

“In the beginning God created...” (Genesis 1:1). God exists in eternity and created everything, including time. Everything in existence was created by the power of God. He said, “let there be light; and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). He created “all things” (Ephesians 3:9; Revelation 4:11). Genesis 1:28 says “God created man in His own image.” Genesis chapter two goes into more detail about the creation of man.

How did God create man (Genesis 2:7)?

After every day of creation God said what He had created was “good”. Only after God created man did He say, “it is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him” (Genesis 2:18).

How did God create woman (Genesis 2:21-22)?

Adam and Eve were married adults, Eve being referred to as Adam’s “wife” (Genesis 2:25). God placed them in a garden called “Eden” (Genesis 2:8) in which grew “every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for good; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:9).

What was God’s only law for Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:16-17, and Genesis 3:2-3)?

Adam and Eve were both deceived by Satan and ate of the forbidden fruit. “Their eyes were opened” (Genesis 3:7) so that they knew they were naked. Their innocence was lost. God placed curses on them as a consequence for their sin.

What was God’s curse on Eve (Genesis 3:16)?

What was God’s curse on Adam (Genesis 3:17-19)?

What additional consequence was given for their sin (Genesis 3:24)?

A result of their sin, just as God stated would be the consequence, was death (Genesis 5:5). The remainder of the Bible is about God bringing about His plan of redemption through which makes it possible for man to return to the innocent, sinless and blessed relationship with God. The same paradise which Adam and Eve enjoyed in the garden of Eden.

Promises To Abram

Hundreds of years later we read about Abram in Genesis 12. Abram (later called Abraham) becomes the focus of God’s plan. God gives three promises to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3 and brings about the fulfillment of these promises several centuries later. Abram did not live to see the fulfillment of these promises, but chose to live by faith (Hebrews 11:8-10). Because of the written word, we can see the fulfillment of the promises which gives us confidence in God’s promises to us.

Promise #1 - The land promise (Genesis 12:1).

How was this fulfilled (Numbers 33:50-53; Joshua 1:1-6)?

Promise #2 - The nation promise (Genesis 12:2).

How was this fulfilled (Exodus 1:1-11; Exodus 19:3-6)?

Promise #3 - Through his descendant all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

How was this fulfilled (Galatians 3:16)?

God's Chosen Nation

Exodus 20 - Acts 1

The Israelites became God's chosen people, a nation set apart from all other nations. To bring about the fulfillment of His plan, God built a figurative wall of separation around the nation by giving them a Law that was uniquely theirs. This Law was spoken to Moses on top of Mount Sinai (Exodus 20). This chapter relates the giving of the ten commandments, but the Law was much more than 10 commandments, it was an entire book of law. Moses wrote this Law down for the Israelites which is found in the remainder of Exodus as well as all of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. For the Israelites, the Law was a combination of religion and government being both their civil and sacred law. This was the first written Law from God and differed from the instructions given prior to this time (instructions had only come to the heads of the families, like Noah [Gen. 6-8], Abram [Gen.12], or Jacob [Gen. 28]). Exodus 20 marks a change in the God's Law for man.

Who was the Law intended for (read Exodus 31:16-18)?

What was this Law called (Acts 13:38-39)?

During this period, worship to God consisted of animal and other sacrifices. Every year the high priest was required to offer a sacrifice for himself and for the sins of the nation. Sacrifices were made by individuals at the times of religious feasts days, as well as at times of personal spiritual failure by means of repentance.

What point about sacrifices is made in Hebrews 10:1-4?

This Law was in effect through the first chapter of Acts, meaning Jesus (in the gospel accounts) lived and died obeying this Law. He died sinless, keeping this Law perfectly. A law containing over 600 specific Laws. A Law which no other person has ever been able to keep perfectly.

God's New Covenant

Acts 2 - Revelation 22

In Acts 2 we see the Law of God change again, making this an important chapter for our understanding. At this point in the Bible Jesus has lived, died on the cross, been resurrected, and has ascended unto heaven. The apostles were in Jerusalem waiting for the Holy Spirit to descend upon them, which occurs at the beginning of Acts 2. The message to the people in Jerusalem was a new message from God through the apostles, different from the practice of animal sacrifices under the Old Law.

What is taught to the people to bring about forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38)?

What is similarly taught about forgiveness in Ephesians 1:7 and Colossians 1:14?

Who was this New Law intended for (Acts 2:39; Acts 10:34-35; Colossians 3:11)?

As stated previously, God had built a figurative wall around the nation of Israel separating them from other nations. That wall was in fact the written Law of Moses.

What became of this Old Law (Ephesians 2:14-16)?

Was it God's intention that men continue to follow the Old Law of Moses after the establishment of the New Covenant in Christ Jesus? (Consider Galatians 3:23-29 and Hebrews 8:6-13)

Paul teaches that we cannot return to the Old Law to justify ourselves before God as followers of Christ. If we return to that Old Law for justification of our religious practice today, he says we are "under obligation to keep the whole Law. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by Law; you have fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:3-4). We must not pick and choose aspects of the Old Law to follow today. It is no longer in effect for it has been replaced by the "better covenant" of which Jesus is the mediator having been enacted on "better promises" (Hebrews 8:6).

Through the blood of Jesus we can be forgiven of sin. If we are faithful to God until death He has promised us the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). We will then live eternally with God in heaven enjoying a relationship like unto that which Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden of Eden (Revelation 22:15). This was God's marvelous plan.