



JOHANNESBURG BIBLE COLLEGE

# MZANSI BIBLE

BIBLE STUDIES FOR PEOPLE ON THE GO



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## Welcome to the MZANSI BIBLE guide

Mzansi Bible is a Bible Study program designed for people on the move with little snippets of time to sit and study the word of God. It is designed to convey a concise overview of the Bible in an engaging way. These studies are designed for individual use although they can be used in a small group setting. Each study opens with questions designed to help you work through your personal knowledge of the subject. The next sessions help you transition through the overarching development of the subject in the Biblical narrative and finally concludes with the think about it session which provides interesting information to help reinforce the information presented.

## About JBC

The Johannesburg Bible College is an institution that seeks to inspire and equip men and women for bible teaching ministries in the local church, small group discipleship or other ministry settings. We encourage you to prayerfully consider taking the full year course which will give you in depth, practical Bible handling skills. Please visit [www.jbc.org.za](http://www.jbc.org.za) for more information. Please feel free to contact us anytime you need help with any part of this guide.

We pray that you will find the time invested a worthwhile investment into;

- your personal understanding of the word of God
- a deeper relationship with God
- faithfully teaching the truths of the Bible

## The Kingdom Pattern

This six week study guide is designed to guide you on a journey across the bible. This guide follows a pattern that is easily discerned throughout the narrative of salvation. In the Bible we read of God creating a people for Himself, to live in a place that He gives them, and under His rule which is the same as His blessing. This motif or pattern is present right at the start in creation. However we chose to rebel which spoiled the created order. Instead of destroying us as we deserved, God right from before the beginning had planned to bring us back to Himself. This is achieved through redemption: God restoring humanity to His place, under His rule, to form His people.

- Redemption is God's work of grace (undeserved gift), received through faith.
- Faith is trusting God to keep His promises, the fullness of which is often still to come.
- There is often a human agent in redemption. With redemption comes judgment on God's enemies.

**Mzansi Bible Team**



## BIBLE OVERVIEW

### SESSION I: CREATION

#### What do you think?

1. What stories did you grow up hearing about the creation of the world?
2. What questions have you struggled with about creation?
3. What parts of creation are most fascinating for you?
4. In what ways are human beings unique in creation?
5. Do you think there is a problem with how we have managed creation?

#### How did it all start?

#### Read: Genesis 1:1-2:3

*Genesis 1:1* In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup> **AND GOD SAID**, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day", and the darkness he called "night". And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day. <sup>6</sup> **AND GOD SAID**, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." <sup>7</sup> So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. **AND IT WAS SO.** <sup>8</sup> God called the expanse "sky". And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day. <sup>9</sup> **AND GOD SAID**, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." **AND IT WAS SO.** <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "land", and the gathered waters he called "seas". And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> **THEN GOD SAID**, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." **AND IT WAS SO.** <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day. <sup>14</sup> **AND GOD SAID**, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." **AND IT WAS SO.** <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day. <sup>20</sup> **AND GOD SAID**, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." <sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day. <sup>24</sup> **AND GOD SAID**, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." **AND IT WAS SO.** <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>26</sup> **THEN GOD SAID**, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them **AND SAID TO THEM**, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." <sup>29</sup> **THEN GOD SAID**, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." **AND IT WAS SO.** <sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day. **2:1** Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.



What are the repeated phrases in chapter 1? (see 2 Pet 3:5)

What else did God speak into being? (cf 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21)

What do you think the creation account can tell us about God and creation:

What two things are distinct about humanity at the climax of God's creation?

## The unfolding tragedy

### Genesis 3:1-24

*Genesis 3:1* Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"<sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.<sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."<sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly



and you will eat dust all the days of your life.<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.<sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."<sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.<sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.<sup>22</sup> And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever."<sup>23</sup> So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.<sup>24</sup> After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

What had God previously commanded that they should not do? (2:15-17)

Where does the challenge to humanity come from v1-6?

What is challenged?

What finally makes the woman eat the fruit?

What persuades the man to eat the fruit?

What has happened to the order in creation? (see Rom 1:25)



What are the immediate consequences of the fall vv7-24? (see Rom 8:20-21)

What is the element of hope - v15? (this idea is indirectly picked up in Gal 3:16)

## The Resolution

### Revelation 21, 22

The final picture is of a great climax of world history. The damage of Genesis 3 is undone - there is no longer any curse. There is a new creation - echoes of the beginning... the essential kingdom ingredients are the same:

**Revelation 21:1** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2:I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3:And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4:He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5:He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6:He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7:He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*

**Revelation 22:1** *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb<sup>2</sup> down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.<sup>3</sup> No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.<sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.<sup>5</sup> There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.<sup>6</sup> The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."*

God's place: (what is it called, how is it described?) (cf Ezek 47:1-12)



God's people: (who are they, what are they doing?)

God's blessing and rule: (where is God ruling from, and who and how does he deal with people?)

How is the end different from the beginning?

Who is there?

### Think through it

- Ants are capable of carrying objects 50 times their own body weight with their mandibles. Ants use their diminutive size to their advantage. Relative to their size, their muscles are thicker than those of larger animals or even humans. This ratio enables them to produce more force and carry larger objects.
- There are billions of galaxies in the universe. If that sounds amazing, consider that each of these contains billions of stars. That means that there are more than an astounding ten billion trillion stars in the universe. That is an astronomical number like 10,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars.
- The Earth is wrapped in a layer of gas called atmosphere. Atmosphere is tied to Earth by gravitation, so that it cannot disperse in the space. It is 500 km (300 mi) thick, being made of a mix of about 10 gases, called air. The air is made by nitrogen (78 %), oxygen (21 %) and other gases (argon, carbon dioxide, helium, neon). The biosphere is the part of the troposphere where life can exist. This goes upwards, from the Earth's surface to the maximum height where birds can fly. Through photosynthesis, plants take the carbon dioxide from atmosphere, releasing oxygen. Through respiration, plants and animals consume oxygen, releasing carbon dioxide.

