

# Challenge 2014: Bible in a Year

## Week 1: Genesis 1-16 (January 1-4)

### Summary:

Genesis is a book of beginnings. Not only do we have the beginning of all things being spoken of, but we have the beginning of marriage, the beginning of sin, the beginning of redemption, the beginning of strife between the children of Satan and the children of God, the new beginning after Noah, and the beginning of God's Covenantal call upon Abram. These chapters are quite essential if one is going to understand one's own place in the world as well as one's relationship with God.

Genesis 1 and 2 contain two creation accounts that harmonize, but are told from two different perspectives. The first creation account gives us a divine perspective, demonstrating how God, in his power, brought creation into being and filled it with life. Genesis 2 begins with the command to rest on the Sabbath Day and then tells the story of creation with a focus on mankind, zooming in on day 6 and giving us a more relational account of this event.

While we do not know how much time elapsed between the end of Genesis 2 and the beginning of Genesis 3, we move from the joy of creation to the grief of sin in the fall of man and their exile from the garden. We should note Genesis 3:15 though, for here God gives to Adam and Eve a promise that he will send a redeemer to crush the head of the serpent and destroy his works.

Genesis 4 begins a time of separation between those who will be spiritual descendants of Eve (children of God) and those who will be spiritual descendants of the Serpent (children of the Devil). Cain, a child of the Serpent, slays his brother, Abel (a child of God), and this ushers in two separate lines of people and strife between them. Genesis 6 begins with the culmination of that strife where everyone in the world had embraced wickedness largely as a result of the children of God not remaining separate from the children of the Serpent. God redeems Noah and the Ark would be built and through the Ark, a people would be redeemed for God while wrath was poured out on his enemies. Do not think of the flood waters as something gentle, caused by 40 days of persistent rain. Instead, recognize that not only did rain come down, but the waters of the deep (geysers) were also released, creating huge tectonic shifts, earth quakes, tornados, and volcanic activity. It would have been a very scary place to be.

After the floods subside, Noah and his family set out to repopulate the new world though Ham would take with him the line of wickedness and by Genesis 11 we find people deliberately disobeying the command of God to fill the earth as they stop and build a city to their own glory.

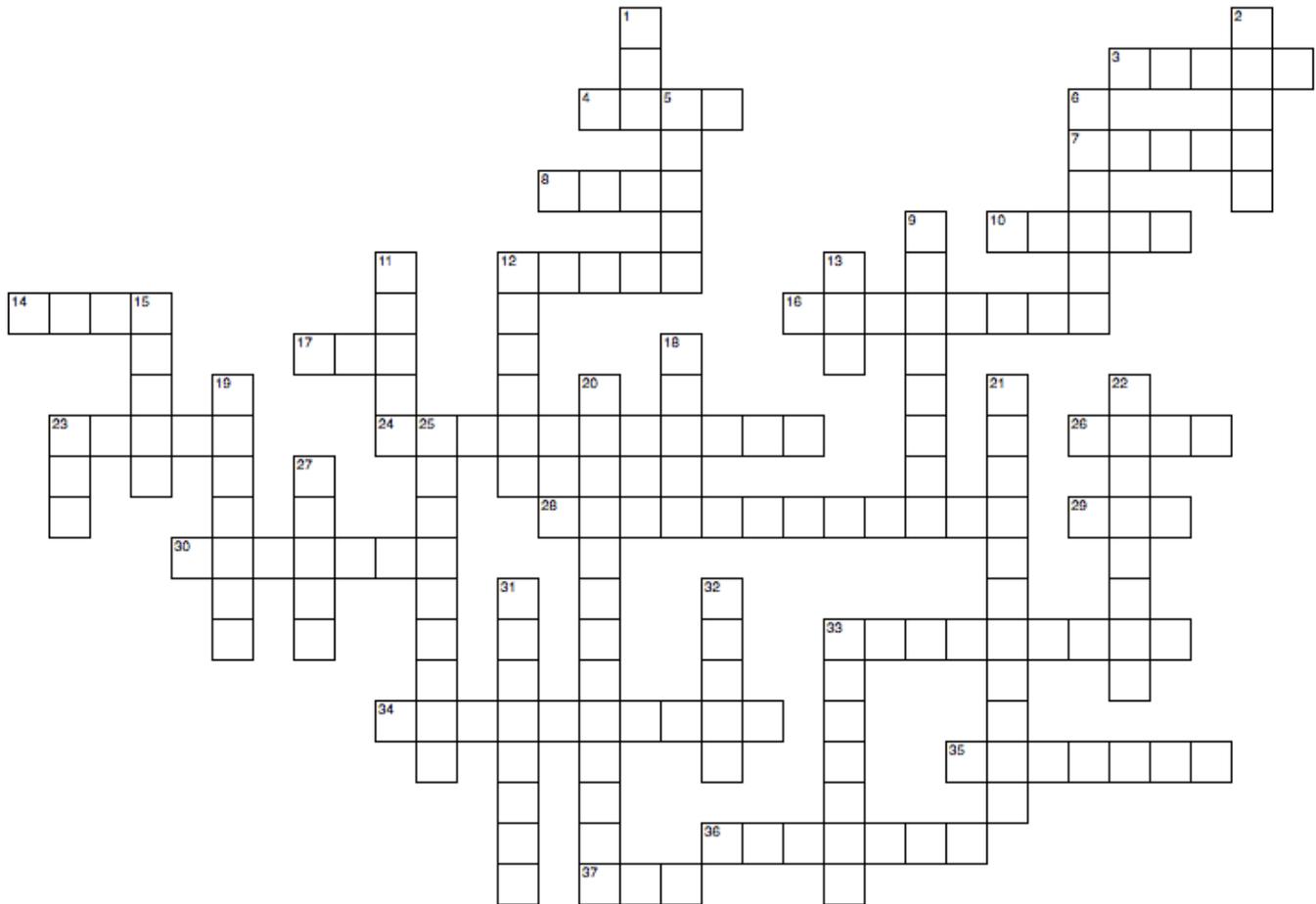
Thus God confuses the language and forces them to follow his command.

And finally, as we move into Genesis 12-16, we find God's call upon Abraham (then still Abram) to leave his native country and travel to Canaan. In Genesis 15 we find a wonderful picture of Covenant as God portrays it to Abram by stepping through the line of dismembered animals while Abram is placed in a deep sleep. God is essentially saying to Abram, "If your people fail in keeping my covenant, may I die in your place. That, of course, was fulfilled in Jesus' going to the cross.

### Chromatic Notes:

- Genesis 1 begins with God creating "ex-nihilo" or out of nothing. In other words, prior to Genesis 1, nothing but God existed. God did not create out of existing substance, but created substance out of nothing.
- In Genesis 1:2, we find the creation spoken as being without form and empty. Days 1-3 we will find God giving form to that which was originally without form and in Days 4-6 we will find God filling that which he has formed. There is tremendous symmetry and parallelism here that ought not be missed.
- God made mankind to bear his image. In other words, we are like him in the sense that we create, we communicate, we think and reason, and that we love and come into relationships with others. We are not made to be alone, but to be in relationship. In addition, the diversity of our appearances is a reminder of the infinity of God. This creation in God's image (Imago Dei, in Latin) also stands as a reminder to us that mankind has dignity no matter how frail, old, young, feeble, or outcast that person may be.
- Note that work is introduced pre-fall, it is the sweat and toil that comes from frustrated work that is a mark of the Fall. And Adam and Eve's original work was to be that of farmers, tending and expanding God's cultivated garden to the world.
- The heartache of the Fall is not just in Adam and Eve's sin, but essentially in their choosing to listen to the voice of the Serpent rather than the voice of God. Yet, in our own sin, do we not do the same thing?
- It should be noted that Adam not only blamed Eve for his eating of the fruit, but even God — "It was the woman that *you* gave me..."
- Note that Noah and his family were on the Ark for about a year, not just 40 days.
- We don't know what Ham did in the presence of his drunken father, but the language used normally is used of sexual immorality.
- Melchizedek (Genesis 16) is the king of Salem (which means "Peace") and his name means "King of Righteousness." He is a foreshadow of the true King of Righteousness, Jesus Christ, who will come. In fact, the writer of Hebrews will point out that Jesus' priesthood is a greater priesthood than Aaron's because Jesus comes from the Priestly line of Melchizedek, not Aaron.

# January 1-4: Genesis 1-16



## ACROSS

3. It is here that God confused the languages.
4. God planted a garden here.
7. God created man and woman in his \_\_\_\_\_.
8. God rested on the seventh day and pronounced it \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The father of Abraham
12. God said, "Let there be" this on day 1.
14. Abel's replacement.
16. This is what Noah planted after the Ark settled.
17. Who created the heavens and the earth?
23. God asked Abraham to number these and then promised Abraham that his children would match that number.
24. The king of Salem whose priesthood Jesus' is modeled after.
26. God created the stars, the sun, and the moon on this day.
28. This king conquered Sodom, taking Lot as a prisoner.
29. This would happen to Adam and Eve were they to eat of the fruit of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
30. We use this word to refer to the day of rest.
33. This is who Adam blamed when God confronted him after eating the fruit.
34. His name means "He sends death" (hint: he was really old and died in the year the flood came)
35. Who was more crafty than any other animal?
36. God placed this in the heavens as a sign to creation that he would never again destroy the world with water.
37. God created man and woman on this day.

## DOWN

1. This is where Cain settled after he was cast out.
2. How many pairs of clean animals were brought onto the Ark?
5. This is the first place that Abraham gets in trouble for telling people that Sarah is his sister.
6. The grandson of Ham and a mighty hunter.
9. After Adam and Eve were exiled from Eden, these creatures were placed at the entrance to ensure Adam and Eve could not return.
11. Abraham's nephew, Lot, decided he would settle near this city.
12. The polygamous son of Methushael.
13. From this part of Adam, God fashioned Eve.
15. Sarah's midwife.
18. This is where Cain slew Abel
19. The name of Abraham's son by Sarah's Midwife.
20. Abraham believed and it was counted to him as this.
21. God foretells that Abraham's children would remain in Egypt for how many years?
22. Man and woman were to have this over the earth.
23. The number of days that God created before he rested.
25. One of the four rivers that split off of the river that flowed out of Eden.
27. The unit of measurement by which the Ark was constructed.
31. These were on the earth in the days of Noah — what they were is unclear but their name means "those who fall on others"
32. It is from here that Abraham and his family traveled to go to Canaan.
33. This along with morning bounds the days.