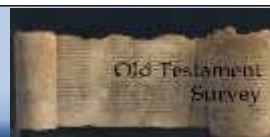




Genesis Prehistory – Textbook Reading



Textbook Reading

(Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)

Ch. 4

- ☐ Creation and Its Nature
- ☐ Sin and Its Nature

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 4

Intro

- How does Genesis chapters 1-11 set the stage for the story of God's people?

Primeval History and Its Nature

- How does the textbook define the term “primeval history”? What is a “cosmogony”? What do these terms tell us about the nature and content of this part of Genesis?
- How is Genesis different from the creation accounts of other ancient near east civilizations? Why is this important? What was Genesis trying to accomplish by this?
- How is the Genesis account different from the Enuma Elish and the Epic of Atrahasis? How is it similar? How does the textbook explain these similarities and differences? Why should we trust Genesis more than these ancient myths?

Contents of Genesis 1-11

Creation and Its Nature (chapters 1-2)

- What do these two chapters introduce?
- What are the different views of how the first verses of chapter 1 are related to the rest of creation? What are the implications if one believes the various views? Which view does the textbook support? Why is the traditional view the only one “theologically possible”? What are the implications of this for the creation of time and space?
- What was the only thing that existed in the beginning? Why? How does this challenge the idea of polytheism?
- Describe the repetition and literary symmetry in Genesis chapter 1? What do you think this communicates about creation?
- What is the meaning of “imago Dei”? How does the textbook describe the implications of this for humanity? How are we to relate to the rest of creation? How are we to relate to God? How does this relate to our purpose in life?
- What is the purpose of the mandate to “be fruitful and multiply” according to the textbook? How does this apply for our lives today?
- What one word summarizes the essence of creation in this chapter? What is the significance of this?
- How does chapter 2 complement chapter 1?

(Continued on the next page)

- What is the meaning and significance of the term “generations” as first used in this chapter?
- How does the textbook describe the relationship between God and the first people?
- How does the textbook summarize the first two chapters of Genesis? How do these chapters prepare for what will follow?

Sin and Its Nature (chapters 3-11)

- What is the single theme that unites all the various stories in these chapters? Why is this significant?
- What happened in chapter 3 that changed humanity? Why?
- In what ways did humanity change as a result of chapter 3? Why does this matter?
- What was immoral about a seemingly innocent act of eating fruit? What are the implications of this?
- How do chapters 4-11 illustrate the consequences of chapter 3? How do the genealogies give evidence for this?
- According to the textbook, what is the point of the flood story?
- What is the “Table of Nations”? How does this contribute to the Genesis story? What was the later contribution of each of the three categories of nations?
- What does the textbook say is the point of the tower of Babel story? Why is unification and peace not “the ultimate goods of society”?
- How does the genealogy in ch. 11 give a hint of hope? Why is this important?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter