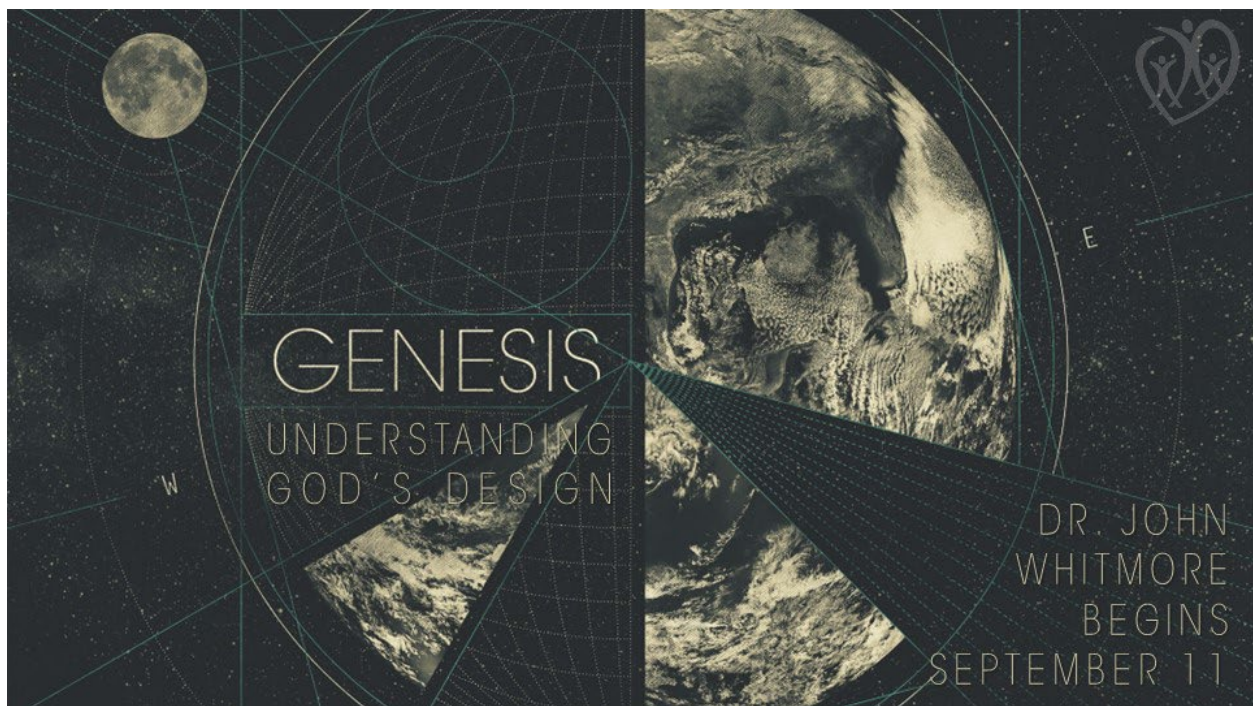


Understanding God's Design: The Biblical Foundation of Genesis

Sunday evenings at

Emanuel Baptist Church, Xenia, Ohio

Fall 2022



Lesson Outlines and Notes

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Teaching Schedule:

Number	Date	Topic
1	9-11	Understanding the foundation: Creation from Genesis to Revelation
2	9-18	Understanding that Genesis <i>is</i> history. <i>Is Genesis History?</i> [Film]
3	9-25	Understanding the Creation and our Creator (Genesis 1 & 2)
4	10-9	Understanding how Noah's Flood can help us make sense of geology. <i>Set in Stone</i> [Film]
5	10-16	Understanding the impact of the Fall (Genesis 3)
6	10-23	Understanding the genealogies, archaeology, and Babel (Genesis 5, 10 & 11)
7	10-30	Understanding the science behind dating (Radioactive and carbon-14 dating)
8	11-13	Understanding Darwin, evolution and how to respond in school
9	11-20	Understanding the origin of earth's rocks (Noah's Flood, Genesis 6-9)
10	11-27	Understanding dinosaurs in light of God's Word
11	12-11	Understanding the fossil record of animals and humans
12	12-18	Understanding climate change from a biblical perspective

The Bible begins with the book of beginnings: Genesis. Some suggest that this book is allegory, myth or fable. Some of the stories in this book are rather incredible. Consider a flood that covered all the highest mountains, families suddenly speaking different languages, Methuselah living 969 years, giants, marriage of brothers and sisters and half-sisters, and speaking snakes. However, these "stories" are treated as real history throughout Scripture including by Jesus Christ and the apostles.

The goal of these lessons is to strengthen our faith in this book of beginnings and to show how it forms the foundation of so many of our doctrines in Scripture, including the gospel itself. We will be covering theology, biology, geology, archaeology, paleontology and climatology—all related to Genesis. It is my hope that these lessons will strengthen your faith in the Word and so that you can have "answers" when you have hard conversations about these subjects with others. It is my prayer that others will come to know our Creator, Lord and Savior by our efforts together this fall.

A little bit about me: I have degrees in both geology and biology and have been teaching geology at Cedarville University since 1991 where I started a geology major in 2009. I got my start in teaching at a small Christian high school where I taught math and science for three years. I am married to Jamie, and we have six children and three grandchildren. I enjoy the outdoors and usually do two raft trips every summer on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon for Answers in Genesis and Canyon Ministries. I am co-author of an Earth Science textbook, *The Heavens and the Earth*, used in Christian high schools and colleges. I authored my first book with Buddy Davis and Mike Liston, *The Great Alaskan Dinosaur Adventure*. I occasionally write for *Answers Magazine* and review articles for the periodical. My professional research and writing interests are in Grand Canyon geology (especially the Coconino Sandstone), determining Flood boundaries in the rock record, and paleontology (especially the subdiscipline of taphonomy). I am the editor for the *Proceedings of the International Conference on Creationism*; the conference will be held on Cedarville's campus in 2023.

Number	Date	Topic
1	9-11	Understanding the foundation: Creation from Genesis to Revelation

Summary: The doctrine of Creation is found throughout Scripture, not just in the book of Genesis. In this lesson I will share some of my personal testimony and show why a Genesis foundation is important. Then we will see how the historical events of the Creation and the Flood are found from Genesis to Revelation.

Outline:

I. Questions. What questions have you had about origins?

II. Testimony. Have you ever compromised so you didn't look like a fool?

III. Why are the Creation and the Flood important?

1. Scripture begins with Creation
2. Jesus is the Creator
3. The Creation is found throughout Scripture
4. The Flood is found throughout Scripture
5. Revelation mirrors Genesis
6. Consequences of rejecting the Creator

IV. Your response?

Number	Date	Topic
2	9-18	Understanding that Genesis <i>is</i> history. <i>Is Genesis History?</i> Film. Compassion Cinema, 2017. IsGenesisHistory.com

Outline (Topic, speaker, film location, speaker quote):

- 1. Changing our perspective.** Dr. Del Tackett, Mt. St. Helens. “Did God create the world in a few days or billions of years?”
- 2. What do the rocks tell us?** Dr. Steve Austin, Grand Canyon. “It’s not a little water and a lot of time. It’s a lot of water and a little time.”
- 3. A question of paradigms.** Dr. Paul Nelson, Computer History Museum. “We have a witness to those events, and that witness is telling us this is what happened, and we have to take that into consideration when we evaluate the data.”
- 4. What does the text say?** Dr. Steven Boyd, Hebrew Union College. “The first thing is that it’s an accurate historical account.”
- 5. How do you measure time?** Dr. Andrew Snelling, SP Crater & Sedona, Arizona. “The Bible would say that the past is the key to the present.”
- 6. A brief history of the world.** Dr. Kurt Wise, Pocket Wilderness, Dayton, Tennessee. “The Bible lays out what I would call epochs of earth history.”
- 7. The origin of fossils.** Dr. Marcus Ross, Discovery Park of America. “Man and all of the animals over which we ruled were judged at the time of the Flood.”
- 8. When dinosaurs walked the earth.** Dr. Arthur Chadwick, Hanson Ranch, Wyoming. “We don’t ever see changes from this form into this form in the rocks themselves.”
- 9. Soft tissue in dinosaur bones.** Dr. Kevin Anderson, Van Andel Creation Research Center. “Clearly this is in violation of the dating process. It challenges the entire dating process.”
- 10. The Genius of design.** Dr. Robert Carter, Coral World, St. Thomas, USVI. “Life is so complex that small changes can’t explain it.”
- 11. The potential of created kinds.** Dr. Todd Wood, Memphis Zoo. “All we see are variations that happen within a created kind.”
- 12. The purpose of the stars.** Dr. Danny Faulkner, Chino Valley, Arizona. “We have some purposes given for the stars...to mark time, to rule over the night, to be for signs and seasons.”
- 13. Where was Babel?** Dr. Douglass Petrovich, Oriental Institute Museum. “It gives you a feeling of putting your hands around the events that go on in the Biblical text.”
- 14. Genesis and our culture.** Dr. George Grant, Bountiful Blessings Farm, Tennessee. “When you rid the book of Genesis of its historical moorings, you have suddenly decapitated the whole structure of the Bible.”
- 15. A changed perspective.** Dr. Del Tackett, Alpine Loop, Colorado

Number	Date	Topic
3	9-25	Understanding the Creation and our Creator (Genesis 1 & 2)

Summary: There are two basic ways that we can interpret earth history. 1. From a naturalistic perspective (no God, billions of years, chance random processes), or 2. From a biblical perspective (God is creator and designer, thousands of years ago, planned and designed world and life).

Outline:

I. Comparison of the two ideas (difference between data and *interpretation of data*)

- We all have the same stack of rocks, the difference is in the interpretation

II. The naturalistic view of earth history

- 4.6-billion-year-old earth, 13 billion-year-old universe, Big Bang
- Non-theistic
- All life genetically linked (related) by naturalistic evolution
- Dominant view among scientists today
- Geologic Time Scale

III. The biblical view of earth history

A. The Days of Creation, Genesis 1-2:3

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

B. Details of the Creation of Man and the Garden of Eden, Genesis 2

1. Creation of Man and the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:4-9
2. Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Genesis 2:9
3. The River and its four distributaries. Genesis 2:10-14
4. Eating. Genesis 2:15-17
5. Eve. Genesis 2:18-25

Number	Date	Topic
4	10-9	Understanding how Noah's Flood can help us make sense of geology. <i>Set in Stone</i> [Film]. Truth in Science (UK). https://truthinscience.uk/set-in-stone/

Outline:

1. Introduction. Paul Garner & John Whitmore at Siccar Point, Scotland
2. Historical Foundations
3. Hutton's unconformity (Siccar Point, Scotland)
4. Rethinking uniformitarianism. Hutton is often credited as one of the first to apply "uniformitarianism" to geology, "the present is the key to the past." He was followed by the more famous geologist, Sir Charles Lyell (who was friends with the younger Charles Darwin).
5. The Sutton Stone, Derek Ager, professor of geology at Swansea (Wales)
6. Rapid granite formation, Andrew Snelling (Answers in Genesis)
7. Outpourings of lava, Giant's Causeway, Ireland
8. Glacial megafloods (Similar floods have happened after The Flood during the Ice Age all around the world. A famous one is in the Channeled Scabland area in the state of Washington, the Missoula flood).
9. Mam Tor, about 100 m of sandstone and mudstone layers, now interpreted as turbidite deposits. A turbidity current is a concentrated flow of sediment that flows quickly along the ocean bottom. It produces a bed called a "turbidite."
10. Dating the rocks. Unprovable assumptions are involved in all dating methods, including carbon 14.
11. Missing salt and seafloor sediment. Missing salt and seafloor sediment in the ocean suggests the ocean has not been present for millions or billions of years.
12. Eroding continents. If the earth were really 4.6 billion years old, no continents should be present. Erosion is happening so fast, continents quickly disappear.
13. Fossil graveyards. Fossils form quickly and are evidence of rapid processes.
14. The mudstone revolution. Geologists now believe that even fine-grained sediments made of clay and silt formed quickly, not slowly. They often contain fossils!
15. Algal blooms and chalk deposition. Chalk is made of small organisms that must have accumulated on the ocean floor at rates much faster than are observed today. Chalk deposits have lots of large fossils in them.
16. Return to Siccar Point. Did Hutton draw the right conclusions about slow, gradual processes?
17. Conclusion

Number	Date	Topic
5	10-16	Understanding the impact of the Fall (Genesis 3)

Summary: At the end of the creation week, everything was perfect. In many respects, the perfection will be like the perfection we will experience in the New Heavens and Earth (Revelation 21-22). There will be no more sin, death, and tears. The curse will be ended. How did this perfect world that God had made (Genesis 1:31) go so wrong? What did God do in response? We find the answers in a simple but profound narrative in Genesis 3.

Outline:

- I. The Fall (Genesis 3:1-7)
- II. Man's response—the blame game (Genesis 3:8-13)
- III. God's response (Genesis 3:14-19)
 - A. The serpent (3:14-15)
 - B. The woman (Genesis 3:16)
 - C. Adam (Genesis 3:17-19)
 - D. Eve (Genesis 3:20)
 - E. Clothing—the first blood sacrifice (Genesis 3:21)
 - F. Expulsion from the Garden (Genesis 3:22-24)
 - G. What was God's purpose for the curse?
- IV. How has this event impacted us?
 - A. From perfection (Genesis 1:31) to groaning (Romans 8:18-24, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
 - B. Relationships
 1. With God
 2. With others
 3. Sexual
 - C. Work
 - D. Biology & animal interactions
 - E. Genetics
- V. Looking forward to the New Heavens and Earth!

Number	Date	Topic
6	10-23	Understanding the genealogies, archaeology, and Babel (Genesis 5, 10 & 11)

Summary: When reading through Scripture, have you skipped over the portions with difficult names to pronounce and so and so begat so and so? Did you realize that these portions of Scripture serve a very important purpose? In this lesson we will also consider a little post-Flood archaeology, and the importance of the Tower of Babel narrative.

Outline:

I. Genesis 3:15 and the importance of the genealogies

II. Adam to Noah

A. Who was Cain's wife? (Genesis 4:17, Genesis 5:4)

B. Long lives! (Genesis 5)

C. Methuselah (Genesis 5:27)

III. Noah to Abraham

A. The Table of Nations (Genesis 10)

B. Peleg (Genesis 10:25)

III. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)

IV. More Genealogies, primarily Shem (Genesis 11:9-32)

V. A Little Archaeology

A. Location of Noah's Ark (Genesis 8:4)

B. The Command to Noah (Genesis 9:16-19)

C. Dispersal from the mountains of Ararat (Genesis 11:1-2)

D. Dispersal from Babel

E. Travels of Terah and his sons Abram, Nahor and Haran (Genesis 11:26-32)

F. Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19)

G. Job was likely living at the same time as Abram

Number	Date	Topic
7	10-30	Understanding the science behind dating (Radioactive and carbon-14 dating)

Summary: We learned in the previous lesson that the genealogies of the Bible only allow for an earth that is a bit more than 6,000 years old. However, modern science contends the earth is 4.6 billion years old. Most people have only heard of carbon-14 dating, but there many other types of radioactive dating methods that are used for these older dates. In this lesson we will see that there are unproveable assumptions in the dating methods, discrepancies between dating methods, and observations that tell us the earth is only on the order of thousands of years old, not millions or billions.

Outline:

I. The assumptions behind all dating methods

- A. Starting conditions
- B. Rates of processes
- C. Outside influences

II. Carbon-14 dating

- A. How does it work?
- B. Examples of why it doesn't work
- C. Can carbon-14 be redeemed?

III. Dating of rocks

- A. Many different methods
- B. Theory of how it's supposed to work
- C. Examples showing that it doesn't work

IV. Examples showing the earth is young

- A. Population sizes
- B. Erosion of continents and filling of ocean basins
- C. Helium in zircons
- D. Folds in rocks

Number	Date	Topic
8	11-13	Understanding Darwin, evolution and how to respond in school

Summary: Darwin published the *Origin of Species* in 1859, but the foundation for naturalistic evolution had already been laid decades earlier by men like Hutton and Lyell who argued Noah's Flood was not an accurate account of earth's geology and that untold eons of time had passed in earth's history. In this lesson we will learn about what Darwin proposed, some of the more modern thoughts about his theory and how we should respond to others when the subject comes up.

Outline:

I. The history leading up to *The Origin of Species* (1859)

II. In Darwin's own words—quotes from the *Origin*

III. The modern idea of punctuated equilibria: does it solve the problem?

IV. How to respond

Number	Date	Topic
9	11-20	Understanding the origin of earth's rocks (Noah's Flood, Genesis 6-9)

Summary: The evidence that Noah's Flood happened is all around us. The easiest evidence to understand is that the earth's continents are covered with marine sedimentary rocks. Many mountain ranges even contain marine animals fossilized at their summits. In this lesson we will learn about the vast evidence for the global flood that happened in Noah's day.

Outline:

I. The purpose of the Flood

II. The global nature of the Flood

III. The Flood throughout Scripture

IV. The geology of the Flood

A. The Great Unconformity

1. World-wide erosional contact

2. The marine transgression

3. The Cambrian explosion

B. Marine layers on the continents

C. Rapid fossilization

D. Coal and oil

E. Flat contacts between the layers

V. The mechanism of the Flood

VI. The post-Flood time in earth history

A. Geomorphology (mountains, erosion)

B. The Ice Age

C. Dispersal of animals, plants, people

D. Climate Change

Number	Date	Topic
10	11-27	Understanding dinosaurs in light of God's Word

Summary: Nothing excites many children more than dinosaurs (even some adults too)! We are often told that dinosaurs lived hundreds of millions of years ago and became extinct 65 million years ago. How to we reconcile this within a young-earth biblical perspective? Did dinosaurs and humans live together? What happened to the dinosaurs? Why don't we find dinosaur and human bones buried together?

Outline:

I. The Great Alaskan Dinosaur Adventure

II. When did dinosaurs live?

III. Dinosaur Petroglyphs

IV. Carbon-14 dating of dinosaur bones

V. Soft tissue in dinosaur bones

VI. Feathered dinosaurs?

VII. Dinosaurs in Scripture

A. Job 40, Behemoth

B. Job 41, Leviathan

C. Isaiah 14 &30, The "fiery flying serpent"

VIII. What happened to the dinosaurs?

IX. Things we should no longer use about dinosaurs

A. The Paluxy River tracks

B. The New Zealand carcass

Number	Date	Topic
11	12-11	Understanding the fossil record of animals and humans

Summary: Fossils are an important part of earth history, but how do they fit into the biblical record? Are human fossils descendants of Adam, or prehistoric peoples that lived long before Adam? Fossils are important because they can inform us what the past history of the earth was like; they give us evidence of Noah's Flood (marine rocks on the land); they can help us answer questions about evolution; and they can show us how fast rocks were made.

Outline:

I. What is a fossil?

II. Why are fossils important?

III. How old are fossils?

IV. Understanding fossils on a biblical timeline

V. Lessons from the fossil record

- A. Fossils indicate rapid burial
- B. Many fossils contain unfossilized tissues
- C. The fossil record is characterized by stasis, not evolutionary change
- D. Marine rock layers blanket all the continents
- E. Fossils show evidence of long-distance transport
- F. Fossils cause a time dilemma for conventional geology

VI. Fossil humans

- A. No pre-Flood fossil humans
- B. We find post-Flood humans and apes in the fossil record
- C. Fossil humans descended from Noah and spread from Ararat and Babel

Number	Date	Topic
12	12-18	Understanding climate change from a biblical perspective

Summary: Climate change is one of the “hot topics” of today’s social and political landscape. We were commanded in Genesis 1 to be “stewards” of the earth; does this include being concerned about climate change? Is climate change happening? How should we as Christians respond?

Outline:

I. Questions many of us have

II. Why is the earth warm?

III. Sources and sinks of carbon dioxide

IV. My speculations of climate over a young-earth history

V. Consider Job

VI. The Earth’s climate has been in a continual state of flux since the Flood

VII. The Ice Age

VIII. What should be our response as Christians?