



THE OLD TESTAMENT

Seeing the Big Picture

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Part 2: The Antediluvian Period

The Antediluvian Period

- Antediluvian means “before the flood.”
- The period covers the time from creation to the flood.

God Created the Universe Out of Nothing

- *Ex nihilo* → the Latin phrase meaning “out of nothing” (see also 2 Macc. 7:28).
- This *creatio ex nihilo* has important theological implications, for among other things it precludes the idea that matter is eternal (materialism).
- By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible (Hebrews 11:3).

God's Relationship to His Creation

- **God's is** _____. Very simply, this means that God is far “above” the creation in the sense that he is greater than the creation and he is independent of it.
- **God is** _____. God is also very much involved in creation, for it is continually dependent on him for its existence and its functioning (Job 12:10; Acts 17:25, 28; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3)



Three False Views of God's Relationship to His Creation

- Deism: God created the universe, but he is not actively involved in it. He made it to run on its own “natural laws” and is now off doing other things (“Clock maker” view).
- Pantheism: God is actively involved in his creation, but he is also dependent on it (“Everything is God” view).
- Materialism: the material (physical) universe is all that exists; therefore, God does not exist (Atheistic view).

Created in God's Image

“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...’” (Gen. 1:26 NIV)

- Both the Hebrew word “image” (H. *tselem*) and “likeness” (H. *demuth*) means “similar to, but not identical to.”
- We are like God morally (Matt. 27:3-5; Rom. 1:18-20), spiritually (Rom. 8:16; Gal. 5:18), mentally (Mark 12:30; Isa. 1:18), and relationally (John 14:23; Rev. 3:20).

- Describing a quality of God in human terms so that we can better relate to him is called an *anthropomorphism* (See Ps. 18:6; 37:31; Isa. 40:11).

The Fall of Man: The “5Ds” of sin (Genesis 3:1-6 NLT)

“The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”² “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied.³ “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”⁴ “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman.⁵ “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”⁶ The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.” (Gen. 3:1-6 NLT)



5Ds of Sin	Description
D_____ (Gen. 3:1)	Satan twists the truth
D_____ (Gen. 3:4,5)	Satan wants us to view God words as “bluffs”
D_____ (Gen. 3:6a)	Eve let herself get close to the forbidden tree
D_____ (Gen. 3:6a)	Eva saw that the tree was beautiful, fruit delicious
D_____ (Gen. 3:6b)	She took some of the fruit, Adam ate it too.

The Nature of Sin

- Sin is rebellion against God through willful acts of disobedience (Gen. 3:6).
- Sin causes man to “hide” from God (Gen. 3:9-10).
- Sin always has harmful natural consequences (Gen. 3:14-19).

God’s Prophetic Response to Man’s Sin (Gen. 3:15)

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Gen. 3:15 NIV)

- The phrase “you will strike his heel” refers to Satan’s repeated attempts to defeat Jesus Christ during his life on earth.
- “He will crush your head” foreshadows Satan’s defeat when Jesus Christ will rise from the dead...this sometimes called the first Messianic promise (also known as the *protoevangelium*).
- A strike on the heel is not deadly, but a crushing blow to the head is.
- Here we have God’s prophetic plan to defeat Satan once and for all (Rev. 20:10), and his offer of salvation to the world through his Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16).