

Reflect on the **Word**

- The creation accounts of Genesis differ from the creation stories of other religions because God creates out of sheer goodness, rather than out of violence or domination.
- Unlike other creation stories, Genesis shows that God did not create human beings to be his slaves or entertainment—he created us to share in his own life.
- No religion or worldview apart from the Judeo-Christian believes that human beings have been created in God’s image and likeness.
- We do not get our dignity from our own strength, beauty, power, or wisdom; rather, we get it from being created in the image and likeness of God.
- God places man and woman in the Garden for three purposes: labor, leisure, and love.
- The creation narratives of Genesis 1 and 2 are two versions of the same event. Genesis 1 conveys the account of Creation at a high level (a “macro event”), while Genesis 2 “zooms in” on the first man and woman (a “micro event”).
- God does not create Eve to be someone substandard or “beneath” Adam; she is created to stand at his side as his helpmate.
- God created the world as good because he is good.

Take It to **Prayer**

Here you will find Fr. Mike’s daily prayer from the podcast so you can pray along with him. On this first day of The Bible in a Year, however, we encourage you to pray from the heart and bring your own intentions to God. Thank him for the gifts he has given you and bring your petitions to the foot of the Cross!

Dive **Deeper**



You have just completed the first day of *The Bible in a Year*! Hopefully, you are excited to start Day 2 tomorrow. Today, do something concrete to help yourself stay committed to *BIY* even on days you don’t feel like it. You could do this by choosing a specific time each day to listen, setting up a space in your home for prayer, or asking a friend to be your *BIY* accountability partner. Whatever you do, make sure it will help you make time for God’s Word on the busiest days.

Reflect on the **Word**

- The Serpent does not challenge God's existence or authority; he challenges God's *trustworthiness* ("Did God say ...?"). He suggests that God does not want Adam and Eve to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil because, if they do, then they will become like God. Will they choose to obey God because he loves them? Or will they take their lives into their own hands?
- We face this same challenge. God does not simply want us to *believe* in him—he wants us to *belong* to him.
- We might question some Church teachings because they seem to forbid things that appear to be good ideas. But when we choose to go against God's will, we are choosing not to belong to him.
- The way we hear the question "Who told you that you were naked ..." says a lot about how we view God. Do we hear the heartbreak of a Father who knows that his children must now take a different path than the one he had planned for them (that is, the path that would lead to peace, joy, and unity with him)?
- God curses the Serpent, and the things he says next to Adam and Eve are actually remedies to the curse. They are painful, but that is because Adam and Eve refused to choose love—which they were made for—and they need to learn that love requires sacrifice.
- The garments with which God clothes Adam and Eve show that he still cares for them, even though they have rebelled against him. The garments are made of animal skin, which means an animal had to be sacrificed for God to show his love for them, thus making the connection between love and sacrifice again.
- One possible explanation for why God accepts Abel's sacrifice but not Cain's is that Abel offered God the firstfruits (that is, the best) of his flock. We should also ask ourselves if we are offering God our best. When it comes to prayer, do we offer God the "firstfruits" of our day?

Take It to **Prayer**

Father in heaven, we give you thanks and praise. We give you glory, and we love you. Thank you for sharing your Word with us. Thank you for giving us this clear vision of how you had created this world and how we allowed sin to enter into it. Thank you for not abandoning us in the midst of our woundedness but always following us into the wilderness, following us into the darkness so that you can be our light. Thank you, Father. We give you praise in Jesus' name. Amen.

Dive **Deeper**

Every day, we are faced with the same test as Adam and Eve. We need to ask, *Will I obey God?*

Pray about your answer—and ask the Lord for his help in living in a way that is faithful to him.

Reflect on the **Word**

- The Bible says that Seth was born in Adam's "image" and "likeness," which draws a parallel between him and Adam, who was created in God's image and likeness.
- When the descendants of Seth intermarry with the descendants of Cain, many of them cease to walk in the way of the Lord. So the person we choose to marry can affect the trajectory of our lives, as well as the lives of our descendants.
- There are consequences to our actions—even the most destructive ones—but God always offers us hope.
- God floods the entire earth because he must destroy every bit of the evil and corruption to which humanity had been clinging. However, he makes a promise of hope to Noah because he chose to cling to God.
- No one is one hundred percent evil or one hundred percent good. We can choose to follow the Lord in the midst of a broken world, like Noah.
- Ask God, "How do you want me to walk with you today?"
- We can cling to God even amid the storms of life, and he will continue to lift us up.

Take It to **Prayer**

Father in heaven, thank you so much for giving us your Word. Thank you for not giving up on us. Especially Father, we thank you that you continue to speak to us even when we experience brokenness. You continue to reach out to us even in the midst of our mess and the mess of this world. We give you praise, and we thank you for your Word and thank you for the way in which you continue to hold this world in existence. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Dive **Deeper**



Were the people in the Old Testament really that old?

The events of Genesis took place thousands of years ago in an era when people did not record linear history as we do. As was common in other writings of this time, the human authors of the Old Testament employed what is called "honorific numbering," where the ages of distinguished individuals would be inflated to convey honor and importance.

Nonetheless, the meaning of the story does not change. When we read the Bible, we always need to begin with the literal sense—that is, the intended meaning of the author. We then consider the three spiritual senses of the text: how it relates to Jesus, to our lives, and to the future. We always need to approach the Bible with an attitude of faith. If we do so, we will not get tripped up by passages that seem difficult to understand.

–Jeff Cavins

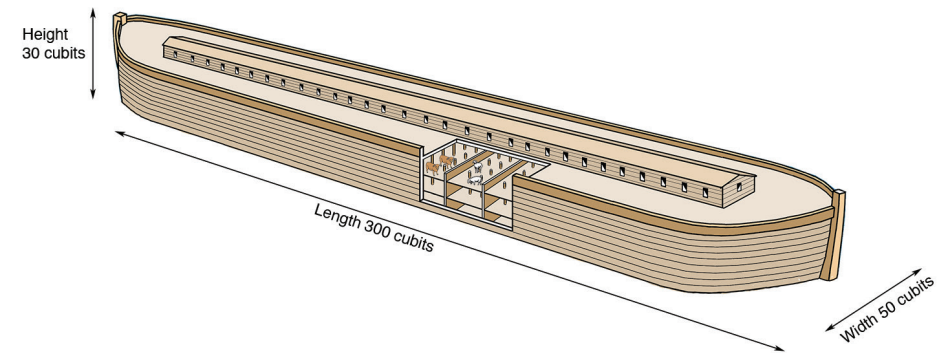
Reflect on the **Word**

- The rainbow that God sends after the Flood is the sign of the covenant of peace he makes with Noah and his family.
- When God establishes his covenant with Noah, he makes two proclamations: (1) mankind can eat animals, and (2) murder is prohibited.
- God’s prohibition of murder reminds us of the gift of human life and the dignity of the human person.
- There is a distinction between animals and human beings: animals may be killed and eaten, but human lives—because of our distinct dignity—may not be taken. Our dignity comes from being made in God’s image and likeness.
- The story of Noah points out the brokenness of the human heart. Though we have been created in God’s image and likeness, we have been broken and need to submit ourselves to his grace.
- When Ham sees “the nakedness of his father,” he brings a curse upon himself and his family. Ham becomes the father of Canaan, whose offspring become the enemy of the people of Israel.

Take It to **Prayer**

Father in heaven, we thank you so much for your Word, and we thank you for revealing your love for us and your faithfulness to us—that your love is unstoppable and unconditional. And we give you praise for revealing how you have used even the destructive power of water to renew the face of the earth. Lord God, all of your gifts, all of creation can be used for good. They can be used for ill. They can bring forth life, and they can bring forth death. But you are good. You are the giver of life, and all life lies in your hand. All life lies in your power. And so we place our lives in your hands. We place our lives under your dominion and authority this day. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Dive **Deeper**



ARTIST’S RENDERING OF NOAH’S ARK

*The Ark that Noah built was a large floating vessel. (See Genesis 6.)
In modern terms, it was longer than a football field.*