

# BASIC TRAINING: THE SOLDIER'S MANUAL

## Lesson One: Before The Flood, The Flood, Scattering Of The People

### Introduction:

1. From entering basic training and throughout their time in active duty, soldiers are familiar with manuals and guides. Some teach core values of that branch of military, some deal with what is expected of them, some deal with how they use their equipment.

From The Soldier's Guide FM 7-21.13 (2004): "This Soldier's Guide applies to every soldier in the Army — active, reserve, and National Guard — in every rank and MOS. It condenses important information from a number of Army, Field Manuals, DA Pamphlets and other publications. This manual describes your role in the Army, your obligations, and what you can expect from your leaders. Other subject areas are Army history, training, and professional development. This manual also describes standards in appearance and conduct and selected individual combat tasks that are important for every Soldier to master." (1)

2. God's spiritual army, soldiers of the cross, also have a manual. This manual is vital to our mission and victory. We read it and commit to our hearts minds (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)
3. Over the course of this year we will break down the Bible story line into twelve lessons. We will be following the 17 Bible time periods as our roadmap. We will certainly have to cover more than one sometimes. I want to accomplish three goals: (1) Help us learn the Bible storyline better (2) Learn important lessons from each time period (3) See how the main message is woven throughout the story of the Bible... salvation in Jesus. My desire is for those who don't know these stories well to learn them and those who do know them to look at them with fresh eyes and appreciate them more.

### A. THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE

1. Sometimes we fail to see the Bible as a narrative. We may get fixated on learning the commands, the rules, and the principles. We may see theological ideas. We may even study it as disjointed stories. Whatever the case, it is easy to lose sight of the story line. But the Bible is ONE story from beginning to end. The individual pieces make the most sense when seen as part of the whole. (One Puzzle piece vs. The Completed Puzzle)
2. **Scene One: Before The Flood**
  - a. As the story of the Bible begins, it doesn't begin with an explanation or apology, but with a statement of fact. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Everything that exists in this physical realm was made by God. While we talk about the Bible story, it is not a fairy tale or piece of fiction. It doesn't begin with "Once upon a time" but "In the beginning..." — Real history! (**Gen. 1:1-3**)
  - b. The Bible starts with darkness. In the beginning there was nothing, until God spoke. God began by saying, "Let there be light..." and suddenly the darkness gave way to light. From there, God took six days to create everything from slugs to stars (Days of Creation Chart). On day six God fashioned the crowning jewel of His creation from the dust of the earth, God made man. There was something unique about man, man was made in the image & likeness of God! God made man different... Our ability to reason, our appreciation of beauty, our desire for worship, our love & much more. And we are given an eternal soul (**Gen. 1:26**)

- c. Life in the Garden of Eden begins... Adam, God, and the animals. God had not created woman yet. God told man to go through and give names to all the animals. Adam notices all the animals have a partner, there's a male and a female, but he has no one. Adam saw he was alone. It's then God put Adam to sleep, took a rib from Adam, and fashioned a woman from Adam's rib. Adam named her Eve. Together they began life in the garden with God. God's instructions to them were simple: Be fruitful and multiply, tend and keep the garden, and don't eat from the tree of the knowledge (**Gen. 2:20-25; 1:27-28**)
- d. The next part of the story line is one of fellowship to fall. Adam & Eve walked and talked with God in the Garden of Eden. They enjoyed perfect fellowship. There was no pain, no sickness, no suffering, & certainly no death. Perfection reigned. But all that beauty was corrupted when Adam and Eve chose to sin. God had told them that the day they ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge they would die. Satan appeared and convinced Eve to doubt God and she ate of its fruit and convinced Adam to eat of its fruit. Suddenly everything changed (**Gen. 3:7-8**). That moment they came to know sin. That moment they died spiritually, suffering a loss in their fellowship with God. That moment they came to know shame and guilt. They also began to die physically. In order to clothe Adam and Eve, God took the life of an animal to make tunics for them. For the first time something died... something died because of sin. The perfection of God's creation was now corrupted by sin. Mankind would suffer as a result (**3:16-19**). God kicked them out of the garden & put an angel at its entrance to guard it
- e. Adam and Eve continued with life outside the Garden. They began having children, multiplying and filling the earth as God desired. But eventually they'd know the pain of sin even more intimately. God had man worship Him through sacrifices. Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel, who both brought sacrifices to God. Abel offered a sacrifice in a way that pleased God, Cain did not. When God accepted Abel's sacrifice but rejected Cain's sacrifice, Cain became jealous and angry and killed his brother. Up to this point Adam, Eve, & their children knew that sin meant death. To sacrifice to God, they took the life of animal. To live, something had to die. Now, sin & death took on a whole new face! (**Gen 4:8-10**)
- f. This storyline is not accidental. God had a plan. God knew man would sin, but created us anyway. This story line is part of his plan! (**Eph 3:11; I Pet 1:20**)

### 3. Scene Two: The Flood

- a. About 1600 years passed from the time God created this world. Things started out so well with God and man enjoying fellowship in the garden, but sin ruined it all. Mankind multiplied but so did our sinfulness. Things grew so wicked God said mankind was continually fixated on sin (**Gen 6:5-6**). Violence was everywhere. God was so sorrowful, He decided to send a flood to wipe out all of mankind
- b. In the middle of all of this darkness there was a bright spot... a man named Noah. Despite all the wrong around him, Noah was devoted to doing right. God chose to start mankind over with Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives. God told Noah to build an ark, a huge ship, to save not only himself and his family

but also some of every kind of animal that crept on the earth. God started over with Noah and his family (**Genesis 6:17-19**). Noah built the ark, God sent the animals to him, and Noah and his family went inside. It rained for 40 days. Water came from above and below. Every part of the earth was covered. The waters covered the earth for about a year. Noah & family were able to exit. God instructed them to go out, be fruitful & multiply, and to fill the earth.

- c. Noah built an altar and worshipped God through sacrifices. God made a covenant with him and all of mankind that day to never destroy the world with a flood again. As a sign of His promise, God put a rainbow in the sky. Today, rainbows still to us of this event and God's faithfulness (**Genesis 9:13-16**)
- d. Noah was a good man, he was a righteous man, but Noah was not a perfect man. After the flood, Noah planted a vineyard. He made himself some wine and became drunk. One of his sons came in & found him laying naked on the floor.

#### 4. **Scene Three: The Scattering Of The People**

- a. Between 300 and 400 years after the flood, the number of mankind multiplied greatly. They all lived in one area. They all spoke one language. God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth? God repeated the same words to Noah & his family. Somewhere along the line, God's will was forgotten
- b. The people come together and decide to build a tower that stretched all the way into the skies. They wanted to create a name for themselves. Pride & a self-seeking spirit had taken over... the roots of all sin. God had already destroyed the world for its extreme wickedness once. So God confuses their language (**Gen. 11:1-4**)
- c. Imagine working on a sky scraper and suddenly everyone started speaking in different languages. People couldn't understand each other. What do you do? The work stops. You find people speaking like you and you scatter to your own place.
- d. Now, instead of everyone living in one place they were "Filling The Earth" as God desired. The proud & selfish attitudes were stopped at least for the moment

### **B. TIMELESS LESSONS FROM THE NARRATIVE**

1. God has power and wisdom that far exceeds our ability to comprehend → God has the ability to create anything from nothing. God's creation is beautiful. It is detailed and intricate. It's design is incredibly purposeful. Appreciate more God's power & wisdom... We pray knowing He can do far beyond what we ask or imagine, but that He will also do what is best. We submit knowing God's way is best, trusting Him completely (**Rom 11:33-36**)
2. Sin is not only destructive, sin kills → That day Adam and Eve died. That wasn't physical death, but spiritual death. Yes, it resulted in physical death too, but the loss of fellowship was so much worse. Sin isn't just bad for us, it kills us! And as we see in the sacrifices made, something must die because we sin. Take it seriously! (**Romans 5:12**)
3. One of Satan's most basic yet powerful weapons is to cause us question God, God's motives, and what we know from God's word. We second guess what we know from a desire to do what's wrong. Is it really that bad? Is God keeping me from something? (**Jas 1:13-14**)
4. It is possible to live righteously even when we are surrounded by wickedness (**I Pet 2:11-12**)
5. Even the strongest and most devoted people can fall to sin (**1 Corinthians 10:12**)

6. As we get caught up in living this life, make sure we are pursuing God's will (**Col. 3:1-4**)

### C. THE MESSIANIC THREAD WOVEN THROUGHOUT THE NARRATIVE

1. There is a scarlet thread woven throughout the tapestry of the Biblical narrative. From the Garden of Eden to the Cross of Calvary, the Bible is HISTORY... His Story:
  - a. Quote: Theologians and Bible students sometimes refer to "the scarlet thread running through the Bible." By this they mean that the Bible's theme is Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for the redemption of mankind. The **blood of Christ** runs throughout the entire Bible, symbolically. It is seen in the animals killed in Eden to provide garments for Adam and Eve, the ram that took Isaac's place on the altar of Moriah, the Passover lamb, the institution of the sacrificial system, the scarlet rope of Rahab, and the thousands of years of sacrifices performed at the tabernacle and temple. The scarlet thread runs all the way up to John the Baptist's declaration, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (**John 1:29**) and to the foot of the cross, where Jesus finally says, "It is finished" (**John 19:30**). "Without the **shedding of blood** there is no forgiveness" (**Hebrews 9:22**), and that's why the symbolism of the scarlet thread in the Bible is significant. The scarlet thread is the theme of atonement found throughout the pages of Scripture. (1)
  - b. If you cut the Bible open at any point, it will bleed Christ. Jesus is the Word!
  - c. Jesus understood the importance of seeing this thread. After His resurrection, Jesus caught up with two men who were walking away from Jerusalem toward their home in Emmaus. They were despondent. They had given up. Jesus, the one they hope in, had been crucified. At first they didn't realize it was Jesus. So, Jesus started talking. What was His message? He unraveled the tapestry of scripture and showed them the scarlet thread. Jesus took them from despair to hope, showing God's plan of salvation through it all (**Luke 24:13-27**)
2. While we this is something we will learn later, Jesus is active and involved in the Biblical narrative from the very beginning. Notice that when God speaks of making man, God says, "Let us make man..." – A plural is used. Why? Because it is not just the Father, but the Son & Holy Spirit who are present and acting. Jesus, "The Word," took part in the creation of this world, a creation that'd eventually nail Him to the cross! (**John 1:1-3**)
3. Jesus is the promised seed who would crush the head of Satan. From the time of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden there has been war between the devil & mankind. Person after person, the devil would hold man captive through sin. When we sin we are condemned and we can't fix it. Fast forward to the cross & empty tomb & Jesus crushes His head and now through Jesus we can stand victorious through Him (**Gen 3:15; Heb 2:14-15**)
4. This scarlet thread is scarlet because it's bloody. What we see set up from the time of Adam and Eve is that something has to die because of my sin. At first it was the animal used to make their clothes. Then it was the animals used in sacrifices, like with Abel. It was through the shedding of blood that redemption would be found. When John the baptizer introduces Jesus, He introduces Jesus as the Lamb who would take away the sin. Now, instead of an animal on that altar, it would be Jesus! (**John 1:29; I Pet 1:18-20**)
5. The salvation from sin we receive from Jesus is pictured in Noah. It was through the flood waters that God delivered Noah from the wickedness around him. It is through the water of baptism by faith in the resurrection Jesus that God delivers us from the wickedness within us. The power isn't in the water, but God uses water (**I Pet 3:20-22**)

References:

(1) <http://www.milsci.ucsb.edu/sites/secure.lsit.ucsb.edu.mili.d7/files/sitefiles/resources/FM%207-21.13%20Soldier%27s%20Guide.pdf>

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