



BEYOND

THE SURFACE



Go beyond the familiar stories and discover the unified story of Scripture as we uncover God's redemptive plan, see Christ revealed from Genesis to Revelation, and learn how His Word transforms our lives today.

PART ONE: FOUNDATIONS

Discovering Christ in the Old Testament

"In the beginning..."

Before there was a manger, there was a promise. Before there was a cross, there was a sacrifice. Before there was an empty tomb, there was a plan.

The Old Testament is far more than history. It lays the foundation for everything that follows. Every covenant, prophecy, sacrifice, king, prophet, and promise points toward the coming Messiah. Throughout this section, we'll uncover the themes, patterns, and parallels that reveal God's redemptive plan from the very beginning and discover how Christ is woven throughout every book.

PART TWO: FULFILLMENT

Seeing God's Promises Revealed in New Testament

"The Word became flesh..."

The New Testament is the fulfillment of everything God promised. What was foreshadowed in the Old Testament comes to life in Jesus Christ. Every prophecy finds its answer, every promise its fulfillment, and every shadow its substance.

Together, we'll see how the life, death, resurrection, and ministry of Jesus; and the birth of the Church; complete the story God began in Genesis. As we connect the Old and New Testaments, we'll gain a richer understanding of Scripture and a deeper appreciation for God's faithfulness throughout every generation.

Date Series

July 1
Foundations – The Beginning

August 5
Fulfillment – Lesson 5

July 8
Foundations – Lesson 2

August 12
Fulfillment – Lesson 6

July 15
Foundations – Lesson 3

August 19
Fulfillment – Lesson 7

July 22
Foundations – Lesson 4

August 26
Fulfillment – Lesson 8

part 1: foundations

GOD'S CREATION PRECEDENT

Creation reveals God's nature as a God of order, purpose, and separation. The same pattern established in Genesis continues throughout Scripture and is reflected in His work of redemption.

Creation Week

God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. Each day reveals His intentional design and authority over creation.

Day 1 – Light separated from darkness. (Genesis 1:1–5; Psalm 119:130)

Day 2 – Waters divided by the firmament (heaven). (Genesis 1:6–8)

Day 3 – Dry land, seas, grass, herbs, and trees created. (Genesis 1:9–13)

Day 4 – Sun, moon, and stars established for signs, seasons, days, and years. (Genesis 1:14–19)

Day 5 – Fish and birds created and commanded to multiply. (Genesis 1:20–23)

Day 6 – Animals and mankind created. Humanity alone was made in God's image and given dominion over creation. (Genesis 1:24–31; 1:26; 1:28–30)

Day 7 – God rested, completing His creation. (Genesis 2:1–3)

From Chaos to Order

Genesis begins with the earth without form and void, but through His spoken Word God brings order.

He separates:

- Light from darkness
- Waters above from waters below
- Sea from dry land

From the beginning, God establishes order, purpose, and distinction. (Genesis 1:2–10)

Separation: A Biblical Pattern

What God does physically in creation becomes a spiritual principle throughout Scripture.

Light vs. Darkness

- Truth vs. error
- Holiness vs. sin
- Good vs. evil

Scripture References:

Isaiah 5:20 • John 3:19–21 • 2 Corinthians 4:6

Leviticus 10:10 • Leviticus 20:24–26 • 1 Peter 2:1–10

The pattern of creation becomes the pattern of salvation

- Separating us from our old life

2 Corinthians 5:17 • 2 Corinthians 4:6 • Galatians 5 • 1 Peter 2:9

Creation demonstrates God's authority to establish boundaries and define what is right

- The sea has limits.

Genesis 1:9-10 • Job 38:8-11

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part 1: foundations

LESSON 2: GOD'S CURSE & BLESSING OF EDEN

The Garden of Eden was more than humanity's first home. It was the place of God's presence, blessing, and fellowship. Though sin closed the way to the Tree of Life, God's plan of redemption was already pointing toward the day Jesus would restore what Adam lost.

Eden: The Place of God's Presence

God planted the Garden of Eden as a place of life, provision, and fellowship with humanity. At the center of the garden stood two significant trees:

- The Tree of Life – A symbol of God's gift of life and continual fellowship.
- The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil – The test of obedience.

Eden was more than a beautiful garden; it was the place where God dwelt with His creation.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 2:8–10
- Genesis 2:15–17
- Genesis 2:9

The Fall & The Guarded Way

After Adam and Eve sinned, humanity was driven from God's presence.

God placed cherubim and a flaming sword at the entrance to guard the way to the Tree of Life.

This reveals both God's judgment and His mercy.

- Judgment: Humanity was removed from God's presence because of sin.
- Mercy: God prevented mankind from living forever in a fallen condition.
- Hope: The way was not destroyed—it was guarded.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 3:22–24

Eden: The First Sanctuary

The Garden of Eden becomes the pattern for the Tabernacle and later the Temple.

The Parallels

- Eden was God's dwelling place.
- The Tabernacle became God's dwelling place among Israel.
- Eden's entrance faced east.
- The Tabernacle and Temple also faced east.
- Cherubim guarded Eden.
- Cherubim were woven into the veil and placed over the Mercy Seat.

The guarded entrance into Eden becomes a picture of restricted access to God's holy presence.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 3:24
- Exodus 25:18–22
- Exodus 26:31–33
- Exodus 27:13–16
- Ezekiel 43:1–4

The Guarded Presence of God

The veil in the Tabernacle served the same purpose as the cherubim in Eden.

Only the High Priest could pass beyond the veil, and only once each year with sacrificial blood.

The way into God's presence remained guarded.

Scripture References:

- Leviticus 16

Jesus Opens the Way

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the Temple was torn from top to bottom.

The barrier separating sinful humanity from a holy God was removed.

Hebrews teaches that the veil represented Christ's own body. Through His sacrifice, the way back into God's presence was opened.

Scripture References:

- Matthew 27:50–51
- Mark 15:37–38
- Luke 23:45–46
- Hebrews 10:19–20

What the cherubim and flaming sword once guarded, the pierced body of Jesus Christ now opens. What Adam lost, Jesus restored.

Jesus: The Way & The Life

The Tree of Life pointed forward to Jesus Christ. Eternal life is no longer found by returning to a place but by coming to a Person.

Jesus is:

- The Way
- The Truth
- The Life
- The Door
- The Source of eternal life

Scripture References:

- John 14:6
- John 10:9–10
- 1 John 5:11–12

The Tree of Life Restored

The Bible begins in a garden and ends in a city. The Tree of Life, once guarded because of sin, appears again in the New Jerusalem. What was lost in Genesis is fully restored in Revelation.

Access is no longer limited to one man in a garden or one priest once a year. It is available to everyone who is in Christ.

- The guarded garden becomes an open city.
- The curse is removed.
- Eternal life is restored through Jesus Christ.
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Scripture References:

- Revelation 2:7
- Revelation 22:1-3
- Revelation 22:14

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture tells one story of redemption. Sin closed the way to God's presence, but Jesus Christ became the way back. What was guarded by cherubim is now opened by grace, and the Tree of Life is once again available to all who belong to Him.

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part 1: foundations

LESSON 3: JUDGEMENT & GRACE

The story of Noah's ark is more than an account of God's judgment on sin, it is a picture of His grace and salvation. Just as God provided one way of escape through the ark, He has provided one way of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Judgment & Mercy Meet

Genesis 6 reveals both the justice and mercy of God. Because of humanity's wickedness, judgment was necessary, yet God provided a way of escape through the ark. The cross reveals this same truth. God's justice against sin and His mercy toward sinners meet perfectly in Jesus Christ.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 6:5–8
- Romans 3:25–26

Grace Initiates Salvation

Noah was not saved because he created his own plan, but because he trusted God's plan.

God provided every detail:

- The design
- The materials
- The dimensions
- The timeline
- The promise

Salvation has never been about creating our own way to God. It has always been about responding in faith to the way God has already provided.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 6:8
- Genesis 6:13–22

The Ark: A Picture of Christ

Peter identifies the flood as a picture that points to salvation through Jesus Christ. The ark was God's appointed means of deliverance from judgment, just as Christ is God's appointed means of salvation today.

Scripture References:

- 1 Peter 3:18–21

One Door, One Way

The ark had only one entrance. God did not provide multiple doors or multiple ways of escape. Likewise, Jesus declares Himself to be the only way to salvation. Salvation has never been about finding our own path to God, but entering through the door He has provided.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 6:16
- John 10:9
- Acts 4:12

Covered From Judgment

God instructed Noah to cover the ark inside and out with pitch. The Hebrew word kopher carries the idea of a covering or atonement. The covering protected everyone inside the ark from the waters of judgment. Likewise, the blood of Jesus Christ is our covering. Through His atoning sacrifice, we are justified and delivered from God's wrath.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 6:14
- Romans 5:8–9
- 1 Peter 1:18–20

The Judgment to Come

Scripture teaches that every person will stand before God. Those who belong to Christ do not stand covered by their own righteousness, but by His. Just as Noah and his family were protected by the covering of the ark, believers stand covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Scripture References:

- Romans 14:10–12
- 2 Corinthians 5:10
- Revelation 20:11–12

Grace Triumphs

Because of Christ's sacrifice, the record of our sin has been removed. The blood of Jesus still covers. Through His forgiveness, our sins are remembered no more. What once stood against us has been nailed to the cross.

Scripture References:

- Colossians 2:13–14
- Hebrews 10:17–18

The ark was never just about surviving a flood, it pointed to the greater salvation found in Jesus Christ. God provided one way of escape from judgment, one door into safety, and one covering from wrath. Just as Noah trusted God's provision, we are called to place our faith in Christ, whose blood covers our sin and opens the way to eternal life.

Beyond the Surface

The ark was not merely a boat, it was God's picture of salvation. The one door points to Christ, the pitch points to His atoning blood, and the ark itself reminds us that God's grace always provides a way of escape before judgment falls.

part 1: foundations

LESSON 4: DESTROYED & RENEWED

Throughout Scripture, God establishes patterns that reveal His work of redemption. The flood was not only an act of judgment, but a picture of renewal. Just as God brought the earth through a process of cleansing and restoration, He continues that work in the life of every believer.

A Pattern of Renewal

God often establishes precedents that are repeated throughout Scripture and reflected in our lives. Humanity was created in His image and is continually being transformed into the likeness of Christ. The flood demonstrates this pattern: judgment removes the old so God can bring forth something new.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 7:1
- Genesis 7:4
- Genesis 7:11–19

Forty: A Time of Transformation

The forty days of rain were more than a timeline, they established a biblical pattern of testing, cleansing, and preparation. Throughout Scripture, the number 40 marks seasons of transformation.

Examples include:

- Noah and the Flood
- Israel in the wilderness
- Jesus in the wilderness
- Even the development of new life in the womb (approximately 40 weeks)

God often works through a process before revealing His purpose.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 7:17–19
- Matthew 4:1–2

From Judgment to New Life

Peter compares Noah's flood to baptism, not because water saves, but because it represents passing from the old life into the new. Baptism marks the beginning of a transformed life, while sanctification is the ongoing process of putting off the old nature and walking in Christ. The old man dies daily as the new man grows.

Scripture References:

- 1 Peter 3:20–21
- Romans 6:3–13
- Colossians 2:12
- Colossians 3:1–10

God Brings Renewal

The flood destroyed the wickedness of Noah's day, but it also prepared the earth for a new beginning.

When the waters receded:

- Life began again.
- God established His covenant.
- The earth became fruitful once more.

God's work is always moving toward restoration.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 7:22–24
- Genesis 8–9

Jesus and the Process

Jesus also experienced a season of forty days before beginning His public ministry. Satan tempted Him to bypass God's process:

- Bread instead of dependence.
- Authority without obedience.
- Glory without the cross.

Jesus refused every shortcut, demonstrating that God's purposes are fulfilled through faithful obedience, not the easiest path.

Scripture References:

- Matthew 4:1–11

The flood teaches us that God doesn't simply destroy. He renews. His pattern throughout Scripture is to bring His people through seasons of testing, refining, and transformation. Just as Noah emerged into a new world, believers are continually being renewed through Christ until His work in us is complete.

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part 2: fulfillment



LESSON 5: FAVOR & FAITHFULNESS

Joseph's life reminds us that God's favor does not remove hardship, it sustains us through it. Between God's promise and its fulfillment is often a season of preparation, testing, and faithfulness.

Favor Has a Purpose

Joseph experienced his father's favor through the coat of many colors, but favor did not exempt him from trials. Instead, God used every hardship to prepare Joseph for a greater purpose.

God's favor is not always seen in comfort, but in His presence and faithfulness through adversity. Jesus experienced this same pattern. Though He walked in perfect favor with the Father, He endured rejection, temptation, betrayal, and ultimately the cross.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 37:2–5
- Luke 2:52
- John 1:11
- Matthew 4:1–11
- Matthew 26:47–50
- Matthew 27
- Hebrews 12:1–2

The Promise & The Process

God revealed Joseph's future through dreams, but He did not reveal the journey.

Before the promise was fulfilled came:

- Betrayal
- The pit
- Slavery
- Temptation
- Prison
- Waiting

God often reveals the destination before He reveals the process. The journey develops our character long before it fulfills our calling.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 37:6–11
- Hebrews 13:20–21
- James 1:2–4

The Pit Was Not the End

Joseph's brothers stripped him of his robe and threw him into a pit. What looked like the end of his story became the beginning of God's providence. The pit was painful, but it was also preparation. God was working behind the scenes, using every circumstance to accomplish His purpose.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 37:23–24
- Psalm 40:1–3

Faithfulness in Every Season

Whether as a servant, a prisoner, or a ruler, Joseph remained faithful. He served diligently in Potiphar's house, resisted temptation, faithfully managed the prison, and eventually interpreted Pharaoh's dreams. His promotion was not simply a reward, it positioned him to preserve an entire nation. God prepares the person before He fulfills the promise.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 39
- Genesis 40
- Genesis 41:46

Forgiveness Completes the Process

When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt, his dreams were fulfilled. Yet his greatest victory was not his position, it was his willingness to forgive. Joseph understood that God had used every trial for a greater purpose. What others intended for evil, God used to preserve life.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 45:5
- Genesis 50:20
- *Romans* 8:28

Joseph's story teaches that God's favor is not measured by an easy life but by His faithfulness through every season. The promise may come first, but God uses the process to shape our character, strengthen our faith, and prepare us for His purpose.

Beyond the Surface

Joseph's life points us to Jesus. Both were loved by their fathers, rejected by their own, betrayed, and suffered unjustly. Yet through that suffering, God brought salvation to many. What looked like defeat became the very means of redemption.

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part 2: fulfillment



LESSON 6: FAITHFUL IN THE PROCESS

Joseph's circumstances changed repeatedly, but his faithfulness did not. From slavery to responsibility, temptation to prison, Joseph shows us that faithfulness is not dependent on where we are. It is developed in who we are becoming.

Prosperous in the Process

Joseph was sold into Egypt, yet Scripture repeatedly reminds us of one important truth: the Lord was with Joseph. Even in circumstances he did not choose, Joseph served Potiphar diligently and prospered. God's favor did not remove the process; His presence sustained Joseph through it.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 37:28
- Genesis 39:1–4

Faithfulness Becomes Our Nature

Faithfulness cannot depend upon favorable circumstances. As we become more like Christ, faithfulness becomes part of our character. Peter teaches that through Christ we become partakers of the divine nature. Jesus demonstrated perfect faithfulness; what He spoke, He fulfilled. When suffering came, He continued toward the purpose set before Him. We are called not only to bear God's image, but to increasingly live in His likeness.

Scripture References:

- 2 Peter 1:3–4
- Romans 5:8

Can God Trust Us?

Joseph had every reason to become bitter, yet he continued to serve faithfully. Potiphar recognized that God was with him and eventually entrusted everything he had to Joseph. God trusted Joseph not only with the dream, but also with the process required to fulfill it. The question becomes: Can God trust us with both the promise and the process? Peter reminds us to remain humble, watchful, and steadfast when suffering comes. The enemy looks for opportunities when hardship causes us to drift, isolate, or lose faith.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 39:4–6
- 1 Peter 5:6–10
- Job 1

Faithful When Tested

Joseph's promotion did not mean his trials were finished. When Potiphar's wife tempted him, Joseph refused to compromise his integrity. His faithfulness ultimately cost him his position and landed him in prison, but even there, the Lord was with Joseph.

Scripture References:

- Genesis 39:7–8
- Genesis 39:19–21

The Heart Is Revealed

Joseph went from favored son, to slave, to overseer, and then to prisoner. Yet his circumstances never determined his character. He refused bitterness and continued looking for opportunities to serve God. The valley, the prison, and the pit reveal the condition of the heart.

Faithfulness is proven when obedience costs us something.

God's presence does not always remove difficult circumstances. Sometimes He uses those very circumstances to develop the character necessary for His purpose. Joseph remained faithful when no outcome was guaranteed, showing us that God can use every part of the process when our hearts remain surrendered to Him.

Beyond the Surface

Joseph was faithful when favored, faithful when forgotten, and faithful when falsely accused. His circumstances changed, but his character remained. God wasn't only preparing a place for Joseph. He was preparing Joseph for the place.

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