

FAITHFUL SHEEP MINISTRIES**5 AUDIO TALKS FROM GENESIS CHAPTERS 1 - 11
"GOOD GOD!"****STUDY QUESTIONS FOR YOUR
PRAYERFUL REFLECTION AND RESPONSE**

(Home printing of these pages is recommended)

CONTENTS

A. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION	2
B. THE STUDY QUESTIONS, FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL REFLECTION AND RESPONSE	4
LEVEL 2 - THE STANDARD QUESTIONS	4
LEVELS 1 AND 3 QUESTIONS FOR AUDIO TALK 2 - from Genesis Chapters 1 & 2 - "GOD THE CREATOR"	5
LEVELS 1 AND 3 QUESTIONS FOR AUDIO TALK 3 - from Genesis Chapter 3 - "GOD AND THE FALL"	6
LEVELS 1 AND 3 QUESTIONS FOR AUDIO TALK 4 - from Genesis Chapters 6 - 9 - "GOD AND THE FLOOD"	7
LEVELS 1 AND 3 QUESTIONS FOR AUDIO TALK 5 - from Genesis Chapter 11 - "GOD AND BABEL"	9
FAITHFUL SHEEP MINISTRIES	10

A. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this series of devotional Talks, delivered by the Rev. Oliver Bayley of **Faithful Sheep Ministries**.

At **Faithful Sheep Ministries** our purpose is to build more effective Christian disciples in this age of challenge and confusion. The more "faithful sheep" we can help to bring into being, the better for us all, and the greater the glory for Almighty God.

Here are some practical details:

a) **These devotional Talks are best heard** when you can be quiet before the Lord, either by yourself, or with members of your family or house group. If possible, read the particular passage yourself in full in your own Bible before listening to the Talk (the relevant chapter(s) are shown in the heading of each Audio Talk). Having your own Bible available as you listen, perhaps with a notebook and pencil, can be helpful. You can always pause the Talk, or rewind it, as it plays through.

Above all, please regard these Talks as being **restful, devotional and refreshing**. They are **not** trying to give you yet more work, and they are **not** trying to squeeze every last drop of theological meaning out of every single phrase in the Bible passage! They **are** trying to help you become a more faithful sheep in the flock of the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ.

b) **In these Talks we use the King James Version / Authorised Version (KJV / AV)**, for good reason -

- The KJV is still the standard version for many Christians around the world, and for those of us who use different versions today, getting hold of a KJV is easily done.
- The immensely valuable exhaustive Concordances, such as Strong and Young, plus many other useful Bible study books, are based on the KJV.
- The KJV is based on the Textus Receptus (TR), regarded by many as still the most reliable Hebrew and Greek text. TR has the great advantage of pre-dating the more liberal biblical texts that were developed in the nineteenth century (notably the Westcott and Hort text on which many modern translations are based, including the NIV).
- The KJV has stood the test of time - over 400 years of time in fact. We are in an age of new versions of the Bible being published every year, but few of them stay on the scene for long. Yet we still have the KJV, neglected but unbowed. The KJV remains in "a league of its own" in terms of authority, "feel", reverence, beauty and ease of memorising. It is very hard not to treat God's Word with respect and reverence when using the KJV.

We realise that the KJV may not be the version our readers and listeners normally use for themselves these days. No matter - the KJV is worth discovering, or re-discovering. We suggest you have your own Bible version open before you, but with a KJV nearby.

c) **About the Study Questions:**

It is best that you respond to the Lord and His Word in your own way and time, so in one sense, the less you make use of these supportive questions, the better! Try to see them like stabilisers on a child's bike - very helpful to start with, but designed to be left behind quite soon.

Keeping that broad aim in view, we offer three levels of questions to help you reflect and respond to the Bible passages and accompanying Audio Talks, either by yourself or with members of your House Group:

Level 1: Some specific questions concerning the particular passage. These are primarily for those who are younger in the Faith, or for when those who are older in the Faith are feeling in need of something definite to get them started!

Level 2: A set of standard questions and suggestions, designed to be applicable to any of the Bible passages and Talks.

Level 3: A few seeds are scattered. We give little guided input at this level, but rather produce a few "seeds" for you to explore in your own way as you wish. This level is primarily to promote your serious independent Bible study, using cross-references and a full Concordance such as Strong or Young, with an awareness of the Hebrew and Greek words on which the English words used in translation are based.

Do not shy away from this Level 3, thinking it will be beyond you! - it probably won't be. Getting to know your way around a thorough Concordance may take some time and concentration, but you will find you honestly do not need any knowledge of Hebrew or Greek, and the rewards will be immense.

The key thing is for you to be open to what the Holy Spirit really wants to say to you, through this passage and Talk, at this time. Achieve that openness, and listen for long enough to receive what the Holy Spirit is saying, and you will grow fast! Your life will change shape. Your priorities will be re-aligned. Your saltiness and light-spreading will become more marked. People will notice. And all will be for the greater glory of God.

B. THE STUDY QUESTIONS, FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

LEVEL 2 - THE STANDARD QUESTIONS

These can be applied to any Bible passage or Audio Talk, but they will not all be relevant each time. Their purpose is to get you started on your own journey of reflection and prayer. When they have done that, don't hesitate to leave them behind.

- 1) What truths have struck you especially about this passage or Talk – and in what ways have you been struck?
- 2) As a result, what questions arise for you? What do you find yourself wanting to say to the Lord? –
- 3) – and what do you feel He is wanting to say to you?
- 4) Maybe other parts of Scripture come to mind for you prayerfully to follow up if you wish perhaps people, events, situations? Perhaps promises, instructions, teachings, examples?
- 5) How is this passage or Talk, and your reflections upon it, adding to your understanding of God and His ways? – and perhaps of yourself, and others too?
- 6) Take time to ponder, chew, explore, pray, as the Holy Spirit does His quiet work in your life through this passage or Talk. Talk to the Lord, tell Him, ask Him, thank Him. And be quiet too! – just be, listen, receive.
- 7) You will find in the days to come that your mind may keep returning to the passage and Talk – that is all to the good. Keep your channels ever-open to the Lord, and give the Holy Spirit the welcome, the time and the space which He seeks. For He has further precious things to share with you from this passage and Talk, and He is likely to go at His own pace in showing you.
- 8) Practise allowing the Lord's insights and truths to make a difference in your daily discipleship - your thoughts, your words, your deeds, your body language. Perhaps you are being prompted into some definite practical responses to make as a result of all this?

[AUDIO TALK 1 - (approximately 5 minutes) - Introduction]

**AUDIO TALK 2 - (approximately 18 minutes)
from Genesis Chapters 1 & 2 - "GOD THE CREATOR"**

Level 1 - Some Specific Questions

- 1) How do you react to the reminder in these verses that all that exists around us only exists because God has created it? Think about it!
- 2) In Romans 1.20 we read that the "invisible things" of God are clearly seen around us. By just looking at His creation around us, and setting aside for a moment everything else that we know of God from other sources, what do we actually learn about Him from what we simply see? What surprises are there? What is not "very good" these days, and why?
- 3) In view of God's companionship within Himself, and His desire for companionship with us, consider:
 - a) The things typically on your mind day by day. What in practice is your agenda, the things that matter to you most, and the priorities you have?
 - b) The things on the Lord's mind day by day! What is His agenda - the things that matter to Him most, and the targets He is moving towards?
 - c) What changes would He like to see in your agenda?
- 4) What "attractive but forbidden trees" are there – if any - in your own life? What are the Lord's wishes over these, and why does He think like this? Is He, and are you, content with how you are "keeping your distance" from them?

Level 2 – Some Standard Questions – (shown on page 4)

Level 3 – Some Scattered Seeds

You will find your Bible's cross-references, and a full Concordance that is based on the Bible translation you have, are helpful as you tackle these seeds:

- a) 1.1 "In the beginning"
- b) The different Hebrew words translated as "God" and as "Lord", and as "Lord God". What is the subtle emphasis of each?
- c) The Hebrew word "yom", translated as "day". When, throughout the Old Testament, does this clearly mean a literal day, either of 24 hours or of the daylight part of 24 hours? When does it mean a longer time period, as in a phrase such as "In the day of Samuel"? What is the writer of Genesis 1 meaning by "yom"?
- d) Try to identify all the main foundational doctrines which are put in place within Chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis - more than we might at first think!

**AUDIO TALK 3 - (approximately 16 minutes)
from Genesis Chapter 3 - "GOD AND THE FALL"**

Level 1 - Some Specific Questions

- 1) A study of the serpent:
 - a) v 1 His nature, and origin, and his line of approach to Eve
 - b) vv 4-5 His dismissal of Eve's words
 - c) vv 6-14 No mention of him
 - d) vv 14-15 The Lord God's punishment of him, and the promise of his future defeat.

- 2) The role of: Eve / Adam / the Lord God.

- 3) vv 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16-19, 21, 22-24 The results of their behaviour.

- 4) Think of occasions in your life when you have perhaps acted as Eve did here, and / or as Adam did. Is there any pattern to any such occasions – that is, times, places or subjects where you see that you are vulnerable to temptation? What have been the consequences of your behaviour, particularly with regard to how you viewed the Lord after letting Him down, and how you feel He viewed you? Have you since got things sorted out with Him, and with anybody else involved, in terms of your repentance and confession? If not, then

Level 2 – Some Standard Questions – (shown on page 4)

Level 3 – Some Scattered Seeds

You will find your Bible's cross-references, and a full Concordance that is based on the Bible translation you have, are helpful as you tackle these seeds:

- a) 2.9 (i) Why did God create these two particular trees and place them in the midst of the Garden anyway? Surely life would have been much simpler all round if He hadn't? (ii) A scriptural study of trees in general is well worth it.
- b) Follow up other biblical references to: (i) the serpent (ii) Eve (iii) Adam. What distinction emerges, elsewhere in the Bible, between the responsibility of Eve in this whole process, and Adam?
- c) 3.15 (i) What is meant by "her seed" and "thy seed" (that is, the seed of "the serpent")? (ii) Follow up on "seed".
- d) 3.21 "Skins" suggest the Lord sacrificed animals on behalf Adam and Eve – the shedding of innocent blood
- e) 3.22-24 How was this banishment from the Garden yet another example of God's mercy and blessing, rather than further punishment upon Adam and Eve?

**AUDIO TALK 4 - (approximately 18 minutes)
from Genesis Chapters 6 - 9 - "GOD AND THE FLOOD"**

Level 1 - Some Specific Questions

- 1) Note: 6.2 "the sons of God": There has been much debate as to who these figures actually were. The most likely explanation is that they were fallen angels – so in that sense they were indeed originally "sons of God" – assuming human form. This was a bid by Satan to foul up the purely human blood line from Adam and Eve with demonic, un-human influence, so that no truly human seed could ever come from Eve or her descendants to bruise Satan's head. If Satan could achieve that, then God's word would have been broken, and thus Satan would have the victory that he longs for.
- 2) Over these chapters, examine the qualities which Noah possessed from the start, and the qualities he had to develop before, during and after the Flood.
- 3) What were some of the jibes which Noah and his sons would have had to get used to hearing, as they slowly built the ark? Are there any mini-parallels in your own life and situation, where you are faced with sneers for the sake of the Lord and His work? How do you react? How should you react?
- 4) Note: 6.14-16: It is interesting to learn that these ratios, of length being 6 x breadth and 10 x height, continue to be the basic norm used in ship building. Researchers have concluded that the ark would have been an extremely stable barge-like vessel, self-righting even from a list of 90 degrees.
- 5) 7.11, 17, 24 / 8.4,13 What do these verses suggest about the degree of historical accuracy of this account? Does it honestly read like a fairy tale based on Babylonian myths, as some would have us believe? What was Jesus' belief about this Flood story? – see Matthew 24. 37-39.
- 6) What does this whole account tell us of God, and His creation, and us?

Level 2 – Some Standard Questions – (shown on page 4)

Level 3 Some Scattered Seeds are shown on the next page

Level 3 – Some Scattered Seeds

You will find your Bible's cross-references, and a full Concordance that is based on the Bible translation you have, are helpful as you tackle these seeds:

a)

(i) Explore here, and elsewhere in the Bible, God's reaction to wickedness, and the pattern He habitually follows.

(ii) What does He see today within His creation? And what do "those with eyes to see" see of his current reaction to all that is going on?

b) The "ark" theme – safety amidst the storms

c) 9.20-27: Poor Noah was still very human after all. There seems to be some sort of sinful, sexual act implied here on the part of Ham and Canaan (v 22,24).

(i) Explore why the curse (v 25) is placed on Canaan, rather than on Ham himself.

(ii) What other scriptural examples do we come across of "mighty men for the Lord" who nevertheless sometimes committed terrible sins? What lessons does the Lord wish us to learn from their examples?

**AUDIO TALK 5 - (approximately 19 minutes)
from Genesis Chapter 11 - "GOD AND BABEL"**

Level 1 – Some Specific Questions

1) vv 1-6 (i) What exactly were the sins of the people, which displeased and dismayed the Lord? (ii) What other scriptural examples of those same sins come to mind? (ii) What of your present situation? Are you conscious of the Lord coming down, rather too close for your liking, to inspect any of the "cities and towers" you may be building?!

2) The people were scattered on the basis of their God-given language groups. Think of other occasions in Scripture where God instructs individuals or peoples to "up-sticks" and move off to somewhere else. Some early examples to get you started: Genesis 12.1 / Genesis 13.1-12 / Genesis 39.1 / Genesis 46.1-7 / Exodus 3. 1-10

3) Are you in the right place as far as the Lord is concerned? Are you practised in the habit of listening to Him, that you could respond to His bidding?

4) What did the Lord want to happen, after the people were scattered across the earth in their language groups? What would have "warmed his heart"? How does that apply for us all today?

Level 2 – Some Standard Questions – (shown on page 4)

Level 3 – Some Scattered Seeds

You will find your Bible's cross-references, and a full Concordance that is based on the Bible translation you have, are helpful as you tackle these seeds:

a) 11.9 Follow up on "Babel" / Babylon: this is a powerful, constant, determined, often-hidden movement in Satan's hands, designed to thwart the words and works of God wherever possible. Note the linkage between Babylon and Rome (eg., a cryptic message in I Peter 5.13), and see where that might lead your prayerful thoughts! The references in Revelation are also particularly notable, for some of these are yet to be.

b) 11.4 Follow up on "city / cities" and "tower / towers". Some are wholesome, and some are not!

c) 11.6 Follow up an intriguing paradox. In some ways God seeks unity, but in other ways, as here, He insists on division. (i) When does He want which, and on what terms? (ii) How are we to regard modern-day efforts at unity, such as the United Nations or the European Union?

FAITHFUL SHEEP MINISTRIES

**5 AUDIO TALKS FROM
GENESIS CHAPTERS 1 - 11
"GOOD GOD!"**

**STUDY QUESTIONS FOR YOUR
PRAYERFUL REFLECTION AND RESPONSE**

**We hope these Audio Talks and Questions have
been a blessing for you.**

**For details of our other titles and ministries,
please visit our website at
www.fsmins.org**

info@fsmins.org