

## Session Two Responses – EARLY WORLD



1. *The story of the Early World is told in Genesis 1–11. Locate the Early World period on your Bible Timeline Chart. Who are the main characters, and what are the main events?*

The main people are Adam and Eve; Cain, Abel, and Seth; Noah; Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The main events are Creation, the Fall, curse and promise, the Flood, and the people scattered at Babel.

2. *What does mankind's first sin consist of?*

The following quote from the *Catechism* describes mankind's first sin: "Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command. This is what man's first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness" (CCC 397).

3. *What are the consequences of the Fall for Adam and Eve and for us?*

When they fail to trust God and follow the Serpent instead, Adam and Eve make a decision to go their own way instead of God's way. This has the logical consequence of removing them from God's friendship. Their intellects are darkened, their wills are weakened, and they suffer from concupiscence (the tendency to sin). The Fall brings sin, corruption, pain, toil, and death into the world.

4. *How do you see those consequences in the lives of the people that follow?*

From Cain grows a civilization that is violent and vengeful. By the time of Noah, the world is full of wickedness. Immediately after the Flood, Noah gets drunk, his sons sin, and his grandson is cursed. The people who build the Tower of Babel exemplify the choice Adam and Eve made in the garden. They choose not to follow God, but to go their own way instead.

5. Turn to Genesis 3:15 in your Bible. At the outset of the story, what hope is given that the situation will be redeemed?

In Genesis 3:15, God announces that the “seed of the woman” will crush the head of the “seed of the serpent”—in other words, there will one day be a battle in which a human being will deal the devil a death blow. The fact that God bars further access to the Tree of Life (see Genesis 3:24) actually offers a second ray of hope to the situation: His children will not be allowed to remain in their separated state permanently.

6. In the story of Noah, we see God deal with the mounting wickedness by destroying the earth with a flood. Does that “solution” to the problem work? Why, or why not?

The consequences of the Fall are so ingrained that not even wiping out the “bad guys” and starting over with a righteous man (Noah) makes a difference. The post-Flood population is no better than the people who preceded it. The effects of the Fall will not be limited to those who caused it. This is original sin—the consequences of which are passed on to every succeeding generation. Something more will need to be done.

7. Describe the condition of mankind at the close of the Early World period, following the Tower of Babel incident.

The desire of the people of Babel to “make a name for themselves” sets them against those who call on God’s name (like Noah). As a consequence, God confuses their languages and scatters them across the earth. Their inability to communicate and their scattered state are a vivid physical manifestation of their spiritual reality.

8. Do you trust God, or are you tempted, like Adam and Eve, to put your trust in yourself or in created things? What did you learn from Jeff’s talk that challenges or helps you?

Answers will vary.

## Home Preparation: Looking Ahead

The answers to the Home Preparation questions about this time period are listed below:

Period name: **PATRIARCHS** Approximate dates: 2200–1800 BC

Period color: Burgundy Color meaning: God’s blood covenant with Abraham

List four key people from the Patriarch’s period:

1) Abraham, Sarah, Melchizedek

2) Isaac, Ishmael

3) Jacob, any of Jacob’s sons

4) Judah or Joseph, Perez

What is the most important event? Abrahamic Covenant

What nation is the current world power? Egypt