

2 3 TENTS, TEMPLES, PALACES 4

5 This study is outlined generally on the ICI course of the same name, authored by Rick C. Howard.
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7 Springfield, Missouri 65804.

8 Study # 2 9 HISTORY OF THE HUMAN RACE

10 “*May the force be with you....*” – Star Wars Film

11 “*In the beginning....God....*” – Genesis 1:1

12

From Pastor Betzer’s *Revivaltime* booklet, *May The Farce Be With You: P. 6 & 7)*
*The effects of the New Age Movement have been deadly across our culture. It is altogether possible that many of its proponents have no awareness of the fatal trap which has ensnared their reasoning powers, rendering them helpless, and hopeless, in an ever more dangerous world. The New Age teachers made the premise that **there is no personal God in heaven Who cares for the human race, certainly no such deity that mankind should fear, much less obey.** They contend that Jesus’ proclamations concerning Himself and His mission are untrue and that someone else will eventually be the Messiah. That “someone” is man himself - nothing less than an evolving god who will be his own master and savior. Instead of God’s Spirit bearing witness with our spirits that we are children of God, as the Bible insists, the New Agers practice “channeling,” which is nothing less than spiritism communication with demons. This deception - this “farce” - is staggering in its implications and is unquestionably the spirit of Antichrist. The New Agers teach that it is not to a personal Creator/Jehovah that mankind turns to in the New Age, but rather to a totally impersonal, unknowable “something or other somewhere” – a “force.” It is the ultimate idolatry - the making of God to be something other than what He truly is. Today’s New Age is a sort of *deja vu* book of Judges in which “every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”*

13 14 THE PROBLEMS WITH THIS PHILOSOPHY 15

16
17 1. When man abandons God as his Creator, he makes himself the center of his
18 universe. This philosophy contends that man is his own god, accountable to no one but

1 himself.

2

3 2. This philosophy offers evolution as the source of all mankind, sort of a cosmic
4 accident. So if I am merely an “accident,” evolved through the ages, no one really
5 cares that I am even in this universe, that is, no one who has the power to do something
6 about my life.

7

8 3. If I buy into New Age and evolution, now that I am finally here, what am I supposed
9 to be doing? I have no values to which I can aspire since there is nothing higher than I
10 in the final analysis.

11

12 Is it any wonder that we have so many teen suicides when this is what they learn in many
13 schools: *“Good morning, young people. I am Dr. Zombie, your instructor in Biology*
14 *101. Let’s start at the very beginning, shall we? You are an accident, nothing more.*
15 *You are the result of a chance combustion of millions of meaningless molecules millions,*
16 *yes, billions of years ago. Your ancient forbears were actually ‘goo’ in a slime pit in the*
17 *prehistoric past. The ‘goo’ somehow developed flippers, then scales, then wings and*
18 *legs. And one day, lo and behold, it became a monkey. Then millions of years later,*
19 *the monkey shaved. And now - voila! - here you are, a meaningless accident. You have*
20 *no reason for being here, no purpose. You will die and become compost for some roses*
21 *in the Metro Cemetery.”*

22

A motivational speaker sent to our Lee County Evangelical Ministers luncheon, once told us that the biggest problem faced in our school was to somehow instill a sense of value, of self-esteem, in the students. It is hardly difficult to understand why kids today have little sense of self-esteem when they have had it drummed into them they are little more than stylish ‘goo.’ (“Yes, you are an accident, student - but a nice accident.”) And we wonder why so many become nihilists.

23

24

25 **If you teach that mankind is meaningless, and you teach it long enough and loud**
26 **enough, there will be enough people who believe it to end civilization as we know it.**
27 **But Christianity steps in at this point with the truth which says, THERE IS A GOD**
28 **AND HE HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE.´**

29

30 • The Bible is not a science text book. But by the same token it does not fly in the
31 face of real science. The main purpose of Genesis is not to tell us HOW God
32 made man - or even when. The main purpose is to let us know without question
33 that GOD WAS THE PRIME MOVER IN CREATION. He made YOU!

34

1 **Genesis 1:1-11**

2 **In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. [2] And the earth was**
3 **without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit**
4 **of God moved upon the face of the waters.**

5 **[3] And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. [4] And God saw the**
6 **light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. [5] And God**
7 **called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the**
8 **morning were the first day.**

9 **[6] And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it**
10 **divide the waters from the waters. [7] And God made the firmament, and divided**
11 **the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the**
12 **firmament: and it was so. [8] And God called the firmament Heaven. And the**
13 **evening and the morning were the second day.**

14 **[9] And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one**
15 **place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. [10] And God called the dry land**
16 **Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it**
17 **was good. [11] And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed,**
18 **and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth:**
19 **and it was so.**

20
21 * Genesis is a Greek word meaning *beginning* or *origen*.

22
23 It is certainly a suitable name for the first book of the Bible for Genesis tells us of the
24 beginning of everything except God Himself. He is without beginning or end.
25 Genesis has to do with the origin of all that exists. It satisfies man's natural curiosity
26 about the past and how the world came to be. As Christians we accept its record as the
27 first and only authentic account of God's creation of the universe and His purpose for it.
28 The further revelation of God to man is built upon the foundation formed by the events
29 and truths it records. There are, for example, more than 60 quotations from Genesis in
30 17 different books of the New Testament.

31
32 **THE GENESIS GOD**

33
34 **Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning....God...."** Who is God?

35
36 Far from being the impersonal "force" of the New Agers, Scriptures teach us about a very
37 personal deity. He knows us and we can know Him. Scriptures inform us that God
38 met with Adam, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, Mary, Peter, Nathaniel and Martha. The
39 Psalmist helps us here: **Psalm 100:1-3**.

1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
2 [2] Worship the Lord with gladness;
3 come before him with joyful songs.
4 [3] Know that the Lord is God.
5 It is he who made us, and we are his;
6 we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

7
8 * The *miracle* is that God allows us to know Him.
9 The *tragedy* is that so few want to.

10
11 THE DANGER OF IDOLATRY - THAT IS, ANY CONCEPT OF GOD THAT SHOWS
12 HIM BEING SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHO HE TRULY IS.
13

*“Our understanding of God must not be based on presumptions about Him or on what we want God to be like. Instead we must believe in the God Who is and Who has chosen to reveal Himself to us in Scripture. Human beings tend to create fictitious gods that are easy to believe in, gods that conform to their own life-style and sinful nature. **Romans 1:21-25***

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools [23] and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

[24] Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. [25] They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

* Pastor Betzer: American Indian totem poles are a prime example of this. *This is one of the traps of false religion. Some Christians even fall into the trap of ignoring the self-revelation of God and begin to develop a concept of God that is more in line with their personal whims than with the Bible. The Bible is our true source. It lets us know that God exists and what He is like.*

Dr. Russell Joyner / Systematic Theology / Logion Press / p. 117

14
15
16 **THE GENESIS EVENT**
17

- 18 • Three times in Genesis 1 the word *create* appears. This word is used to translate
19 a Hebrew word which means “*make something out of nothing.*” The writer to
20

1 the Hebrews gave us further light on this: **Hebrews 11:3** **Through faith we**
2 **understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things**
3 **which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**

- 4
5 • It is far more important to understand that God created everything than to have an
6 opinion on exactly WHERE or WHEN or HOW the events took place. The
7 author of Genesis, for example, gives no timetable for the events. He does not
8 suggest a date. Neither does he give exact geographical details about the Garden
9 of Eden, man's first dwelling place. The important reality is that God created it
10 all from nothing and His work of creation was characterized by PURPOSE,
11 DESIGN, and ORDER.

12
13 **VIDEO: Christopher Gornold Smith explains the fact of ORDER IN God's**
14 **creation.**

15 **THE GREAT HUMAN TRAGEDY**

16
17 Theologians call it "the fall of mankind." We read the sorrowful story in Genesis 3:1-7:

18 **Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God**
19 **had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every**
20 **tree of the garden?**

21 **[2] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of**
22 **the garden: [3] But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God**
23 **hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. [4] And the**
24 **serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [5] For God doth know that in**
25 **the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods,**
26 **knowing good and evil. [6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food,**
27 **and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she**
28 **took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and**
29 **he did eat. [7] And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were**
30 **naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.**

- 31
32 • So why didn't God make man incapable of rebellion or sin? Consider that you are
33 a father and you have a little boy - one who is capable of sassing back, one who
34 often is disobedient, who is almost always messy and loud, but on occasion is
35 loving, gentle and obedient. Now....would you exchange that little boy for a
36 robot? Doubtful. God made a creature from the dust who had the capability of
37 being a loving and obedient child, or a person of out-and-out sinful rebellion. He
38

1 wanted the “creation” to worship Him out of spontaneity, joy and desire, not
2 because he had to.

- 3
- 4 • Here is a powerful principle: THE GREATER POTENTIAL FOR GOOD.....
5 THE GREATER POTENTIAL FOR EVIL.
 - 6
 - 7 • The pattern for Adam’s and Eve’s fall (which coincides with that of most of us):
8 God has given us normal desires. It is when we want to possess them outside of
9 God’s plan for our lives that we have the problems. Those desires are:
10
 - 11 ▶ To possess things (This desire is powerfully fueled by television
12 commercials)
 - 13 ▶ To enjoy things (That are not our’s to enjoy)
 - 14 ▶ To achieve or attain status or power that leads to pride (the pride of life)

15

16 Adam and Eve fell because of the incorrect use of those three desires.

- 17
- 18 ▶ They became conscious of themselves after eating the forbidden fruit; prior
19 to that, they had been conscious of God
 - 20 ▶ They became conscious of being lost
 - 21 ▶ They became conscious of being naked before God
 - 22 ▶ Their spiritual life died as God had promised it would. They were
23 banished from the Garden of Eden, in bondage, pain and loss.

24

25 THE EARLY INHABITANTS OF EARTH

26

27 1. Adam and Eve and their children Cain, Abel and Seth

28

29 A. Murder entered the world when Cain killed his brother Abel. He was angry
30 because God had accepted Abel’s sacrifice, but not his.

31

32 Genesis 4:1-16

33 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to
34 Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the Lord." [2] And
35 again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain
36 was a tiller of the ground. [3] So it came about in the course of time that Cain
37 brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. [4] And Abel, on his part
38 also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had
39 regard for Abel and for his offering; [5] but for Cain and for his offering He had no
40 regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. [6] Then the Lord said

1 to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? [7] "If you do
2 well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is
3 crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." [8] And
4 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain
5 rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

6 [9] Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do
7 not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" [10] And He said, "What have you done? The
8 voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. [11] "And now you
9 are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's
10 blood from your hand. [12] "When you cultivate the ground, it shall no longer yield
11 its strength to you; you shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." [13] And
12 Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is too great to bear! [14] "Behold, Thou hast
13 driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Thy face I shall be hidden,
14 and I shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and it will come about that
15 whoever finds me will kill me." [15] So the Lord said to him, "Therefore whoever
16 kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord appointed a sign
17 for Cain, lest anyone finding him should slay him.

18 [16] Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of
19 Nod, east of Eden.

20
21 The offerings by Cain and Abel echoed the experience of their parents, Adam and Eve.
22 Adam and Eve had attempted to clothe their nakedness with fig leaves gathered by their
23 own efforts. So Cain brought an offering to God of his own works – produce. And as
24 the Lord killed an animal and made coverings for Adam and Eve, so Abel brought an
25 animal sacrifice which God accepted. Here is the principle: *To cover sin there must be*
26 *a death, either death of the sinner or death of a substitute for the sinner.* From Adam
27 and Eve on, God points forward to the cross of Jesus. Every animal sacrifice in the Old
28 Testament pointed ahead to Jesus as the true lamb of God (John 1:29).

29
30 Cain and Abel represent possible attitudes of two groups of people: one group sees no
31 need for a Savior. They feel sufficient in their own goodness. The other group knows
32 that they will be lost unless they accept the sacrifice God has provided for their sin and
33 trust Him for their salvation.

34 35 2. Noah and the Flood

36
37 A. You will notice that Cain and his wife conceived and gave birth to a man they
38 called Enoch. Note the scriptural accolade of this man in **Genesis 5:24**

39 **And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.** What a precursor
40 for the ultimate rapture of the Church.

1 B. Note the ages to which these people lived:

- 2 ▶ Adam - 930
- 3 ▶ Seth - 912
- 4 ▶ Jared - 962
- 5 ▶ Methuselah - 969
- 6 ▶ Lamech - 777

7

8 It was Lamech who sired NOAH.

9

10 C. It was in the days of Noah that the population grew so wicked it grieved God in
11 His heart that He had ever made man.

12

13 **Genesis 6:1-8**

14 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and
15 daughters were born to them, [2] that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men
16 were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. [3] Then
17 the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh;
18 nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." [4] The Nephilim were
19 on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the
20 daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who
21 were of old, men of renown.

22 [5] Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that
23 every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. [6] And the Lord
24 was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. [7]
25 And the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the
26 land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry
27 that I have made them." [8] But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

28

29 * Verse 4: The Nephilim were original inhabitants of Canaan. It is believed by
30 some anthropologists that they were larger people than normal and wicked. They were
31 NOT fallen angels.

32

33 C. **Beginning Again**

34

35 Following the flood and the leaving of the Ark by Noah and his family, along with the
36 many animals, Noah began the new civilization by building an altar and offering many
37 sacrifices.

38

39 A. Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. After the flood, it was Ham who
40 treated his father with disrespect (after Noah had fallen asleep, drunken and naked).

1 Noah indicated what would happen to Ham and his descendants because of his acts:

2 Genesis 9:25-27

3 So he said,

4 "Cursed be Canaan;

5 A servant of servants

6 He shall be to his brothers."

7 [26] He also said,

8 "Blessed be the Lord,

9 The God of Shem;

10 And let Canaan be his servant.

11 [27] "May God enlarge Japheth,

12 And let him dwell in the tents of Shem;

13 And let Canaan be his servant."

14

15 It was these very Canaanites who received retribution through the Children of Israel
16 centuries later, as we will learn in the historical book section of the Old Testament.

17

18 B. Genesis 10:1-32 describes where Noah's descendants settled. The following
19 chart may help you:

20

21 JAPHETH – Gomer (Celts) British Isles and Western Europe

22 Magog (Scythians) Iran, Iraq - former fertile crescent area

23 Madai (Medes) Persians

24 Javan (Greeks)

25 Tubal North of the Black Sea

26 Mesech Russia

27 Tiras (Thracians) The Balkans

28

29 HAM - Cush (Ethiopia)

30 Mizraim (Egypt)

31 Phut (Libya)

32 Canaan (Palestine)

33

34 SHEM - Elam - Babylon

35 Asshur - Assyrians

36 Arphaxad - (Chaldeans)

37 Lud (Lydians) Turkey

38

39

40 The sons of Japheth settled in the area of the Black and Caspian Seas all the way west to

1 Spain. It is likely that the Greek and Germanic peoples descended from him. Three of
2 Ham's sons went into Africa. Later they spread northward to Assyria and Shinar where
3 they built cities like Nineveh, Babel and Akkad. Canaan settled along the Mediterranean
4 Sea in what we know today as Israel and Lebanon. The descendants of Shem occupied
5 the Persian Gulf.

6 7 ABRAHAM 8

9 Genesis now narrows the focus of the human race to the Semites (descendants of Shem).
10 In Genesis 11:10-32 we are given a ten generation account beginning with the family of
11 Shem and ending with the family of Terah. IT WAS TO THIS FAMILY THAT
12 ABRAHAM BELONGED.

13
14 Abraham's seed or descendants – both natural and spiritual – occupy the center of interest
15 throughout the rest of the Bible. They are called the *people of God*.

16
17
18 **NEXT WEDNESDAY NIGHT, THE LORD WILLING, WE DELVE INTO**
19 **ABRAHAM'S LIFE IN A FASCINATING STUDY CALLED "HISTORY OF THE**
20 **CHOSEN PEOPLE."**