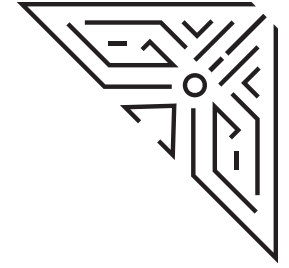
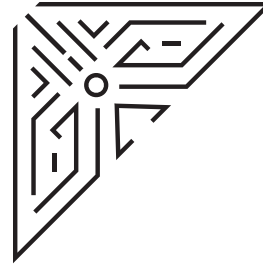


THE WORD DIET:

One Chapter per Day for a Year
to Read and Understand the Bible

D. ERIC SCHANSBERG

FURTHER STILL
MINISTRIES



THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1-11

Genesis is a masterpiece of literature—written by man, divinely inspired by God. The first quarter of Genesis contains some of the world’s famous stories: Creation of People and the World, Temptation and Fall, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel. Its sparse narrative has some of the most foundational aspects of theology and the most fundamental aspects of human nature. It ranges from God’s good work in creation, to forgive sin, and to redeem mankind—from Adam to Abraham.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

Genesis 1:26



Genesis 1:1—ITBGCTH & TE

Genesis 1:26—TGS, LUMMIOI, IOL, STTMROTFITS & TBITS, OTL & ATWA, & OATCTMALTG

DAY ONE

Genesis 1 In the first account of Creation, we see God as Creator of the universe. (God has many names in the Bible—not surprising given His many attributes. He is called “Elohim” here—one of His most prominent names, emphasizing His majesty and power.) A.W. Tozer sums it up nicely: “The Word of God is quick and powerful. In the beginning He spoke to nothing, and it became something. Chaos heard it and became order, darkness heard it and became light. ‘And God said—and it was so’.” As you read through the rhythm, order, and beauty of God’s work, what strikes you about the details of His creative effort and His mandates to mankind?

DAY TWO

Genesis 2 This chapter begins with the end of the first account of Creation: God’s rest from His creative work. As J.B. Phillips notes: “The revelation of God in Nature and the Bible is that He is never in a hurry. Long preparation, careful planning and slow growth, would seem to be leading characteristics of spiritual life.” Then, the second account of Creation is our intro to Adam & Eve and God’s relationship with them. (He is called “Yahweh” here—another prominent name for God, emphasizing his desire for relationship.) From this passage, comment on what we learn about humans and about God.

YOUR MEMORY VERSE: _____

DAY THREE

Genesis 3 This is an amazing and staggering chapter, from the temptation to “the Fall”, from the anatomy of their sin to its consequences, from God’s questioning of Adam and Eve to His first extension of mercy and grace to sinful people, from Adam’s sinful silence (3:6) to the beautiful name he gives his wife. In this chapter, what do you see in yourself and in God?

DAY FOUR

Genesis 4:1-16 Family is at the heart of Genesis. Adam and Eve didn’t handle temptation well. Now, we get a look at parenting and the next generation. This doesn’t go well either—a particularly painful example of “sibling rivalry”, another key theme in Genesis. God’s work of redemption will involve individuals, families, and nations—and there’s a long way to go. What speaks to you about Cain and God’s work with Cain?

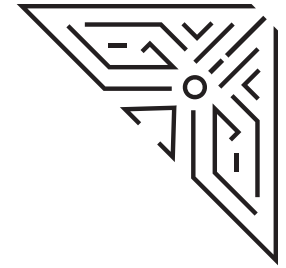
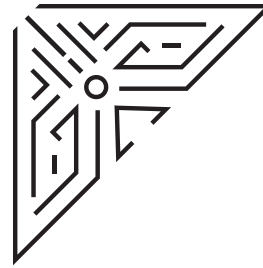
MEMORY VERSE INITIALS: _____

DAY FIVE

Genesis 8:13-9:17 Today, we're reading the end of the Flood narrative. (We're skipping quite a bit in Noah's account, but you can read that on your own or wait until we return to it in the second book of this three-volume series.) Noah was obedient and righteous, but through those, he was only able to save his family. (God's agenda is far larger—as we'll see with Abraham.) Even the salvation of his family has not gone as well as one would hope. Noah's most famous sin is in the next passage (which we also skip this time). But read carefully to see his first recorded sin in 8:16,18 (7:13). Comment on that and/or other aspects of today's reading.

DAY SIX

Genesis 11 Joseph Soloveitchik observes that the result of Noah and the Flood is “no leaps in human nature. A catastrophe, even of such enormous proportions as the deluge, cannot have a redeeming effect upon man.” As we'll see throughout the Old Testament and the ministry of Jesus, miracles and catastrophe are often of little lasting use in fixing our eyes on spiritual matters. The end of the Bible's opening section describes the Tower of Babel and lays out the genealogy which gets us to Abraham. “Babel” means “confused” and is our introduction to Babylon—biblically, the most powerful worldly foil to God and His work. Here, the impressive “Babelonian” effort at unity apart from God will not be fully redeemed until Acts 2 with Pentecost. For now, focus on details in the building and the demise of the tower.



THE PLAN

Genesis 12-50

The rest of Genesis covers God's work in building up Abraham and the three generations of descendants who would become the nation of Israel—“God's people”, the primary vessel through which God will work in the Old Testament. From a population perspective, it's slow-going until Jacob's 12 sons get the family size rolling. We saw family struggles in Genesis 1-11. But without good families, how can one have an effective nation? How will the “God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob” shape His chosen people so they can be a blessing to all peoples?

But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Genesis 45:7

I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Genesis 12:2-3

