

# SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

**WILLIAM MAC DONALD**



*Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*

*Summary of the Bible*

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# STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

This course has been written primarily for two types of people.

First of all, it is for those who know little or nothing about the Bible, but who would like to become familiar with this Book of all books. There are many such people who honestly approach the Scriptures with a real desire to study them, but who get discouraged because of the size of the Book and because of their ignorance of what it is all about. They feel that if they just had a general summary of the story of the Bible, they would be better able to read it and understand it. In these lessons, therefore, an attempt has been made to give a brief outline of the contents of God's Word.

Secondly, it is for those who are familiar with individual Bible incidents, but who do not know how to piece them together or fit them into the historical background. For instance, many folks have heard the story of Daniel in the lions' den from early childhood, yet they would be at a loss to explain the time and location of this incident in the record of God's dealing with His people, Israel. For these people, the well-known stories of the Bible are shown in their proper setting, with an explanation of their importance at that particular time.

It will be very obvious to every student that these lessons deal only with what might be called the mountain-peaks of Scripture. In fact, we hope that the amount of material omitted and the number of questions unanswered will prove to be so painful that the student will have an increased determination to study the Word more thoroughly when he completes this course! It is also our hope that this course may prove suggestive to Sunday School and Bible Class teachers in their work of teaching others.

In order to derive the greatest benefit from the course, the student should read the portion of Scripture covered by each lesson.

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## Course Components

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

## How To Study

This study has twelve chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

## Exams

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions. It is important that you read the Bible passages referenced as some questions may be based on the Bible text.

## **How Your Exams Are Graded**

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.



# The Story Begins

## Genesis

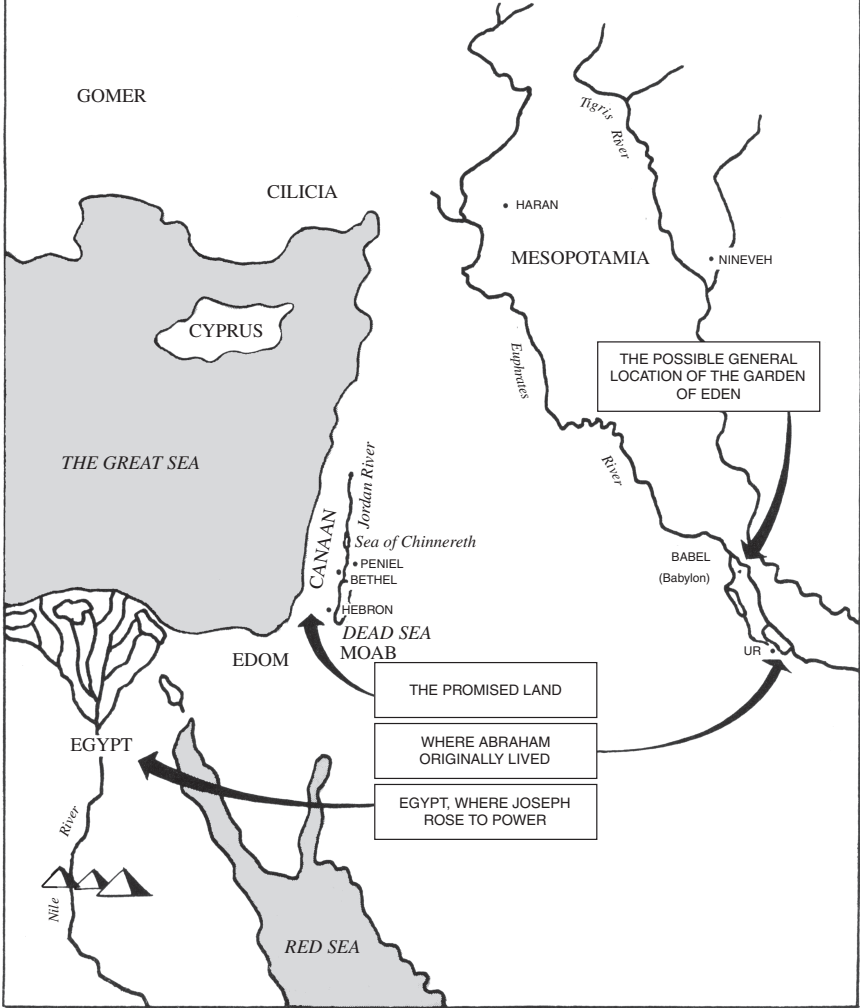
The Bible is not a history of the world nor of the human race. Its contents have been divinely selected to show the development of God's purposes for man and for his salvation. Therefore, some major historical events are omitted and some minor incidents are included because of their bearing on these divine purposes.

The principal subjects dealt with in the first book of the Bible are the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, the Tower of Babel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

The only reliable statement of the origin of man and of the universe in which he lives is given in the first two chapters of Genesis. Then follows the record of the entrance of sin into the human race through Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. At this time, God gave a promise of the coming of Christ (3:15). During the rest of the Old Testament narrative, we are able to trace the human descent of the Savior of the world; it is one of the most important threads in the Bible.

For centuries after the Fall, man's career was steadily downward, until God sent the Flood upon the earth and destroyed all its inhabitants except Noah and his family. This event took place at least 1600 years after Adam's creation, possibly more. After the Flood men again rebelled against God and expressed their defiance in the building of the Tower of Babel. God's judgment, this time, was to confound human speech and scatter the human race to the ends of the earth.

# The Background of Genesis





In chapter 12—400 years after Noah—God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees.<sup>1</sup> This is important because it marks the beginning of God's chosen earthly people, Israel. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation, that the Messiah would be descended from him, and that his people would be given the land of Canaan as their possession. Actually almost all the remaining narrative of the Old Testament is devoted to God's dealings with this people. Also, beginning with chapter 13, the scene of most of the events is the land of Canaan except for two main exiles which will be noted.

We are next told of Abraham's son, Isaac—his birth, his escape from death on Mt. Moriah, and his marriage to Rebekah. Their two sons were Esau and Jacob, and it is the latter who now assumes the leading role.

Many incidents in the life of Jacob are recorded, all of them full of valuable lessons for the reader. However, the important fact about him, as far as the progress of the history is concerned, is that he was the father of twelve sons who, in turn, became heads of what are henceforth known as the twelve tribes of Israel.<sup>2</sup> In the order of their birth, these sons were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

It is with Joseph that the narrative is next concerned. He was not an ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>3</sup> but in his life and work, he presents more types and pictures of the Savior than almost any other Old Testament character. Though loved by his father, Joseph was hated by his brothers and sold by them to a caravan of merchants en route to Egypt. In that country, he quickly rose to prominence in the government of Pharaoh. When a famine hit Canaan years later, the sons of Jacob heard that there was food in Egypt, so they went there for help and eventually moved there as a family. The Book of Genesis closes with the death of Joseph in Egypt, about 270 years after the call of Abraham.

## Exodus

After Joseph's death, a new Pharaoh came to power in Egypt who was unfriendly to the Hebrew people, and who reduced them to slavery. Moses was raised up by God during these years to stand before Pharaoh and

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<sup>1</sup> Chaldea is later mentioned in the Bible as Babylonia. This is known today as Iraq.

<sup>2</sup> The entire nation is often referred to hereafter as Israel.

<sup>3</sup> The Messiah was descended from his brother, Judah.

demand freedom for the Israelites to return to Canaan. When the ruler refused, God sent a series of nine plagues upon Egypt, all of which failed to convince him; he was unwilling to let the people go.

Finally, God announced the tenth plague—the death of the oldest boy in every home in Egypt that was not protected by the blood of the Passover lamb. The Egyptians failed to comply with God’s demands so death struck every family. The Israelites, having the blood on the doors, were spared. Under the leadership of Moses, they left Egypt in haste, with Pharaoh’s army after them. The Lord miraculously parted the waters of the Red Sea so that His people could get across, and so that the pursuing army would be drowned in trying to follow.

Abraham’s family, through Isaac, his son, and Jacob, his grandson, had now become a nation of about two million people, unified and organized for their journey to the Promised Land. Think of this tremendous host marching through a great wilderness, with flocks and herds, camping at various spots en route! God guided His people with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Then He miraculously provided food for them by raining manna<sup>4</sup> from heaven. Three months after leaving Egypt, they arrived at the Desert of Sinai, where they were destined to remain for a while.

The Israelites encamped near Mt. Sinai,<sup>5</sup> and stayed there for nearly a year. In fact, all the events recorded from Exodus 19 to Numbers 10:11 occurred at this location.

Now that Abraham’s family had become a nation, it needed a system of laws to regulate its behavior when it came into its own land. But more than that, God had important lessons to teach His people about His holiness, about their sinfulness and how He could be approached.

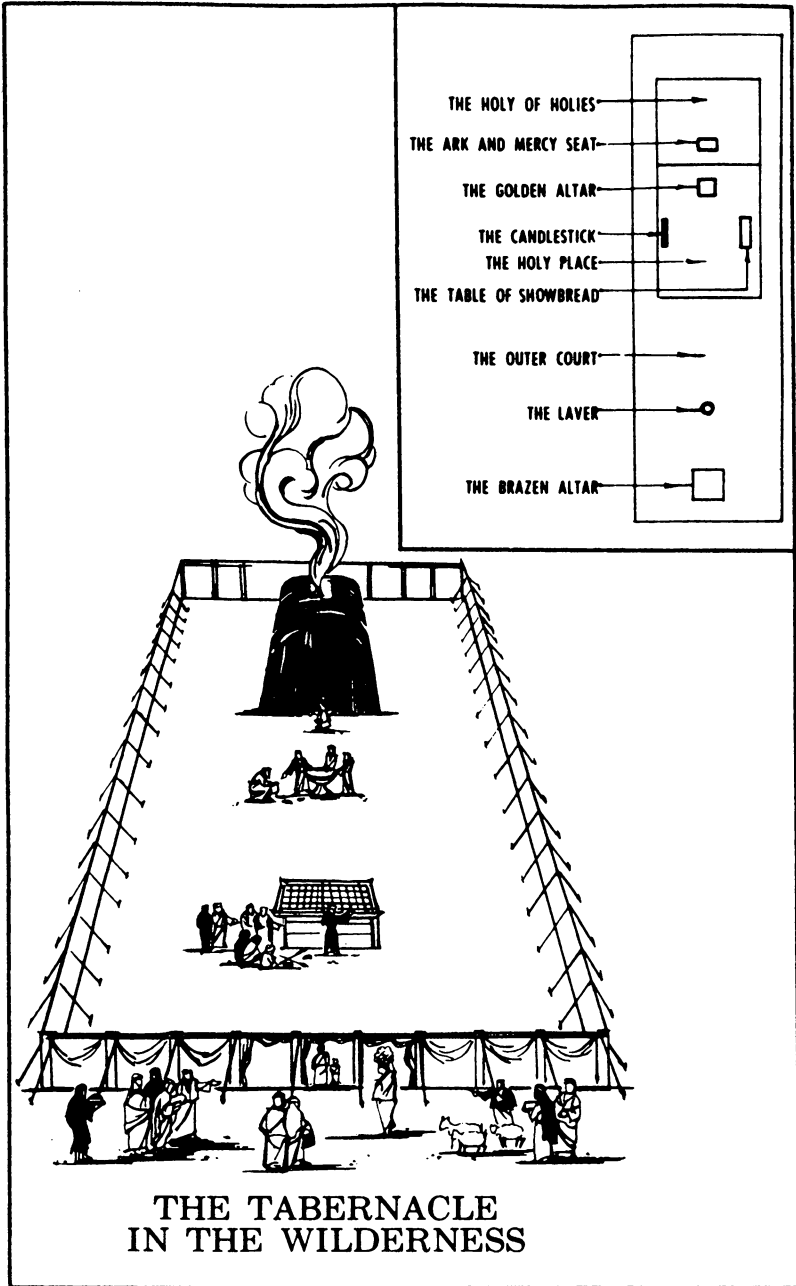
First of all, then, God issued the Ten Commandments to Moses for Israel. These form the basis of much human government. In addition to these, He gave various other laws concerning man’s obligations toward the Lord and toward his fellow men.

Then God issued very detailed instructions concerning the building of the tabernacle, a tent-like structure where He would meet with His people, and which would therefore form the center of the religious life of

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<sup>4</sup> A small, round white substance which the Israelites found on the ground each morning, and which they used to make bread or cakes.

<sup>5</sup> Also called Mt. Horeb. It is located in today’s Sinai Peninsula.



the nation. The materials used in constructing the tabernacle, the furniture inside—in fact, almost all things connected with it—were typical of the person and work of the Lord Jesus who was to come.

Closely connected with the tabernacle was the priesthood. Therefore, God next arranged for an order of priests to be taken from the tribe of Levi, and the family of Aaron, Moses' brother. Their clothing, their work and the ceremonies connected with their entrance into the priestly office are minutely described.

While Moses was still in Mt. Sinai receiving the law from God, the people of Israel broke the law by making a golden calf and worshipping it. When Moses returned and saw this, he broke the stone tablets on which the law was written, then pleaded with God not to destroy the people. After this, God again gave the law to Moses on the mount, this time accompanying it with promises of grace and mercy.

The people now came forward with their free-will offerings and undertook the work of building the tabernacle. When it was completed, the priests were set apart and clothed, and all was now in readiness. A bright, shining cloud covered the tent, indicating God's presence with His people.

The Book of Exodus is filled with instructive pictures of our own lives.

1. The Passover speaks of salvation through the blood of Christ.
2. Crossing the Red Sea pictures the Christian saying good-bye to the world, and living in practical separation from it.
3. The tabernacle and its services tell of how the believer approaches God in worship.
4. The Priesthood illustrates how our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus, represents us before the Throne of God.

# SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

## EXAM BOOKLET AK '05 (1 UNIT) SB

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STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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ADDRESS

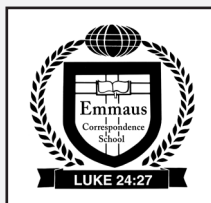
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CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

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INSTRUCTOR



*Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*

## A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

### **MULTIPLE CHOICE**

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue                      C. yellow  
B. green                     D. orange

     **B**     

### **WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

### **RETURNING THE EXAM**

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

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## CHAPTER 1 EXAM

### THE STORY BEGINS

#### EXAM GRADE

***Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet.***

*Directions: Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.*

1. Major historical events are omitted from the Bible because
  - A. the writers of the Bible were “ignorant and unlearned men,” generally speaking, and were mostly ignorant of these events
  - B. the Bible is incomplete
  - C. history has very little bearing on modern life
  - D. these events are outside the scope and purpose of the Bible

\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Which of the following describes the Bible view of Man?
 

Man

  - A. is the end product of evolution
  - B. is still evolving and will continue to do so until he reaches perfection
  - C. is captain of his own soul and master of his destiny
  - D. is a fallen creature, ruined by sin and in need of a Savior

\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Which of the following was not an ancestor of the Lord Jesus?
 

A. Noah	C. Jacob
B. Abraham	D. Joseph

\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. The greater part of the Old Testament is concerned with
  - A. God’s dealings with the Jewish people
  - B. prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ
  - C. man’s quest after God
  - D. Church truth

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The son of Jacob who became an ancestor of the Lord Jesus was
- A. Reuben
  - B. Judah
  - C. Levi
  - D. Dan
- \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Children of Israel were enslaved in Egypt
- A. by the Pharaoh who befriended Joseph
  - B. from the time of Joseph's death until the coming of Moses
  - C. because they engaged in treasonable activities with Egypt's enemies
  - D. in a concentration camp where they were to be exterminated on the day of Purim
- \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Children of Israel were protected by the blood of the Passover lamb from the
- A. terrible darkness which was the chief feature of one of the plagues
  - B. plague of boils
  - C. the fearful lightning storm which struck Egypt on one occasion
  - D. the death of the firstborn
- \_\_\_\_\_
8. After their deliverance from Egypt, God led the Israelites by means of
- A. maps which Moses had taken from the Egyptian State Department
  - B. bedouin shepherds who knew where the oases were in the desert and who had been befriended by Moses in the shepherd years of his life
  - C. a cloudy, fiery pillar which miraculously showed them when and where to move
  - D. the Urim and Thummim, special stones in the high priest's breastplate, often used for discerning God's will
- \_\_\_\_\_
9. At Sinai, God gave the Israelites
- A. His law to show them how to order their lives
  - B. military training to prepare them for the conquest of Canaan
  - C. an opportunity to return to Egypt if they so desired
  - D. a portion of their inheritance in the Promised Land
- \_\_\_\_\_



10. What was the great sin the Israelites committed at Sinai?  
They
- A. built the Tabernacle which was not to be constructed until they reached Canaan
  - B. made a golden calf and worshipped it
  - C. entered into a hasty alliance with the Amalekites
  - D. chose a leader to take them back to Egypt because they did not know what had become of Moses
- \_\_\_\_\_

### **WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

What practical lesson can you learn for your own life from the slaying of the Passover Lamb?

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