

2 BUILDING ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS

REVISED CROSS-CULTURAL EDITION



EVANGELISM: GENESIS TO THE ASCENSION

Trevor McIlwain

2 BUILDING on FIRM FOUNDATIONS

REVISED EDITION



EVANGELISM: GENESIS TO THE ASCENSION

Trevor McIlwain

First Printing 2005

Building On Firm Foundations: Volume 2: Evangelism: Genesis to the Ascension — Revised Edition

Copyright 2005 by Ethnos360
312 W 1st St
Sanford, FL 32771

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the publishers, with the exception of brief quotations in magazine reviews or other notices.

ISBN Number: 1-890040-65-7

Printed in the United States of America

Contents

Overview	IX
Lesson 1 The Bible is God’s message to all people.	1
Lesson 2 The Bible tells us what God is like and that He alone existed before everything and everyone else.....	11
Lesson 3 God created the spirits. God created the heavens and the earth.....	21
Lesson 4 God revealed His nature and attributes through His creative acts (Days 1-3).	29
Lesson 5 God revealed His nature and attributes through His creative acts (Days 4-6).	37
Lesson 6 God created Adam.....	45
Lesson 7 God placed Adam in Eden.....	57
Lesson 8 God told Adam not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.....	65
Lesson 9 God created a wife for Adam.	73
Lesson 10 Lucifer rebelled against God.....	77
Lesson 11 Let’s review what we have learned about God, man and Satan.....	83
Lesson 12 Adam and Eve disobeyed God.....	89
Lesson 13 Adam and Eve’s sin separated them from God.....	97
Lesson 14 God judged Adam and placed a curse on the earth, and He promised to send the Deliverer.....	103
Lesson 15 God provided clothing for Adam and Eve, and He put them out of the garden.....	113
Lesson 16 God rejected Cain and his offering, but He accepted Abel and his offering.....	119
Lesson 17 The Bible tells about Cain’s descendants and Seth’s descendants.....	131
Lesson 18 God said He would punish the world, but He promised to save Noah and all who entered the boat.....	137
Lesson 19 God destroyed everyone in the world except Noah and his family who were in the boat.	147
Lesson 20 God scattered the rebels at the tower of Babel.....	155
Lesson 21 God chose Abram and guided him to Canaan.....	161
Lesson 22 God renewed His promises to Abram.	167
Lesson 23 God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.....	173
Lesson 24 God gave Isaac and delivered Isaac from death.....	179
Lesson 25 God chose Jacob and rejected Esau.	187
Lesson 26 God guided and protected Joseph.	195
Lesson 27 God promoted Joseph. God took Jacob’s family into Egypt.....	199

Lesson 28	God preserved the Israelites and protected Moses.....	203
Lesson 29	God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery.	209
Lesson 30	The Lord sent plagues on the Egyptians.	217
Lesson 31	God killed the firstborn of the Egyptians, but He saved the firstborn of the Israelites.....	225
Lesson 32	God delivered the Israelites at the Red Sea.....	233
Lesson 33	God gave food and water to the Israelites.	239
Lesson 34	God made an agreement to bless the Israelites if they obeyed Him.	245
Lesson 35	God gave the Ten Commandments. (Part 1)	253
Lesson 36	God gave the Ten Commandments. (Part 2)	263
Lesson 37	God told the Israelites to build the Tabernacle.....	271
Lesson 38	The Israelites worshiped a golden calf.....	283
Lesson 39	The Israelites did not believe that God would give them the land of Canaan.	289
Lesson 40	The Lord gave the Israelites water from the rock. He healed those who looked at the bronze snake.	295
Lesson 41	God took the Israelites into Canaan. God chose their leaders and their king.	301
Lesson 42	God chose David to be king. God chose Solomon to build the temple.	309
Lesson 43	God chose Jonah and other men to be His messengers.....	315
Lesson 44	God told the prophets to write many things about the coming Deliverer.	323
Lesson 45	God punished Israel and Judah, but He brought some of His people back from Assyria and Babylon.	333
Lesson 46	God foretold the births of John and of Jesus.....	341
Lesson 47	God fulfilled His promise in the birth of John.	349
Lesson 48	God’s angel explained to Joseph how Jesus would be born.....	355
Lesson 49	God fulfilled His promises by sending Jesus, the Deliverer. Jesus grew into manhood.	361
Lesson 50	God sent John to teach and to baptize. John baptized Jesus.	369
Lesson 51	Jesus resisted Satan’s temptations.	379
Lesson 52	Jesus began His ministry.	385
Lesson 53	Jesus taught that people must be born again.	391
Lesson 54	Jesus had power to heal sickness and to forgive sins.....	399
Lesson 55	Jesus foretold His death, burial and resurrection.	405
Lesson 56	The Jewish leaders plotted to kill Jesus because He healed a man on the Sabbath.	409
Lesson 57	Jesus told the parable of the sower.....	415

Lesson 58	Jesus calmed a storm and released a man from the control of demons.....	421
Lesson 59	Jesus fed five thousand people.	429
Lesson 60	The way of the Pharisees is not God’s way.....	437
Lesson 61	Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.....	441
Lesson 62	Jesus is the only doorway to eternal life.	447
Lesson 63	Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.	453
Lesson 64	Jesus taught that we need to be humble and admit our guilt.....	459
Lesson 65	It is foolish to trust in riches.....	465
Lesson 66	Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus and rode into Jerusalem.	473
Lesson 67	Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover.....	479
Lesson 68	Jesus was arrested by His enemies.....	485
Lesson 69	Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead.	493
Lesson 70	Jesus appeared to His disciples and returned to Heaven.....	507
	Additional Lessons to Present the Gospel.....	511
Appendix	535

Overview

The lessons in this book cover Phase 1 of the chronological teaching program. These lessons are designed for evangelism.

The lessons are to be a resource for the teacher. They were written primarily for missionaries to guide them step by step as they write Bible lessons, but the lessons can be easily adapted for use in other situations.

Proper use of the lessons will depend on a thorough knowledge of *Volume 1, Guidelines for Evangelism and Teaching Believers*. Be sure to read that volume prior to teaching these lessons.

The lessons have been written as though I were actually addressing a group of tribal people. However, I have not included all the reiteration and expansion of each point which I would normally give when teaching. The teacher is responsible to emphasize, illustrate, and expand each point until he is satisfied that his hearers have clearly grasped it.

The primary goals of each lesson are to tell clearly the Bible story and, while doing so, to emphasize the doctrinal themes important for evangelism. These doctrinal themes are exemplified through the actions of the characters and the historical events in the Bible.

Interspaced throughout the lesson are directives to the teacher, such as outline points, lesson developer's notes, and teacher's notes. The directives to the teacher are not intended to be spoken as part of the lesson. These directives are on a gray background, a visual cue that they are not meant to be spoken or read to the tribal people.

Proper use of the lessons will depend on a thorough knowledge of *Volume 1, Guidelines for Evangelism and Teaching Believers*. Be sure to read that volume prior to teaching these lessons.

Lesson

1

The Bible is God's message to all people.

Lesson Outline

1. Think carefully about how we can know the truth.
2. We are going to begin telling you God's message.
3. We believe all that God says in His Book.
4. God's message is the most important message in the whole world.
5. God gave His message to chosen men.
6. The Bible has been translated into many languages.
7. We will teach you from the Bible a little at a time.

Lesson Outline Developed

Teacher: As you begin evangelism, you will build on the foundations that you laid down in preevangelism. (Refer to Part 2 of Volume 1 for more information on pre-evangelism.)

During your pre-evangelism ministry, you did not give your thoughts, or even what the Bible says, when you raised discussion topics which caused them to think about the basis for their beliefs. Now, however, you are going to introduce the Bible which will be the final authority for all the subjects you previously talked about.

Nevertheless, in this lesson you should not try to prove that the Bible is the Word of God. Some teachers have prepared lessons in which they immediately tried to prove that the Bible is the Word of God. In their very first lesson, they presented Old Testament prophecies with the New Testament fulfillment as proof that God is the author of the Bible. But until the students are taught, they would not have a frame of reference to understand these prophecies. For example, they would not have a clear concept for the time span between the Old and New Testaments, nor would they know about the Bible characters mentioned in the prophecies. This type of approach is contrary to the basic teaching principle of moving from the known to the unknown.

It is far better to leave the proof of the divine authorship of the Scriptures right where it is – in the Word of God itself. The great Bible teacher, Charles Spurgeon, when asked to defend the Bible, said, "What! Defend a lion? Let it loose!"

We, too, must let the Word of God "loose" in total dependence upon the Spirit of God and His promise to use His Word. The power of God is inherent in the Word of God. The proof that the Bible is the Word of God is in the Word itself. As we slowly but clearly teach the story of the Old and New Testaments, it will become evident that the Bible is truly God's Word.

1. Think carefully about how we can know the truth.

We want you to think carefully about the questions we are going to ask you. We are not asking for you to answer these first few questions. Just listen and think about them.

- **How can we know the truth about the beginnings of all things?**

- Where did this world come from? Has it always been here, or was there a time when it began? Did someone make this world?
- Where did all the people come from? Were they always here, or was there a time when they began to exist? How did they begin to exist? Did someone make them?
- Where did all the different kind of animals come from? Were they always here, or was there a time when they began to exist? How did they begin to exist? Did someone make them?
- Did the sky always exist? Was there a time when the sky began to exist? Did someone make the sky?

Teacher: Apply similar questions to the clouds, the rain, the wind, the sun, the moon and the stars. Be sure to raise the same topics which you did during pre-evangelism which caused the people to question the validity of their beliefs. If they ask questions, assure them that they will be answered as you continue to teach them. Do not become involved in trying to answer their questions on individual topics at this stage in the teaching program.

- **How can we know the truth about the Creator?**

- Who made all the things we see around us?
- Where is the Creator who made all things?
- Is the Creator like us? Does He need to eat? Does He need to sleep? Does He need to drink?
- Is the Creator powerful or weak?
- Is He good or is He bad?
- Does He have any enemies? Are they stronger than He is?
- Does the Creator love us? Does He know when we get sick or when we die?
- Can a person hide from the Creator?

- **How can we know the truth about death?**

- Why do people die?
- Where do people go when they die? Is the place of the dead a good place or is it a bad place?
- Will those who have already died ever come back to life again?
- How can we know that what we believe about those who have died is correct?
- Do you know someone who has died and then come back to explain what happens after death?

- **How can we know the truth about the spirits?**

- Are there spirits that we cannot see who have power over people and the things that happen to them?
- Where did the spirits come from?
- Did the same Creator who made us also make the spirits?
- Are the spirits stronger than the Creator who made the world and everything else?

- **How can we know the correct answers to any of these questions?**

All over the world, people give different answers to these questions. How do we know which answers are correct? Is there anyone who can definitely tell us?

2. We are going to begin telling you God's message.

We are here to tell you God's answer to these questions and His message to you. We know that God's message is true, and we want you to also know the truth.

- **Previously we did not tell you God's message.**

We have discussed many things with you about God, people and the spirits. Previously, we did not tell you what we believed about these things because we were not yet ready to begin teaching you God's message. We did not come here to tell you what we think or what other people say. We came to tell you what God says.

- **Only God can tell us the truth.**

No one can know or understand who God is, where He is or what He is like unless He tells us. As you listen to God's message, you will learn about God, and you will learn what God says about all the subjects we discussed with you previously.

God's thoughts about all these different topics are written in this book called the Bible.

Teacher: As you teach this lesson, hold or touch the Bible as you refer to it. If you do not have a Bible in the tribal language, take Bibles in other languages, such as your own and one in the national language, to the meeting.

It is good to show more than one copy of the Bible so that the people will realize there is more than just one copy of the Bible in the world. Having different translations will help when you explain that God's words have been translated into different languages.

Even though the people may not be able to read, pass the Bibles to them. Let them open and look at the Bibles. They need to see that the Bible is a real book and is made of paper like other books. You do not want them to be superstitious about the actual book.

- **Many people in this world do not know God's message.**

Our ancestors did not understand many of the things we talked to you about until they heard God's words which are written in this book.

Many people all over the world do not know the truth about God. Some of them do not know the truth about God because they have not heard God's message that is written in this book. Others do not know the truth because they refuse to listen to and believe what God says in the Bible.

You have chosen to listen to God's message. If you listen and believe what God says in the Bible, you will learn the truth about God.

3. We believe all that God says in His Book.

- We have read God's Book, and we believe all God says.

In the Bible, God has taught us the truth about God, people and the spirits.

Teacher: Give a testimony about believing God's message. Your testimony at this stage should be limited to these points:

- How you actually came to know God's message and His thoughts about the topics you have discussed with the people.
- That you believe God's message.
- That God taught you that His message is for all people.
- That you have come to them so that they, too, can hear, understand and believe God's words.


Include the testimonies of other team members, your wife and your children who are believers. You may wish to ask other Christians present, "Do you believe God's words which are written in this book?" Call on them by name, and give them the opportunity to answer. If they wish, they may also give a short testimony, but be sure that you have instructed them prior to the meeting that they need to limit what they say to the points above.

In your testimonies, do not talk about sin, hell, salvation or the Savior. The people would not understand what you are talking about because you have not yet taught them about God, and they probably do not realize that they need to be saved.

4. God's message is the most important message in the whole world.

- God's message is the most important message you will ever hear.

Lesson Developer: Give an illustration about important messages. In choosing the illustration, consider what type of message would be very important to them and who would bring them that important message. For example:

 *If the chief called all of you together because he had an important message, all of you would want to listen and understand what he had to tell you, wouldn't you?*

Or if you knew your enemies were preparing their weapons to attack you, your village scouts would check to see what the enemy was doing. When the scouts came running back to the village, you would quickly gather around and listen carefully to their report. The scouts' message would be important because it might save you from being killed by your enemies.