

# A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament

## Study Overview

### Block #1 — Lessons 1–8

*Block #1 • Lessons 1–8 | Keith R. Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®*

## About This Block

Block #1 opens the VSS Old Testament series with the foundational doctrinal framework that governs every lesson to follow. Covering Genesis 1 through Genesis 12, Keith R. Blades introduces children to God as Creator and Purposeful King, to Satan's opposition as the engine behind every crisis in history, and to God's sovereign plan to repossess the earth through a nation of His own. Eight lessons move from the six days of creation, through the fall of man, Cain and Abel, the flood, the Tower of Babel, and the calling of Abraham — showing that each event is not an isolated story but a purposeful chapter in God's unfolding plan. The central doctrinal thread is the proto-evangelion of Genesis 3:15: God's declaration that He will destroy Satan's usurpation and repossess the earth through the seed of the woman.

## Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Title — Scripture Reference
Lesson 1	God Made the World — Genesis 1:1–19
Lesson 2	God Made Adam and Eve — Genesis 1:20–31
Lesson 3	Adam and Eve's Beautiful Home — Genesis 2:8–3:24
Lesson 4	The Story of Cain and Abel — Genesis 3:15; 4:1–16
Lesson 5	The Story of the Flood — Genesis 6–7
Lesson 6	Coming Out of the Ark — Genesis 8:1–9:17
Lesson 7	The Tower of Babel — Genesis 11:1–9
Lesson 8	God and Abraham — Genesis 12:1–13:18

## Lesson Summaries

L1

### **God Made the World** *Genesis 1:1–19 • Days One through Four of Creation*

- The opening verse of Scripture declares a foundational truth: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" — not chance, not a "Big Bang," but the deliberate act of an all-powerful Creator

- The theory of evolution is “only a theory” — scientists do not agree among themselves, and a great number fully believe the Genesis account as the word of truth
- The actual work of creation was performed by God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who as the expressive member of the Godhead did the work (John 1:1–3; Col. 1:15–16)
- Days 1–4 establish the inhabitable environment: light, sky and waters, dry land and vegetation, sun, moon and stars — all prepared with purpose and design to support what God was about to place on the earth
- God created not randomly but for a reason — the children are introduced to the principle that everything God does has a purpose in His plan

L2

### **God Made Adam and Eve** *Genesis 1:20–31 • Man as God’s Special Creation*

- Day 5: marine life and birds are blessed to multiply — Day 6: land animals are created, but none are addressed by God the way man is
- Man alone is created “in the image of God” and “after His likeness” (Gen. 1:26) — a distinction that sets man absolutely apart from every other creature
- God’s blessing to man goes far beyond “multiply”: God gives man “dominion” over all the earth and commands him to “subdue it” — man is appointed as the Monarch of the Earth
- Woman is created as man’s companion and co-regent, uniquely suited to share in God’s purpose for man on the earth
- The children are called to appreciate that man’s special-ness comes not from what man does but from what God made him to be

L3

### **Adam and Eve’s Beautiful Home** *Genesis 2:8–3:24 • The Garden of Eden and the Entrance of Sin*

- The “Garden of Eden” is not merely a beautiful place — it is a paradise fit for the Monarch of the Earth; a royal dwelling from which Adam was to rule the earth for God
- God’s single command: do not eat of “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” — disobedience would bring death (spiritual separation from God and physical death)

#### **Satan’s Deception and the Fall**

- Satan, working through the serpent, deceives Eve and Adam disobeys God — the result: death, alienation from God, and the loss of man’s Monarchy over the earth
- Satan now becomes the effectual ruler of the world; the earth is cursed; Adam and Eve are expelled from the garden — but God does not leave man without hope
- God’s response in Gen. 3:14–15 is not only judgment on Satan but a declaration of His plan to destroy what Satan had done through the seed of the woman

## L4

### The Story of Cain and Abel *Genesis 3:15; 4:1–16 • The Proto-Evangelion and Satan's First Counter-Move*

- Genesis 3:15 — God declares His plan: the seed of the woman will bruise Satan's head; Satan will bruise the seed's heel — this is the foundational gospel promise running through all Scripture
- Cain and Abel both bring offerings; Abel's is accepted because it involves blood and faith; Cain's is rejected — God's way of approach is faith, not self-effort
- Cain's murder of Abel is Satan's first counter-move: destroy the godly line through which the promised seed would come — the first evidence of Satan's long opposition to God's plan
- God's mercy is seen even in judging Cain: He places a mark on him so no one will kill him, yet Cain is banished — God is sovereign even over the works of His enemies

## L5

### The Story of the Flood *Genesis 6–7 • Angelic Infiltration and God's Judgment*

- As mankind multiplied, the "sons of God" (angelic beings, cf. Job 38:7) took wives from among the daughters of men — a scheme of Satan to completely corrupt the human race and thwart the promised seed
- The result: "giants in the earth" and an overwhelming increase of wickedness; God sees that "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5)
- Noah alone found grace in God's eyes — Noah and his family are preserved through the building of the ark; the rest of the world is judged by the flood
- The flood explains geological phenomena: fossil remains and the geological strata are the direct result of this worldwide catastrophe — the Bible's account provides what science cannot
- God's judgment of the flood is not arbitrary — it is a direct response to Satan's attempted corruption of the human race to prevent the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15

## L6

### Coming Out of the Ark *Genesis 8:1–9:17 • A New Beginning and God's Covenant with Noah*

- God remembers Noah and begins to recede the waters; the ark rests on the mountains of Ararat; Noah sends out the raven and the dove to test the earth
- Noah's first act upon leaving the ark is to offer burnt offerings — God smells the sweet savor and covenants never again to destroy the earth by flood
- Key changes in the new order: animals now fear man (previously tame); man is now permitted to eat meat; capital punishment is established to restrain violence
- God's covenant with Noah is sealed with the rainbow — God's unconditional promise to all living creatures never to destroy the earth by water again
- Sin is still in the world; Satan's opposition continues — the new beginning does not solve the fundamental problem that only the promised seed can address

## L7

**The Tower of Babel** *Genesis 11:1–9 • Satan’s Second Grand Strategy*

- God commanded Noah’s descendants to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” — instead, men gather in one place under the leadership of Nimrod (Gen. 10:8–10) in direct disobedience
- The tower “whose top may reach unto heaven” was not simply an architectural boast but an attempt to court the angelic hosts and establish a one-world kingdom in defiance of God
- Satan’s goal: consolidate mankind under his influence on the earth before God can use them for His own plan — the same strategy as the pre-flood corruption, now attempted differently
- God’s judgment: confusion of languages and scattering of the nations across the earth — effectively dismantling Satan’s scheme while fulfilling His own command to fill the earth
- Following the scattering, God “gave the nations up to walk in their own ways” (Acts 14:16) and began an entirely new strategy for the repossession of the earth

## L8

**God and Abraham** *Genesis 12:1–13:18 • The Calling of Abraham and the Creation of Israel*

- After the Tower of Babel, God sets the nations aside and calls one man, Abram, out of Ur of the Chaldees — this is not merely personal salvation but the commencement of God’s nation-building program
- God’s three-fold covenant with Abraham (Gen. 12:2–3): He will make of Abraham a great nation; He will bless those who bless him; in him all families of the earth will be blessed
- The “great nation” is the key: God is creating for Himself the instrument through which He will repossess the earth and destroy Satan’s usurped dominion — this is the nation of Israel
- From this point on the Bible focuses entirely upon Israel and God’s program with her until the present dispensation of Gentile grace is revealed through Paul (Romans–Philemon)
- The children are helped to see that Abraham is not just a “Bible hero” but the beginning of the most important program in the history of the world

## Key Doctrinal Distinctions

### God as Creator vs. God as Redeemer

The children are taught from Lesson 1 that God made the world with purpose — and from Lesson 3 onward that sin has broken that purpose. Both realities are essential: creation establishes God’s ownership of the earth; redemption is the story of His plan to reclaim it.

## Man's Position vs. Man's Conduct

Man is created as the Monarch of the Earth (position) but through sin lost the ability to exercise that dominion (conduct). The entire Bible is the story of God restoring man's position — not through man's self-improvement but through God's gracious provision.

## Satan's Policy of Evil — Introduced

From Lesson 4 onward, children see Satan's consistent strategy: corrupt the human race to prevent the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15. Every major catastrophe — the flood, Babel, and later events — traces back to Satan's active opposition to God's plan.

## Israel vs. the Nations

Lesson 8 marks a decisive turn in Scripture: God sets the nations aside and begins working exclusively through one people. This distinction — Israel's prophetic program vs. God's later dealings with Gentiles through Paul — is the bedrock of right division throughout this series.

## The Genesis 3:15 Thread

The proto-evangelion of Genesis 3:15 is the unifying promise of the entire Old Testament. Each lesson in Block #1 shows how God is preserving and advancing that promise despite Satan's every attempt to abort it.

## Scripture Reference Index

Reference	Key Statement or Theme
<b>Gen. 1:1</b>	In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth
<b>Gen. 1:26</b>	Let us make man in our image, after our likeness
<b>Gen. 3:15</b>	I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed
<b>Gen. 6:5</b>	Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually
<b>Gen. 9:13</b>	I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant
<b>Gen. 12:2–3</b>	I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee
<b>John 1:1–3</b>	All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made
<b>Col. 1:15–16</b>	By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth
<b>Acts 14:16</b>	Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways
<b>Heb. 11:7</b>	By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, prepared an ark