



LESSON 2: THE ANTEDILUVIAN PERIOD

Discovering the Heart of the Old Testament

THE ANTEDILUVIAN PERIOD

- A. Antediluvian means "before the flood"
- B. The period covers the time from the creation to the flood

GOD CREATED THE UNIVERSE OUT OF NOTHING

- A. *Ex nihilo* → the Latin phrase meaning "out of nothing" (see also 2 Macc. 7:28)
- B. This *creatio ex nihilo* has important theological implications, for among other things it precludes the idea that matter is eternal (materialism)
- C. 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

- A. God is independent of his creation (transcendent) but he is also actively involved in his creation (immanent)
- B. God's transcendence
 - 1. The teaching of Scripture about the relationship between God and creation is unique among the religions of the world (Grudem)
 - 2. The Bible teaches that God is distinct from his creation...he is not part of it, for he has made it and rules over it because he is Sovereign
 - 3. 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
 - 4. Even though God is transcendent he is still knowable (Geisler)
- C. God's immanence
 - 1. God is also very much involved in creation, for it is continually dependent on him for its existence and its functioning
 - 2. The God of the Bible is no abstract deity removed from, and uninterested in his creation...the Bible is the story of God's involvement with his creation, and particularly the people in it (Grudem)
 - 3. Job affirms that even the animals and plants depend on God (Job 12:10)
 - 4. In the New Testament, Paul affirms that God "gives to all men life and breath and everything" and that "in him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:25, 28)
 - 5. Indeed, in Christ "all things hold together" (Col. 1:17), and he is continually "upholding the universe by his word of power" (Heb. 1:3)
 - 6. God's transcendence and immanence are both affirmed in a single verse when Paul speaks of "one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Eph. 4:6)

D. Three major contrary views of God's relationship to his creation:

1. Deism: God created the universe but he is not actively involved in it ("Clock maker" view)
2. Pantheism: God is actively involved in his creation but he is dependent on it ("Everything is God" view)
3. Materialism: the material universe is all that exists, therefore, God does not exist (atheistic view)

CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

A. Meaning of "image" and "likeness" in Genesis 1:26

1. Both the Hebrew word "image" (*tselem*) and "likeness" (*demuth*) means "similar to, but not identical to"
2. 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)

B. 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

A. The stages of sin (Gen. 3:1-6)

Stage	Satan's Tactics
Doubt (Gen. 3:1)	He twists the truth
Deception (Gen. 3:4)	He wants us to view God words as "bluffs"
Desire (Gen. 3:6a)	He attacks our vulnerable spots
Decision (Gen. 3:6b)	He knows that sin entices us to invite others into our sin

B. The nature of sin (Gen. 3:8-19)

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

GOD'S PROPHETIC RESPONSE (GEN. 3:15)

- A. The phrase "you will strike his heel" refers to Satan's repeated attempts to defeat Jesus Christ during his life on earth
- B. "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)
- C. A strike on the heel is not deadly, but a crushing blow to the head is
- D. Here we have God's plan to defeat Satan and offer salvation to the world through his Son, Jesus Christ