



# *Imperial Academy* *Bible Lessons*



**The Mystery of Human Civilization**

# The Mystery of Human Civilization

**H**uman civilization is a mystery. Where did it come from? Why is it the way it is? How old is it? The civilization of Egypt and Babylon built the pyramids about 4,000 years ago. But did human civilization begin even before that? How did it all start?

In this lesson, you will learn who the first human beings were, which foundational choice they made, and how their descendants built human civilization on that foundation. You will also find out how that civilization ended.

All of this is recorded in just 11 chapters of the Bible. These first chapters in Genesis record human history from its very foundation to an enormous event that occurred 2,000 years later.

To begin learning about this mystery, get your Bible and a pencil. Look up each scripture as you learn how human civilization began and how it affects your life today!

## **TWO TREES**

The first human being was Adam; God created him from the dust of the ground. The second human being was Eve; God

created her from Adam's rib. The Bible does not record how long Adam and Eve lived in obedience to God's way of life. All we know is that God taught them everything they needed to know to make the right foundational choice for themselves, their future family and the future civilization that would come from them.

Adam and Eve had to choose God's way of life of their own free will. God did not force them to obey Him. He taught them His law and then gave them the choice of whether they would do their part to develop holy righteous character.

Once they had been taught, God allowed Satan to test them.

Satan hated God's way of life. He did not want Adam and Eve to live happily, to develop righteous character, and to become part of God's Family. Satan knew God was giving Adam the chance to replace him as ruler of the Earth. He also knew that God instructed Adam to lead and protect his wife.

Satan wanted to convince Adam to disobey God. He decided to do it by deceiving Eve first.

One day, Eve was walking alone in the Garden of Eden and she saw an unusual snake: This serpent *spoke* to her. It was Satan appearing to her in the form of a snake.

*Fill in the blanks below using Genesis 3:1-5 to see what Satan said to Eve: “Now the \_\_\_\_\_ was more subtle than any beast of the field, which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yes, has \_\_\_\_\_ said, You shall not eat of \_\_\_\_\_ of the garden? And the woman said unto the \_\_\_\_\_, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the \_\_\_\_\_ which is in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the garden, God has said, You shall \_\_\_\_\_ of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you \_\_\_\_\_. And the \_\_\_\_\_ said unto the woman, You shall \_\_\_\_\_ surely \_\_\_\_\_. For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_, and you shall be as \_\_\_\_\_, knowing good and evil.”*

God had planted two special trees in Eden. The tree of life represented God’s way of give, love and cooperation. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented Satan’s way of get, selfishness and hate.

God had told Adam and Eve that they could live forever if they ate from the tree of life, but that they would die if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The serpent lied to Eve by telling her that God was lying. It told her that God

did not want her to be able to choose for herself what was good and evil. It told her that if she ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, she would not die, but she would be able to decide and choose what is good and evil for herself.

## **THE FOUNDATIONAL CHOICE**

Eve had a choice. The serpent was describing a rebellious attitude and was enticing her to disobey God: She could walk away, or she could keep listening. She continued to listen, and the serpent continued to persuade her, coax her and tempt her.

Eve could believe the God who created her, or she could believe what the snake said. She decided to figure out the answer for herself, using human reasoning rather than believing God. She decided that what the serpent told her sounded possible. She thought the fruit from the tree looked good, so she decided that eating it might give her the power to decide what is good and what is evil.

Eve disobeyed God and took a bite!

This was a disastrous decision. Eve had believed Satan and sinned against her Creator. This should have alarmed her, and it should have alarmed Adam.

Now Adam had an even more important choice to make. Eve was deceived, but he was not. Adam knew what God had taught him was the truth. Would he correct his wife for disobeying God and take her and pray with her, asking God to forgive them? Or would he

rebel against God? This was a choice that could change the entire course of human history.

Eve offered a piece of fruit to Adam. He decided not to correct his wife, and he took the fruit and ate it.

This choice set the foundation for human civilization! It proved that Adam and all human beings were not worthy to replace Satan on the throne of the Earth.

God was extremely disappointed that Adam and Eve chose to disobey Him, but He let them make their own choice. God also lets *you* make your own choices. You can choose to obey God and live His way of give, or you can choose Satan's way of disobedience and selfishness. This is the same choice Adam and Eve had. Satan does not speak to you in the form of a snake, but he does speak to you through wrong thoughts, moods, attitudes and emotions. He also promotes his ideas in the world around you through radio, television, the Internet and even your friends. Do you believe what Satan tells you? Or do you believe what God teaches in the Bible?

### MEMORY TEST

How did Satan convince Adam to rebel against God? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does Satan convince people to rebel against God today? \_\_\_\_\_

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### HUMAN NATURE

Once Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, their minds changed. This did not mean that they now had the ability to decide what is good and evil, like the serpent had promised. Instead, only their attitude about good and evil changed.

They became ashamed of the fact that they were naked. They saw something God had made to be good as if it were evil and became ashamed of it. Adam and Eve began to adopt Satan's attitude of rebellion against God's law, deciding for themselves what is good and evil. But that does not change what good and evil actually are.

Adam and Eve had loved talking to God, but now they hid from Him.

*Use Genesis 3:8-11 to see what happened when God found Adam and Eve: "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_ hid themselves from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD God among the \_\_\_\_\_ of the garden.*

And the LORD God called unto \_\_\_\_\_, and said unto him, Where are you? And he said, I heard your \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden, and I was \_\_\_\_\_, because I was \_\_\_\_\_; and I hid \_\_\_\_\_. And he said, Who told you that you were \_\_\_\_\_? Have you eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded you that you should not eat?"

God could tell that Adam's attitude had changed. A spirit of rebellion had entered into his mind and Eve's mind. Satan had acquired his sinful, evil nature through vanity and false reasoning. Adam and Eve received their evil nature directly from Satan the devil.

The selfish, deceitful, rebellious attitude that people usually call human nature is actually Satan's nature built into human minds. Since Satan is a spirit being, he can put his attitudes into people's minds if they allow him. Every human being ever born, except Jesus Christ, has allowed himself or herself to follow Satan's attitude (Romans 3:23).

You live in a world where *everyone* has acquired Satan's evil nature!

## **BLAME AND GUILT**

When God asked Adam if he had eaten from the forbidden tree, Adam refused to take responsibility for his actions. He blamed his sin on Eve!

Fill in the blanks from Genesis 3:12-13 to see how Adam responded to God: "And the man said, The \_\_\_\_\_ whom you gave to be with me, \_\_\_\_\_ gave me of the

tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the \_\_\_\_\_, What is this that you have done? And the \_\_\_\_\_ said, The \_\_\_\_\_ [deceived] me, and I did eat."

Instead of taking responsibility for his mistake, Adam claimed he was not at fault and blamed his wife. He even blamed God for giving him a wife in the first place. Instead of taking responsibility for her mistake, Eve blamed everything on the serpent. They were quickly taking on Satan's attitude; they did not try to repent and change.

When you make a mistake, you are almost always tempted to blame others for it. Even after Satan was cast down to Earth, he never admitted he was wrong to rebel against God. In fact, he still thinks his way is right and God's way is wrong.

Satan wants us to hide our mistakes and blame others. God wants us to admit our mistakes, repent of our sins, turn to Him for forgiveness, and strive to do better in the future!

## **EXILED FROM EDEN**

Because Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, they had to face the consequences of their choice.

Fill in the blanks using Genesis 3:16-19 to see how Adam and Eve's disobedience and rebellion brought suffering on themselves: "Unto the woman [God] said, I will greatly multiply your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_; in \_\_\_\_\_ you shall bring forth \_\_\_\_\_; and your desire shall be to your husband, and



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God sends a flaming sword to guard the entrance to the Garden of Eden.

*he shall rule over you. And unto Adam [God] said, Because you have hearkened unto the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it: \_\_\_\_\_ is the ground for your sake; in \_\_\_\_\_ shall you eat of it all the days of your life; \_\_\_\_\_ also and \_\_\_\_\_ shall it bring forth to you; and you shall eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread, till you \_\_\_\_\_ unto the \_\_\_\_\_; for out of it were you taken: for \_\_\_\_\_ you are, and unto \_\_\_\_\_ shall you return.”*

God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins and sent them out of the Garden of Eden. He positioned a righteous angel with a flaming sword at the garden’s entrance to keep them from going back and eating from the tree of life. If they did that, they would not only be living Satan’s way of selfishness and become miserable, but they would also live *forever* in misery.

But when God sent Adam and Eve away, He gave them hope!

He told them that someday a Savior would come. This Savior would be born as a human. He would “bruise the head” of Satan by succeeding where Adam had failed. He would qualify to replace Satan as king of Earth (Genesis 3:15). But He would also have to die to pay the ultimate penalty for the sins of all mankind. Then He would be resurrected as a spirit being.

Without this Savior, humans could never eat from the tree of life and receive eternal life!

### **MEMORY TEST**

What is human nature? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Why did God send Adam and Eve away from the Garden of Eden? \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **THE BEGINNING OF CIVILIZATION**

To remind Adam’s family of how much they needed a Savior and how much they needed to repent, God told them to kill a lamb and burn it on an altar at certain times of the year.

Some time after they were expelled from Eden, Adam and Eve had two sons. They named their first son Cain, which means, “gotten” or “acquired.” The second son they named Abel, which means “breath.”

Eve probably thought her firstborn would be the Savior whom God said would come. Adam and Eve likely spoiled Cain: He grew up to be a disobedient, prideful and selfish man.

Cain was a farmer who raised fruits and vegetables; Abel was a herder of sheep. When the time came to offer a sacrifice to God, Abel gave up his best lamb and brought it to God. But Cain was selfish. He did not want to give up his best lamb, so he brought some vegetables instead. God was upset by Cain’s sacrifice because he had disobeyed God and did not give his best.

Cain was angry with God for rejecting his sacrifice, and he became jealous of Abel. God told Cain that if he repented and did his best to put God first in the future, He would accept his sacrifice.

*Fill in the blanks from Genesis 4:6-7 to see God’s instructions to Cain: “And the LORD said unto Cain, Why are you [angry]? and why is your countenance fallen? If you do well, shall you not be \_\_\_\_\_? and if you do not well, \_\_\_\_\_ lies at the \_\_\_\_\_.”*

Cain had the chance to repent. He had a choice. But despite God’s warning, Cain chose to be envious of and hate Abel. One day, when Cain and Abel were alone

in a field, Cain indulged his hatred and murdered his own brother!

### **FIRST CHILD: FIRST MURDER**

After killing his brother, Cain tried to hide from God—just like his parents had done in the Garden of Eden. He buried Abel’s body someplace where he thought no one would find it. But God knew the terrible thing Cain had done.

*Fill in the blanks from Genesis 4:9-10 to see God’s conversation with Cain: “And the LORD said unto Cain, \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ your brother? And [Cain] said, I \_\_\_\_\_: Am I my \_\_\_\_\_? And [God] said, What have you done? the voice of your \_\_\_\_\_ cries unto me from the ground.”*

Cain’s disrespectful answer to God showed that he did not regret murdering his brother. He was angry and bitter toward God. His mind was filled with Satan’s thinking and emotions; he likely believed his actions were justified.

Satan must have been pleased. Three of the first four humans had rebelled against God, and now the fourth human was dead. But God had allowed Abel to die to show Adam and Eve what happens when families choose to live Satan’s selfish way of life. God has a plan to bring Abel and everyone else who has ever died back to life after the true Savior, Jesus Christ, returns to Earth. Until then, people have to learn that Satan’s way doesn’t work.



Cain murders his brother Abel.

### **CAIN'S PUNISHMENT**

God punished Cain for his sin and protected Adam and Eve's other children from him. He sent Cain away to live as a fugitive away from the rest of his family. The rest of the family lived somewhere in the land of Eden, but outside the garden. This land is close to where the nation of Israel is located today. Cain now had to journey eastward out of the land of Eden into the land of Nod.

*Look at Genesis 4:13 to see Cain's attitude in response to God's command: "And \_\_\_\_\_ said unto the LORD, My \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ than I can bear."*

Cain had so little concern for his brother Abel that he took his life. But he was so concerned for his own life that he said God's punishment was unjust and evil. Without God's protection, he worried that some of Adam and Eve's other children might kill him in revenge.

To prevent this from happening, God told Cain that no one could legally harm him as long as he left the land of Eden. God then set up a mark showing where Cain's land started. He told the members of Adam's family that if any of them killed Cain, the murderer's punishment would be seven times greater than Cain's punishment.

Cain married one of his sisters and took her with him into exile. The family they raised became very evil, so God decreed that they must live separately from the rest of Adam and Eve's descendants.

### **MEMORY TEST**

Why did God not accept Cain's offering?

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Why did God allow Abel to die?

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## **HUMAN RACE GROWS**

Adam was the first human created by God. He had a perfect physical body, which God designed to last. He lived for 930 years and had many sons and daughters with his wife, Eve.

Thousands of years later, God made laws forbidding people from marrying close relatives (Leviticus 18). In the time of Adam though, God allowed the children of Adam and Eve to marry each other since there were no other people to marry. By the time Adam died, the Earth was full of his descendants. They organized themselves into a civilization, which was based on what they decided was best using their own reasoning driven by human nature, influenced by Satan.

One of Adam's most significant children was Seth. He was born when Adam and Eve were 130 years old. When Eve first saw her new son, she said, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, whom Cain killed."

Like Abel before him, Seth tried to obey God. Because of this, God used Seth and some of his descendants to warn people about Satan's selfish way of life and where it leads.

*Fill in the blanks below using Genesis 4:26: "And to \_\_\_\_\_, to him also there*

*was born a son; and he called his name \_\_\_\_\_, then began men to \_\_\_\_\_ upon the name of the LORD."*

The phrase "call upon" in this verse can be translated "publish." In the time of Seth's son Enos, some members of the family of Seth began to write down the laws of God and to publish them as warnings to those who were living Satan's way.

Genesis 5 lists 10 generations of the descendants of Adam, starting with Seth. These generations cover 1,650 years of history from the time of Adam to the time of Noah. The seventh man on this list is a famous prophet named Enoch. Like Abel and Seth, Enoch strove to live God's way and to teach others to do the same.

Not many people listened to Enoch. By the time he died, human civilization was very evil.

*Turn to Genesis 6:1-2 to see the state of the world at this time: "And it came to pass, when men began to \_\_\_\_\_ on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ saw the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose."*

The reference to the "sons of God" in this verse doesn't mean angels married humans and had offspring, as some have taught. The Bible clearly states that angels cannot reproduce (Luke 20:34-36; Matthew 22:30; Mark 12:25).

The "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" were two groups of physical

human beings who began intermarrying against God’s command. The family of Cain began marrying descendants of Adam’s other children in an attempt to get around God’s command that they live separate from the rest of humanity.

As a result of these marriages, every family in the world began living the evil, selfish way of Cain—every family except one.

## **THE FLOOD**

The only person on Earth trying to obey God’s laws at this time was Enoch’s great-grandson: Noah.

*Fill in the blanks from Genesis 6:5-8 to see God’s description of this time: “And God saw that the \_\_\_\_\_ of man was \_\_\_\_\_ in the earth, and that every \_\_\_\_\_ of the thoughts of his heart was only \_\_\_\_\_ continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will \_\_\_\_\_ man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repents me that I have made them. But \_\_\_\_\_ found \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the LORD.”*

Noah was a descendant of Seth, and none of his ancestors had disobeyed God and intermarried with the family of Cain. Noah rejected the selfish way of Cain and taught his family to follow God.

Because of this, God spoke to Noah and warned him that He was going to

punish human civilization for choosing to be so evil: He was going to end their misery and their violence with a worldwide flood. (God would resurrect these people thousands of years later after the prophesied Savior came to rule as King of kings.)

*Read God’s conversation with Noah in verses 12-14 and fill in the blanks below: “And \_\_\_\_\_ looked upon the \_\_\_\_\_, and, behold, it was \_\_\_\_\_; for all \_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_ his [God’s] way upon the \_\_\_\_\_. And God said unto \_\_\_\_\_, The \_\_\_\_\_ of all \_\_\_\_\_ is come before me; for the \_\_\_\_\_ is filled with \_\_\_\_\_ through them; and, behold, I will \_\_\_\_\_ them with the earth. Make you an \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ wood....”*

Noah believed God and immediately started building the enormous vessel. With help from his sons—Shem, Ham and Japheth—he built the ship God specified: an ark large enough for Noah’s family, thousands of animals, and thousands of pounds of food.

It took 120 years to build the ark. During this period, Noah warned people that they would drown if they did not repent of their sins.

When the ark was finished, it was about 450 feet long and 75 feet wide! It would be the largest ship ever built for thousands of years.

God miraculously caused seven pairs of every clean animal, and one pair of every unclean animal to go to Noah when they



God floods the Earth after Noah's family was safely sealed in the ark.

finished building the ark. Noah put these animals into stables and cages in the ark so that they would survive the Flood. Then Noah and his family boarded the ark, and God Himself sealed the door shut!

A week passed with no sign of rain. The people outside laughed: *Noah and his family were now stuck with thousands of animals inside a useless boat*, they mocked. But then the sky grew dark, and it began to rain.

### MEMORY TEST

How do we know that the “sons of God” mentioned in Genesis 6:1-2 weren’t angels?

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Why did God decide to flood the Earth?

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# BIBLE MEMORY Books of the New Testament

Matthew	2 Corinthians	1 Timothy	2 Peter
Mark	Galatians	2 Timothy	1 John
Luke	Ephesians	Titus	2 John
John	Philippians	Philemon	3 John
Acts	Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
Romans	1 Thessalonians	James	Revelation
1 Corinthians	2 Thessalonians	1 Peter	

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## Word Search

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