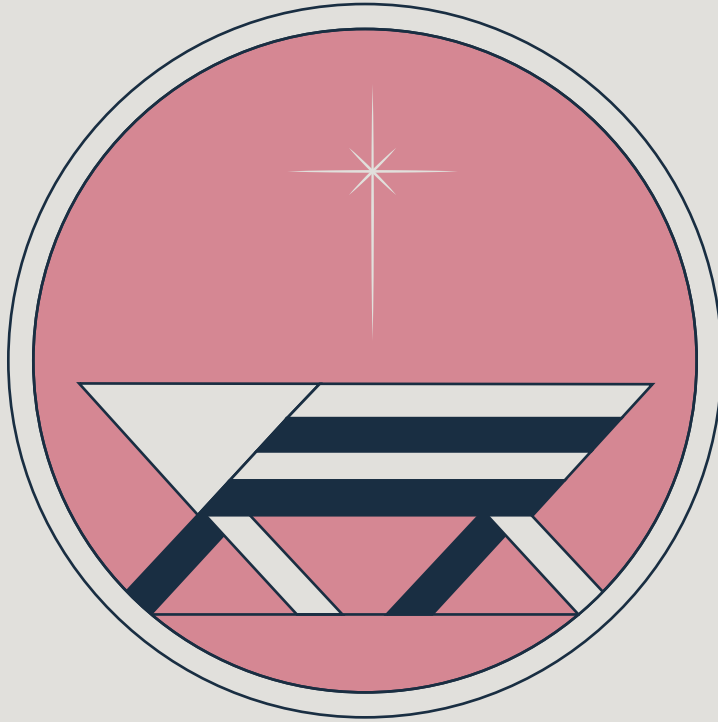


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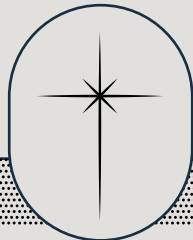
Introduction

Genesis 3:15



Eve's Offspring

Salvation Is Promised



Courtney Doctor

Introduction

As a child, I desperately wanted to wear glasses. But no matter how many times I faked my eye exams, I never got them. Be careful what you wish for! After my last few birthdays, it seems I don't need to fake bad eyesight anymore. My vision has become quite blurry unless I can get a little distance from what I'm trying to see. My optometrist decided it was time for me to start using reading glasses. These were not exactly the glasses I dreamt of as a child.

I now own close to ten pairs of "readers." They're scattered throughout my house—by my kitchen sink, on my desk, by my favorite armchair, next to my bathroom sink, two in my purse, one in my car—because I never know when I might need them. With them, even the blurry little words on the back of a shampoo bottle become clear. The fine print at the bottom of a page is legible. With the readers, I'm able to differentiate between a "6" and an "8."

Seeing through this new lens allows me to see more clearly.

In a similar way, reading Scripture through the lens of biblical theology—as one cohesive story—helps us see more clearly God's magnificent plan of redemption. The Bible doesn't comprise individual stories, unrelated and disjointed from each other. We aren't meant to study Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David simply to glean a moral lesson from their lives.

The Bible is more than a collection of short stories; it's one unified story from beginning to end. It's an epic story of God winning the greatest war that has ever occurred. Each of the characters we meet is a part of this epic battle. They're not the heroes of their individual stories; they point us to the one, true hero of our souls.

This great war began long ago in a garden with a lie, a rebellion, a curse, and a promise.

In the beginning, God made a beautiful world full of good things. He placed Adam and Eve in a garden and enjoyed unbroken fellowship with them. Everything was very good. But this goodness did not go untested. The serpent, the father of all lies, tempted Adam and Eve to distrust and disobey God's Word. He spread false doubt about God's goodness and spurred them on in their rebellion. When they chose to follow the lies of Satan over the truth of God, they drew a battle line and sided with God's enemy.

For all practical purposes, the story should have ended right there. The headline should have read, "God's Foolish Children Abandon Him and Die." But it didn't end there. It took a glorious turn because God loves his children and will stop at nothing to save them.

God stepped into this scene of treason and rebellion, and spoke first to the serpent—the deceiver, the enemy—with both a curse and a promise.

I will put enmity between you [serpent] and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. (Gen. 3:15)

The Evil One thought he had made allies of Adam and Eve. But God switched the narrative, redefined the battle lines, and proclaimed instead that there would be enmity between the serpent and the woman, and between their respective offspring. God promised to do battle—not *with* Adam and Eve but *for* them. The promise was that her offspring would do what Adam should have done: he would crush the head of the serpent.

As we turn the pages of the Old Testament, we should consider each new person we're introduced to, asking, "Is this the One? Is this the Promised One who will defeat the Evil One? Is this the seed, born

of a woman, who will crush the head of the serpent?” Each person we encounter is not the hero of an unrelated story with a moral message to impart—each person is a thread woven into the great tapestry waiting to unveil the true hero. He is the One who accomplishes our salvation by doing exactly what God promised Adam and Eve.

In this study, we will trace the promised seed of the woman, looking at Old Testament accounts that give us a glimpse, a foreshadowing, of the greater salvation Jesus wins: Noah and the ark, Abraham and Isaac, Moses and the Israelites in the desert, Rahab and the spies, David and Goliath, and David and Mephibosheth. In each encounter, we’ll see how God faithfully fulfilled his promise as he prepared us for the ultimate offspring who brought us eternal salvation.

Each story will be accompanied by a symbol that represents an aspect of our salvation. These symbols are intended to be visual reminders that help instruct, remind, and cause us to have deep joy in the reality of our salvation. David once wrote, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation” (Ps. 51:12). Our hope is that the joy of your salvation—and your praise of the One who accomplished it—will increase as you see afresh the victory he won on your behalf.

What to Expect

DAY 1

Observation

Day 1 will always be observation—reading the passage and asking the question: *What does the text say?* In this study, we will primarily be reading Old Testament narratives. Day 1 will involve slowly reading the passage several times while paying attention to details like characters, setting, and plot. You may have questions as you read. It's OK to not have all the answers or to be confused as you read certain passages. Write your questions in the margins and see if you can answer them by the end of the week.

DAY 2

Interpretation

Day 2 will focus on interpretation. We'll read the passage again and ask: *What does it mean?* We'll focus on details like the author, original audience, and context of the passage as we begin to interpret it.

DAY 3

Interpretation

Day 3 will continue to concentrate on interpretation by asking: *What does the New Testament say?* We'll read other relevant and related passages in Scripture and ask the question: *How does the rest of Scripture help me understand this text?*

DAY 4

Application

Day 4 will focus on application. We'll ask the question: *How does this text transform me?* As we pay attention to what this passage teaches us about God and ourselves, we'll consider what God has done and what we are to do in response. God's Word transforms how we think, what we love, and what we do. Time with Jesus changes us from the inside out.

DAY 5

Reflection

Each week will end on Day 5 with a reflection. After reading the reflection, you'll have an opportunity to summarize what you've learned that week.

Please plan on approximately 20 minutes of study each day (or 1.5 hours each week). Each day will begin with prayer—a time for you to ask God to meet you as you study his living and active Word. We recommend you have a print Bible in front of you, rather than using an app on your phone or computer. You'll need it for cross-referencing verses, and it helps you more readily see the passage in its context. The provided Bible passages are from the English Standard Version, but feel free to use whatever translation you prefer.

MEMORY WORK

A memory verse(s) is provided each week. Spend a few minutes each day working on memorizing it. The discipline of hiding God's Word in your heart will bear much fruit in your own life and the lives of those around you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

At the end of each chapter, you'll find a list of discussion questions. These are based on the work you've done throughout the week. We've also included an "icebreaker" question and a "warm-up" question. Both are intended to be a quick, easy, and fun way to get the group going. Keep the answers to these short so you have plenty of time to dig into the text together.

VIDEOS

We hope to be able to provide videos of the keynote teaching sessions from TGCW22. Each video will align with the chapters and, Lord willing, be available after the conference in June 2022 at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/conference/tgcw22>.

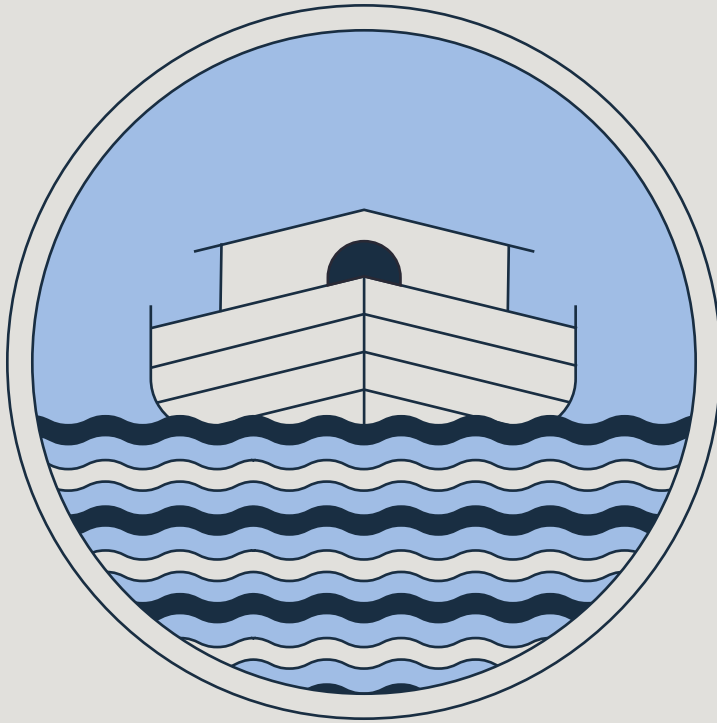
May the Lord richly bless you with the presence of his Spirit, insight into his Word, more love for his Son, and renewed joy in his great salvation!

“May those who love your salvation say continually, ‘Great is the LORD!’”

Psalm 40:16

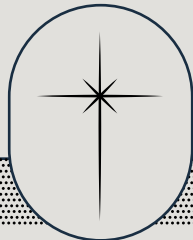
Chapter 1

Genesis 6:5-8:19



Noah and the Ark

Salvation Is Needed



Melissa Kruger

INTRODUCTION

This week, we'll be reading a story that's probably familiar to most of us: Noah's ark. It's been colorfully portrayed in movies, storybooks, and children's nursery décor for generations. As we delve into these chapters, I hope you'll glean fresh insights—both about God's righteousness and our profound need of salvation. Sometimes a story can be so familiar to us that we miss its most important message.

As you read, reflect upon this salvation story in light of the promise in Genesis 3:15: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Consider the ways God was keeping his promise to Adam and Eve as he worked salvation for Noah and his family.

MEMORY VERSE

**“But Noah found favor in the
eyes of the LORD.”**

Genesis 6:8

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, guide me as I read your Word. Let me learn from the story of Noah's ark new insights about the greatness of your salvation. Give me wisdom as I read, and help me see wonderful things in your Word. Speak to me, teach me, and show me how to live. Soften my heart and bring conviction where it is needed. Lead me in paths of righteousness that I may glorify you in all things. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and renew a right spirit within me.

In Jesus's name I pray. Amen.

3. Why was Noah instructed to build an ark (Gen. 6:13)?

4. How was the ark to be built (Gen. 6:14–16)? What items were to go inside the ark (Gen. 6:17–22)?

5. Fill out the chart below to help with a timeline of the flood. How long were Noah and his family on the ark?

Verses	What happened?	On what month and/or day did it happen?
Gen. 7:11-12	All the fountains of the deep burst forth, and it rained	Second month, 17th day
Gen. 7:17		
Gen. 8:2-4		
Gen. 8:13		
Gen. 8:14-19		

6. What did the flood do to the earth? To animals? To people?

7. Did any details in the story surprise or confuse you? Do you have any questions about the passage?