it is in the context of a loving father offering his only begotten son as a sacrifice. The future scope is obvious!

Note, also, that the first mention of "Babel" is in verse 10. From this point in the Bible, Babel, or Babylon (Hebrew = Babel, Greek = Babylon), will always stand for that which is opposition to God and His people.

Nimrod recognized that to establish a world empire, he would need to unify the people, both governmentally and religiously ("Let us build us a city and a tower" – Gen. 11:1-4). The "city" is the governmental symbol, and the "tower" is the religious symbol. Practically speaking, the "city" and "tower" of Babel were Satan's attempt to unite the people of the earth in a one-world government, one-world religion, under one king. Obviously, Nimrod is a forerunner and type of the Antichrist who is a king of rebellion who seeks to establish a world empire by unifying the people of the earth in a one-world government and religion.

In striking contrast to rebellious Nimrod, chapter 12 introduces us to Abram, a man who symbolizes submission to God. God's call to Abram was: "Get thee out of thy country...unto a land that I will show thee...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram

departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him" (12:1-4). Without hesitation, consideration, or deliberation, Abram, in faith, left his homeland and all that he knew and loved for an unidentified land. For his uncompromising faith, God holds Abram up as a shining example (Heb. 11:8).

Even though Abram exercised such great faith in God on one hand, when famine struck in verse 10, rather than exercise the same trust in God, "Abram went down into Egypt." This is the first mention of "Egypt" in the Bible. Note that Egypt is always a "downward" move in Scripture, and will always be associated biblically with the world and sin. (i.e. Rather than trust God, Abram looked to the world to meet his needs.)

Abram exemplifies the fine line between walking by faith and walking by sight...Walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh (Gal. 5:16-17).

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As the PROMISED SEED OF ABRAHAM – Gen. 12:3 (Gen. 18:18; Matt. 1:1; Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:16)

In ABRAHAM – (Abraham is a type of Christ in that he leads the way to a better land of promise – Heb. 11:8-11, 13-16)

DAY 5 –JANUARY 5

TODAY'S READING: GENESIS 13-15

OVERVIEW:

Abram and Lot separate; Abram moves to Hebron, builds an altar; Melchizedek's blessing upon Abram; God's covenant with Abram.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

After the downward move into the world's system of evil, and finding himself in the web of its sinfulness in chapter 12, "Abram went up out of Egypt" (13:1), and back to the place of blessing and intimacy with God that he had at the first (13:3-4). It's the same solution our Lord Jesus Christ identified in Revelation 2:4-5 for those times we find ourselves in the world's snare, having "left our first love." Jesus said, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works." Do you need to follow Jesus' admonition and Abram's example? Note the simplicity: Remember. Repent. Repeat.

The separation of Abram and his nephew, Lot, might be called "the curse of God's blessing" (13:5-9). Sometimes the blessing of God in our lives forces us to make tough decisions. Lot illustrates a carnal believer, walking in the flesh, while Abram illustrates a committed believer, walking in the Spirit.

Lot chose the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh (13:10-11). He chose Sodom, thinking it a place of peace, protection and prosperity, when it was actually a place of warfare, danger, and cursing. Lot illustrates how important it is that we look through spiritual eyes as opposed to physical eyes in order to live the victorious Christian life. Paul said, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (II Cor. 4:18)

Chapter 14 illustrates that the Spirit-filled life is a life that is blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ, as Melchizedek, a type of Christ, blesses faithful Abram. Note that Melchizedek, whose name means "Righteous King," is the King of Salem (Hebrew, "shalom") or peace, and is a priest of the most high God. Note, also that this mysterious king-priest of Jerusalem, to whom is given no human biographical or genealogical particulars, blesses Abram and receivers tithes from him. Our Righteous King, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is not of human descent, is the Prince of Peace, and the God and Lord of peace, and will soon take up his throne in Jerusalem to rule as King

over the entire world. He blesses those who are surrendered to Him, and He alone is worthy of tithes of all that we possess.

Those, who like Abram, acknowledge Christ's lordship and are surrendered to Christ's lordship in their lives hear the word of the Lord in their hearts saying, "Fear not...I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." (15:1)

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

In MELCHIZEDEK, THE KING OF SALEM (Jerusalem), THE KING OF PEACE, THE PRIEST OF THE MOST HIGH GOD – Gen. 14:18-20 (Psa. 110:4; Heb. 7:1-6, 17, 21; Isa. 9:6; Rom. 15:33; II Thess. 3:16)