Formed by Truth

Formations: A Redemptive-Historical Approach to the Old Testament

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About the Student Resource Guide

Have you ever heard the saying, “You can't learn to swim by drowning”? Learning something new requires instruction, practice, encouragement, and sometimes a helping hand. We don't expect someone to jump into the deep end of a pool and immediately know how to swim. Why would we expect students to approach learning to be any different?

There is a natural progression to teaching and learning. Sometimes the parent or the curriculum does the heavy lifting by demonstrating how something should be done. Other times, the student works through an assignment with guidance and support. Eventually, with enough practice, the student develops the knowledge, skills, and confidence to work independently.

This is the approach behind *Formed By Truth*:

I do it. We do it. We do it. We do it. You do it.

I first encountered this approach through Rooted in Language, an educational organization whose teaching methods have greatly influenced my own approach to instruction. Notice how many times we do it together! Learning doesn't always happen after one explanation or a single practice assignment. Sometimes students need repeated demonstrations and guidance before they are ready to work independently. That's okay! The goal is not immediate independence but continued growth toward independence.

The Student Manual provides direct instruction, guided activities, and opportunities to investigate Scripture. The Student Resource Guide complements that instruction by providing sample answers, completed notebook pages, and additional guidance for both parents and students.

How to Use This Guide

When you're learning something new: Begin by reading the instructions in the Student Manual and attempting the assignment. If you're unsure what to do, consult the Student Resource Guide. Study the examples, then return to your assignment and try again. You don't have to struggle unnecessarily when help is available.

When you're practicing a skill: You may need to return to the same examples several times. That's perfectly fine! With continued practice, you'll likely need less assistance.

When you're checking your work: Compare your completed assignments with the examples to evaluate your understanding and ensure you've accurately represented what Scripture teaches.

Remember, this guide is not an exhaustive collection of required answers. Notebook pages and responses may differ from those shown. Students may include additional information or express ideas differently while still demonstrating an accurate understanding of Scripture. If your answer is biblically accurate and fulfills the assignment, there is no need to change it simply because it differs from the example.

A Resource for Parents and Students

This guide is intended for parents and students alike. It is not a traditional answer key that must be kept away from students. Consulting it is not cheating; it is part of the learning process.

Some families may prefer to work through the examples together, while others may give students access to both the Student Manual and Student Resource Guide from the beginning. Either approach is perfectly acceptable. Parents know their children and can determine how much guidance they need.

I encourage families to prayerfully consider what works best for their students. Regardless of your approach, please do not hesitate to use this guide as often as needed. Students should still engage with Scripture, think through questions, and complete their assignments, but there is no benefit in allowing a student to remain confused when additional guidance is available.

Sometimes, it takes a lot of *we do it* before a student is ready to say, *"I can do it myself."*

Week 1 - Student Samples

Scripture Reading and Devotionals (Day 1-4)

A Note About the Devotional Journal Examples

The devotional examples in this guide come from my personal time studying God's Word as I developed Formed by Truth. I have chosen to share portions of my own journal to demonstrate how I approach Scripture, reflect on what God is teaching me, and respond to Him through prayer.

These examples have been lightly edited for clarity, but the thoughts and reflections are my own. Some reflect my experiences as an adult and parent, while others address truths that apply to believers of any age.

Your journal does not need to look exactly like mine. My hope is that these examples will encourage you to spend meaningful time in God's Word and develop your own habit of prayerful reflection.

Devotional Journal Example: Reading the Bible Prayerfully

Genesis 1–5 Date

The topic of sin stood out to me today.

In Genesis 3:4–5, the serpent told Eve that she would not die, her eyes would be opened, she would be like God, and she would know good and evil.

In verse 7, their eyes were opened. They also did not die immediately, although they would eventually die because they lost access to the Tree of Life.

They now knew good and evil, but they also experienced shame. They only understood evil in this way because they had experienced committing sin.

God, help me to be more obedient. Sin makes promises it cannot keep. Every time I see something I desire that I know is sinful, I need to remember that sin also brings consequences. It is never worth it. When I am tempted to sin, please help me recognize it for what it is and resist the temptation.

Devotional Journal Example: Reading the Bible Literally

Genesis 11:1–9 Date

The people after the Flood had not spread out across the earth. Instead, they traveled together and became a large group of people living in one place rather than filling the earth. They wanted to make a great name for themselves and avoid being scattered (verse 4).

It was sinful for them to seek greatness for themselves rather than honor God. Only God is truly great. Ultimately, they did not want to obey God. They wanted to follow their own desires.

Their consequence for sin was what they feared most. They were scattered, and God confused their languages, making it even more difficult for them to remain together.

Sin always has a cost. Often, that cost is greater than the enjoyment we receive from sin. I hate the consequences of sin. God, help me always to consider the cost of my sins before I commit them.

Devotional Journal Example: Reading the Bible Applicably

Job 1–10 Date

Job lost his servants, livestock, and children when Satan was permitted to attack him. The second time, Job lost his health. His friends came to comfort him and sat silently with him for seven days. However, their comfort changed when they began telling Job that he needed to repent. They did not understand why he was suffering, nor did they have compassion for what he was experiencing.

Job lost everything he valued in this world, and his physical suffering was significant. Just sitting and trying to find peace would have been nearly impossible. His physical pain and exhaustion would have made it difficult to think clearly or control his emotions. What Job thought and felt came out in his words, including his unwavering love and commitment to God.

In times of deep sorrow, I find comfort in knowing that I am not alone. Grief takes time to work through, and it rarely goes away quickly. But I know that God loves me, walks beside me, guides me, and gives me grace. His Holy Spirit lives within me and brings tremendous comfort during difficult times. I can hear from God, find peace in Him, and trust Him to sustain me through it all. By the end, I often find that I have grown closer to God. Praise God!

Devotional Journal Example: Reading the Bible Responsively (HEAR)

Job 11–21 Date

H. Job 12:2

E. Job's friends firmly believe that because he is suffering, it must be because of sin. They believe all suffering is a punishment. Their incorrect conclusions are damaging their relationship with Job. He has had enough of listening to what they have to say. His response is sarcastic: You are so wise that when you die, all wisdom will go with you!

A. Job also lives in that culture, but he is quickly coming to the conclusion that the retribution principle does not always apply. He is a righteous man, yet he is suffering. I know from my own experience that life's circumstances have greatly influenced my preconceived notions about many things—parenting, health, friendships, my children, and my husband. I have learned to be more faith-filled, merciful, gracious, and forgiving. God is sovereign; I am not. God is all-knowing; I am not. God is the Creator, and I am His creation. The answer is always to seek God first.

R. Thank You, Lord, for being in charge. I pray that when I struggle to be kind, gracious, or forgiving, Your Spirit will convict me and help me reflect Your character. I want to be wise! Help me to become so.

Literary Technique – Recapitulation (Day 1-4)

Recapitulation

Definition: Recapitulation involves returning to an earlier event, idea, or theme and presenting it again to provide additional details or a different perspective.

Narrative Amplification - When an event is introduced on a broad scale and then developed further with additional details later in the narrative.

Scriptural Example: Genesis 1:26–28 introduces the creation of mankind, explaining that God created man and woman in His image. Genesis 2:4–25 returns to this event and provides additional details about how God created Adam and Eve.

Chronological Restructuring - When a narrative returns to an earlier event or presents events outside their chronological order to provide additional information.

Scriptural Example: Genesis 10 describes Noah's descendants living in different regions and speaking different languages (Genesis 10:5, 20, 31). Genesis 11:1–9 returns to an earlier event to explain how God confused their languages and scattered them across the earth.

Repetition with Progression - When an event, action, or idea is repeated, with each occurrence adding new details or advancing the narrative.

Scriptural Example: Job 1–2 describes two occasions when Satan attacks Job. In the first, Job loses his possessions and children. In the second, Satan attacks Job's health. The repeated pattern intensifies Job's suffering while demonstrating his continued faithfulness to God.

Thematic Repetition - When a central theme or idea appears repeatedly throughout a passage or book, reinforcing its importance.

Scriptural Example: Throughout Job 4–21, Job's friends repeatedly argue that suffering is the result of wrongdoing. Although they approach the subject differently, their speeches return to the same underlying belief that Job must have sinned to deserve his suffering.

Names and Attributes of God (Day 2 & 3)

Justice

Genesis 6:5–7 - God is just and does not overlook sin. He judged the wickedness of mankind by sending the Flood.

Mercy

Genesis 6:8; 7:1 - God showed mercy to Noah and his family by preserving them through the Flood rather than destroying all mankind.

Grace

Genesis 6:8 - Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. God's favor toward Noah demonstrates His grace.

Sovereignty

Job 1:6–12; 2:1–6 - God has authority over Satan. Satan could not act against Job beyond the limits God permitted.

Creator

Job 10:8–12 - God formed Job and gave him life. He is the Creator of mankind and the source of life.

Timeline Entries (Day 2)

Timeline Entry	Scripture	Significance
Creation	Genesis 1-2	God created everything in six days. Mankind made in God's image. Creation was very good.
Adam & Eve sin	Genesis 3	Disobeyed God. Sin entered the world. Shame, consequences, and separation from God.
Cain & Abel	Genesis 4:1-16	Cain killed Abel because he was angry and jealous. Sin continued to spread.
The Flood	Genesis 6-9	People became very wicked. God judged the world with a flood. Noah and his family were saved.
God’s Covenant with Noah	Genesis 9:8-17	God promised never to destroy all flesh with a flood again. Rainbow as a reminder of His promise.
Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1-9	People tried to make a name for themselves. God confused their languages and scattered them.

Geography (Day 2)



Connecting the Testaments (Day 4)

Progressive Revelation On Suffering

Old Testament: Job 1–21
New Testament**:** John 9:1–12, 35–38

Job's friends believed that his suffering must have resulted from sin. However, Job 1:1 describes him as upright, and the reader knows that God permitted Satan to test Job. Job himself did not know why he was suffering.

In John 9, Jesus' disciples assumed that the blind man's condition was the result of either his sin or his parents' sin. Jesus corrected their assumption, explaining that his blindness provided an opportunity for the works of God to be revealed. Unlike Job, the blind man learned something about the purpose of his suffering when Jesus healed him and revealed His identity to him.

Both passages demonstrate that suffering is not always the result of personal wrongdoing. We should be careful about assuming that someone's difficulties are evidence of God's judgment. We may not understand why God allows certain circumstances in our lives, but we can trust His character even when we do not understand His purposes. Rather than judging others for their suffering, we should respond with compassion and seek to reflect God's mercy and grace.

Week 2 - Student Samples

Scripture Reading and Devotionals (Day 1-4)

Devotional Journal Example: Reading the Bible Prayerfully

Job 23–31 Date

Job is in deep grief! He is struggling to understand what is going on.

- Job 23:3–5 — He knows God can fix this.
- Job 23:8–9 — No matter where he goes, he can't find God.
- Job 23:13–14 — He knows God is sovereign.
- Job 24:1 — Why is this happening to me???
- Job 25:4 — Bildad is still questioning Job's righteousness.
- Job 28:12 — His world is crumbling. Where is wisdom for this situation?
- Job 28:20 — Echoes verse 12.
- Job 28:28 — He knows that wisdom is to fear God and understanding is to shun evil.

Like his friends, Job probably aligned with the retribution principle too. But in chapter 29, he praises himself for how others treated him. In chapter 30, no one treats him favorably now. In chapter 31, he lists all his righteous ways.

Job 1:1 tells us that Job is righteous and eschews evil! This isn't what he says about himself; this was inspired by God.

Job doesn't have the full picture. His understanding isn't complete. He knows wisdom, though, even when he can't find it (Job 28:28).

Lord, I want to be wise. Help me follow this too!

Devotional Journal Example: Reading the Bible Literally

Job 38-42 Date

1. Job 38:4 — Where were you when I created all this?
   Job 38:34 — Can you control the rain?
   Job 39:1–4 — The uniqueness of all the animals.
   Job 40:15–18 and 41:1–2 — God made some truly massive animals that man cannot tame.

   All of these verses show that God is God. He can do things we cannot.

Job 40:8–14 — How dare you (Job) question me (God)?
Job is part of creation, not the Creator. So he has no right to demand anything from God.

2. Job 42:1–6 — Job agrees! He repents. But he also is in awe of God! Verse 5 says, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." He loves God even more.

3. I have a good friend who serves the Lord, pastoring, and money is very tight for them. The dad works two jobs, and the mom works too. They are tired. I see this in so many families. But me? People are throwing jobs at me, and I keep turning them down. We really need the money, but God called me to start this business. I can't work for others and myself if I want to make this go. I feel like it is unfair. They are struggling, and I am not.

4. Lord, I thank You for their faithfulness. I would feel very overwhelmed if I were in their position. But I am also grateful for mine. Thank You, God, for Your provision and blessings. I am continually reminded that Your will for me is not always the same as Your will for others. Help me know Your will for me.

<u>Devotional Journal Example: Reading the Bible Applicably</u>

Genesis 12-17 Date

1. When Abraham left his home, he never knew where he was going or how far he was to go. It would have been difficult not to know where they would get their food and what kind of terrain they would experience. He also wouldn't know if where he was going would be safe. He might be concerned about wars and groups trying to pillage his family and his things. Overall, it would be scary.

2. One area that Abraham showed faithfulness is after the battle with the five kings (14:18–24). Melchizedek is priest of the Most High God. He blesses him, and Abram gives him a tenth of the spoils of war. Then the king of Sodom wants to get in on the action and give him things, but Abram says no. He isn't focused on getting as rich as he can be, only on having what God wants him to have.

   One area his actions show he may not have trusted God as much is when he told Sarai to tell people she was his sister. He was worried people would kill him to get to her. And

God had already promised him he'd be a great nation, so killing him wasn't going to happen.

3. Whether or not to work part-time while I get this company started. If I work part-time, then we are fine financially, but it will take longer to get writing done. If I don't work, things are much tighter, but I can meet my deadlines. I mainly worry about money.

   Lord, help me know what to do. There is a lot going on in my mind, and I want to be faithful. Please help me know Your will. I know I need to trust You more!

<u>Devotional Journal Example: Reading the Bible Responsively (HEAR)</u>

Genesis 18-23 Date

H. Genesis 19:1

E. Lot came with Abraham, but they both started to grow so much that they needed to separate. Lot moved to a good area outside the city of Sodom (Genesis 13:12). However, we see he pitched his tent up and saw the city every time he exited his tent. Eventually, he moves into the city (Genesis 14:12) and becomes a leader there (Genesis 19:1). It is a bad place, and he had no business living there.

A. It makes me think of the effects of lusting after something sinful, dabbling in it, and then unabashedly giving way to it. We have no business engaging in sin. I hate that I still sin! Trying not to react in sinful ways is bad enough when I struggle to control myself. But I have learned that guarding my eyes and actions is the first step in self-control. If I am far from things that tempt me, it is easier to avoid the tempting sins.

R. Search my heart and reveal the areas I fall short in. Holy Spirit, convict me when I am failing. I know I'm not perfect, but I want to be sanctified and represent You well.

Literary Forms – Narrative Literature, Understanding the Story (Day 1-4)

Day 1 – Elements of Narrative Literature

- Setting: Where and when events take place.
- Characters: People involved in the account.
- Plot: The sequence of events.
- Conflict: The problem or struggle.
- Resolution: How the conflict concludes.

Day 2 – The Narrator

- Tells the story from a particular perspective.
- May reveal information the characters do not know.
- Selects details that communicate the story's significance.

Day 3 – Three Narrative Perspectives

- God's Story: God's character, purposes, and dealings with mankind.
- Israel's Story: God's relationship with His chosen nation.
- Individual Accounts: People and events within the larger biblical story.

Day 4 – Literary Techniques

- Repetition: Repeating important information.
- Patterns: Recurring events or themes.
- Contrast: Highlighting differences between people or events.
- Pacing: How quickly or slowly events are narrated.
- Emphasis: Giving greater attention to significant events.

Names and Attributes of God (Day 2)

Justice

Job 40:8–14 - God is perfectly just. He has the authority to judge wickedness and humble the proud. His judgments are right even when mankind does not understand them.

Sovereignty

Job 38:4–11 - God established the earth and set boundaries for the seas. He has complete authority over His creation.

Progressive Revelation – Job & His Friends (Day 2)

Characteristic	Description	Job's Friends
Justice	God judges fairly, upholds what is right, and punishes evil.	Eliphaz: Believed people reap what they sow (4:7–8), so he accused Job of wickedness (22:5–11). Bildad: Affirmed God's justice (8:3) but assumed Job's children died because of their sins (8:4). Zophar: Believed Job deserved even greater punishment (11:6) and urged him to repent (11:13–15).
Sovereignty	God possesses supreme authority and rules over all creation.	**Eliphaz:** Recognized God's power over nature (5:9–10). **Bildad:** Described God's authority over the heavens (25:2–3). **Zophar:** Acknowledged that no one can restrain God's actions (11:10). **Elihu:** Emphasized God's greatness and control over creation (36:22–33; 37:5–13).

Job and his friends understood that God is just and sovereign. However, they struggled to understand why Job was suffering. His three friends believed that suffering resulted from wrongdoing, so they assumed Job must have sinned. Job knew he had not committed the sins they accused him of, but he still wanted God to explain his suffering.

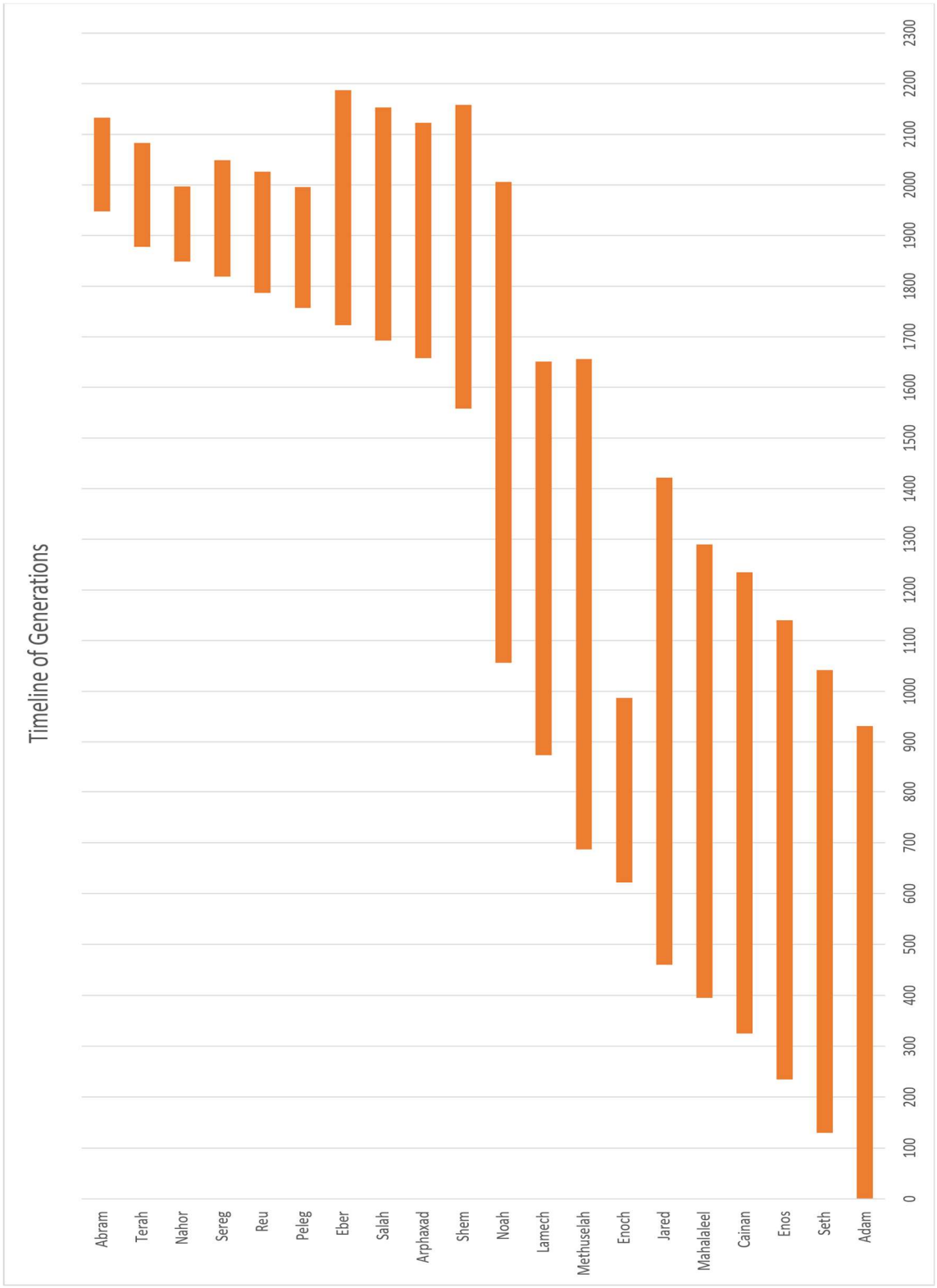
Their understanding of God was incomplete. They knew some truths about His character but incorrectly applied those truths to Job's circumstances. God never explained why Job suffered. Instead, He reminded Job of His wisdom and authority over creation.

This reminds me that knowing what is true about God does not mean I will always understand what He is doing.

Timeline Entries (Day 3)

Timeline Entry	Scripture	Significance
Job	Job 1-42	Job suffered greatly but remained faithful to God. God demonstrated His sovereignty and wisdom, even when Job did not understand his suffering.
God Calls Abram	Genesis 12:1-9	God called Abram to leave his homeland and promised him land, descendants, and blessings. Abram obeyed God and traveled to Canaan.

Genealogy (Day 3)



Scripture Reference	Name	Age When Child Born	Total Lifespan	Year Born	Year Life Ended
Genesis 5:3–5	Adam	130	930	0	0 + 930 = 930
Genesis 5:6–8	Seth	105	912	0 + 130 = 130	130 + 912 = 1042
Genesis 5:9–11	Enos	90	905	130 + 105 = 235	235 + 905 = 1140
Genesis 5:12–14	Cainan	70	910	235 + 90 = 325	325 + 910 = 1235
Genesis 5:15–17	Mahalaleel	65	895	325 + 70 = 395	395 + 895 = 1290
Genesis 5:18–20	Jared	162	962	395 + 65 = 460	460 + 962 = 1422
Genesis 5:21–24	Enoch	65	365	460 + 162 = 622	622 + 365 = 987 (taken by God)
Genesis 5:25–27	Methuselah	187	969	622 + 65 = 687	687 + 969 = 1656
Genesis 5:28–31	Lamech	182	777	687 + 187 = 874	874 + 777 = 1651
Genesis 5:32; 7:6; 11:10	Noah	502*	950	874 + 182 = 1056	1056 + 950 = 2006
Genesis 11:10–11	Shem	100	600	1056 + 502 = 1558	1558 + 600 = 2158
Genesis 11:12–13	Arphaxad	35	438	1558 + 100 = 1658	1658 + 438 = 2096
Genesis 11:14–15	Salah	30	433	1658 + 35 = 1693	1693 + 433 = 2126
Genesis 11:16–17	Eber	34	464	1693 + 30 = 1723	1723 + 464 = 2187
Genesis 11:18–19	Peleg	30	239	1723 + 34 = 1757	1757 + 239 = 1996
Genesis 11:20–21	Reu	32	239	1757 + 30 = 1787	1787 + 239 = 2026
Genesis 11:22–23	Serug	30	230	1787 + 32 = 1819	1819 + 230 = 2049
Genesis 11:24–25	Nahor	29	148	1819 + 30 = 1849	1849 + 148 = 1997
Genesis 11:26, 32; 12:4; Acts 7:4	Terah	130†	205	1849 + 29 = 1878	1878 + 205 = 2083
Genesis 11:26–12:4; 25:7	Abraham	—	175	1878 + 130 = 2008	2008 + 175 = 2183

- Noah was 502 when Shem was born: Gen. 7:6 and 11:10 (600 − 98 = 502).
- † Terah was approximately 130 when Abraham was born, based on Gen. 11:32; 12:4.
- Enoch was taken by God at age 365; Genesis does not say he died (Gen. 5:24).
- Years use Adam = year 0; they are relative chronology, not BC dates.

God's Promises (Day 4)

Noahic Covenant

Scripture Reference – Covenant First Established:

Genesis 8:20–9:17 (first mentioned in Genesis 6:18)

Covenant Recipients: Noah, his descendants, and every living creature.

Conditional or Unconditional? Unconditional

Description of the Covenant:

God promised never again to destroy all flesh through a worldwide flood (Genesis 9:11). He established the rainbow as the sign of His covenant (Genesis 9:12–17). The covenant extends to future generations and all living creatures.

Later Reaffirmations & Additional Revelation:

Leave Blank

Abrahamic Covenant

Scripture Reference – Covenant First Established:

Genesis 12:1–3

Covenant Recipients: Abraham and his descendants.

Conditional or Unconditional? Unconditional

Description of the Covenant:

God promised to make Abraham a great nation, bless him, make his name great, and bless all families of the earth through him (Genesis 12:1–3). He also promised the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants (Genesis 12:7).

Later Reaffirmations & Additional Revelation:

Scripture	Observations & Additional Details
Genesis 13:14-17	God reaffirmed the land promise and compared Abraham's descendants to the dust of the earth.
Genesis 15:1-21	God promised Abraham an heir, compared his descendants to the stars, revealed their future affliction, and specified the boundaries of the promised land. God alone passed between the divided animals.
Genesis 17:1-14	God renamed Abram Abraham, promised nations and kings from his descendants, described the covenant as everlasting, and established circumcision as its sign.
Genesis 22:15-18	Following Abraham's obedience, God reaffirmed His promises, including numerous descendants, victory over enemies, and blessing for all nations through Abraham's seed.

Progressive Revelation (Day 4)

Messianic Prophecies

OT Scripture	Prophecy Concerning the Messiah	Fulfillment
Genesis 3:15	The woman's seed would defeat the serpent.	Hebrews 2:14
Genesis 22:18	Through Abraham's seed, all nations of the earth would be blessed.	Galatians 3:16