

Firm Foundations

Creation to Christ

book 3

Lessons 13 – 24

The Flood – Ten Commandments

Trevor Mcilwain



The Scripture version used in these lessons is the New King James Version (NKJV).

Second Printing 2013

Firm Foundations Creation to Christ (Revised Edition)
Book 3: Lessons 13-24: The Flood – Ten Commandments
Copyright 2009 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: 978-1-890040-85-1

Printed in the United States of America

What is *Firm Foundations*?

Just what is *Firm Foundations*? It is foundational, chronological Bible teaching.

This method of teaching is patterned on God's progressive revelation of Himself and His plan to rescue people from sin, Satan and death. Lessons start "in the beginning." Moving through the Old and New Testaments, *Firm Foundations* highlights the themes that run through all of God's Word. This builds, from lesson to lesson, an understanding of the Bible as a whole.

This practical approach has been used all over the world, and is proven for:

- Evangelism
- Grounding new believers
- Teaching maturing believers
- Planting churches.

Firm Foundations arose from the experience of Trevor McIlwain in the 1960s. While working cross-culturally with a people group in the Philippines, Trevor saw the need to establish proper biblical foundations. He developed Bible lessons to meet that need. As Trevor states, "The Scriptures were progressively revealed by God within the context and framework of history. Therefore, the best way to teach divine truth in any culture is God's way, within the chronological and historical framework of the Scriptures."

Trevor shared this approach with other missionaries who were also teaching cross-culturally, initially distributing his basic outline and later detailed Bible lessons. They discovered, as he had, that this *Firm Foundations* approach was exceptionally effective.

When these missionaries returned home, their glowing testimonies inspired pastors and other Bible teachers to adopt this method. As a result, the *Firm Foundations* lessons were modified for churches and home Bible studies, and this approach has proven equally effective in English-speaking settings as in cross-cultural settings.

Since that time, adaptations of the *Firm Foundations* materials have been developed for many languages, cultural contexts and age groups.

You are now a part of the *Firm Foundations* legacy!

About This Curriculum

Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ is a set of Bible lessons by Trevor McIlwain.

This curriculum moves through key Bible passages to reveal truth about God and man. It covers Old Testament stories which reveal the holy nature and character of God and show that sinful man is separated from God and totally incapable of making himself acceptable to his perfect Creator. It also emphasizes stories and verses that highlight how God planned from the beginning to rescue man through a Deliverer. The New Testament lessons focus on the fulfillment of God's promises to provide a Savior, and show that the only way of salvation is through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ is presented in five teacher's volumes:

- Book 1 Chronological Teaching: Why and How
- Book 2 Lessons 1-12: Creation — Cain and Abel
- Book 3 Lessons 13-24: The Flood — Ten Commandments
- Book 4 Lessons 25-36: The Tabernacle — Plots against Jesus
- Book 5 Lessons 37-48: Jesus calms the storm — Ascension

The course itself is for the teacher. Students use their Bibles, along with an optional study guide.

***Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ* includes:**

- Teacher's Guide
- Study Guide (complimentary copy for the teacher)
- Illustration posters for classroom use
- Maps, showing the locations referred to in the lessons
- Time Line, covering the events referred to in the lessons
- PowerPoint DVD, with slides of key points and illustrations for each lesson

Supplementary materials:

- Study Guides
- Posters, Maps, and Time Line are part of the Teacher Set, but can also be purchased separately.

Important:

For teaching in a cross-cultural setting, either with rural ethnic people or tribal groups, this curriculum's cross-cultural edition is more suitable and highly recommended.

Firm Foundations Materials Available

***Firm Foundations* by Trevor McIlwain (Teacher Guides and Study Guides available)**

- Books 1-5: *Creation to Christ*
- Book 6: *Secure in Christ*
- Book 7: *Growing in Christ – Acts*
- Book 8: *Growing in Christ – Romans*
- Book 9: *Growing in Christ – Ephesians*

***Building on Firm Foundations [Cross-cultural Edition]* by Trevor McIlwain**

- Volume 1: Guidelines for Evangelism and Teaching Believers
- Volume 2: Evangelism: Genesis to the Ascension
- Volume 3: Teaching New Believers: Genesis to the Ascension
- Volume 4: Teaching New Believers: Acts
- Volume 5: Teaching New Believers: Romans and Ephesians
- Volume 6: Teaching New Believers: 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy and Titus
- Volume 7: Teaching New Believers: 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Revelation
- Volume 8: Teaching New Believers: Galatians and Colossians
- Volume 9: Teaching New Believers: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon and 2 Timothy
- Volume 10: Teaching New Believers: Hebrews and James
- Volume 11: Teaching New Believers: 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude
- Volume 12: Teaching Maturing Believers: Genesis through the Epistles

Note that the latter BOFF volumes are in the process of revision or development. Check the NTM website for availability.

Information about the above publications, along with information about translated materials, and other resources, can be found at:

Canada: www.ntmc.ca or email bookstore@ntmc.ca or 519.369.2622

United Kingdom: <http://uk.ntm.org/shop> or email books@ntm.org or 44 (0) 1472.387700

USA: www.ntmbooks.com or email books@ntm.org or 800.321.5375

Contents

Teacher Key.	1
Lesson 13 God said He would punish the world, but He promised to save Noah and all who entered the ark.	7
Lesson 14 God remembered Noah and all those in the ark. God scattered the rebels at the Tower of Babel.	23
Lesson 15 God chose Abram and guided him to Canaan. Lot chose the fertile plains of Sodom and Gomorrah.	33
Lesson 16 God renewed His promises to Abram. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.	41
Lesson 17 God gave Isaac and delivered him from death.	51
Lesson 18 God chose Jacob to be the ancestor of the Deliverer.	59
Lesson 19 God promoted Joseph. God took Jacob's family into Egypt.	69
Lesson 20 God preserved the Israelites and protected Moses.	77
Lesson 21 The Lord sent plagues on the Egyptians.	87
Lesson 22 God delivered the Israelites at the Red Sea, and provided them with food and water in the wilderness.	99
Lesson 23 God made an agreement to bless the Israelites if they obeyed Him.	111
Lesson 24 God gave the Ten Commandments.	123

Teacher Key

This curriculum is unlike traditional materials in that each lesson builds on the foundation laid in the previous lesson. For that reason it is extremely important that these lessons be taught consistently and thoroughly.

Do not pick and choose which parts of the lessons to teach. Each point is a building block and is important to laying a solid foundation for your students to understand truth.

To teach these lessons in the most effective way, it is important that you read *Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ*, Book 1. For substitute teachers, however, this Teacher Key gives a synopsis about teaching the lessons.

Preliminary boxes

1. **Overview:** This box contains the outline content of the lesson along with all Scriptures that are used in the lesson. This gives you as the teacher a quick overview of the lesson.
2. **Gaining perspective:** This box is for the teacher and highlights a particular truth, or truths, from the lesson. Not all lessons have this box.
3. **Teacher tips:** This box addresses specific teacher issues that pertain to the lesson. For example, the content of one teacher tip gives suggestions for handling a longer lesson.

Lesson format

1. **Outline points:** These numbered outline headings are lesson division markers. They **don't have to be spoken** as part of the flow of the lesson.
2. **Bulleted Points:** These bulleted points are **intended to be spoken**. They are essential to the flow of teaching the material. That is, **you should teach the bulleted points** and smoothly transition into the text below it. The bulleted points do not function as an outline per se, although they will help you keep on track as you teach.
3. **Text:** The text below the bulleted points is to be taught. It is important that you do not merely read this material to your students. Be familiar with each point. As you prepare for class, highlight words and phrases that will jog your mind as you teach.

Jot notes to yourself of other details you plan to incorporate to expand a point, and remind yourself of any adjustments you plan to make to illustrations.

SAMPLE

1. God is the focus of these lessons.

- **Our focus in these lessons will be on what God has revealed about Himself in the Bible.**

Some people view the Bible as just a book of doctrines or teachings about what we should and should not do. It is far more than that.

Dialogue approach

Gray shading signifies information that is only for you, the teacher. Directions that are applicable throughout the curriculum are given at the first occurrence in each lesson, for the benefit of a substitute teacher.

Teacher directives

Gray shading signifies information that is only for you, the teacher.

SAMPLE

Questions

There are three types of questions in these lessons. They are described on pages 3-4.

Anytime you see the question icon [?], ask your students the question(s) that follows it. As you will see in the samples on page 3, an expected answer is usually provided in italics. If the question is rhetorical, a teacher's note will indicate that you should not expect a verbal answer.

The given answers are important points which lead the lesson forward and reinforce prior teaching. Sometimes students may give an incorrect response, and sometimes more than one answer is acceptable. Whichever the case may be, handle it appropriately and then teach the answer provided in italics.

1. **Review questions**, which are at the beginning of each lesson.

SAMPLE

? Who is the central person of the Bible?

*God is. It is **His** story.*

2. **Participation questions**, which are interspersed throughout the lesson, providing opportunities for student interaction.

SAMPLE 1

? Why do you think God revealed so much about Himself?

Because He wants us to know Him.

SAMPLE 2

? What characteristic do you see in the fact that God promised to send the Deliverer?

- **He is loving, merciful and gracious.**

Adam and Eve had disobeyed God's command, and because of this God could have abandoned them or immediately banished them to eternal punishment. But instead, because God is merciful and gracious, He promised to send the Deliverer.

3. **Rhetorical questions**, which help the students apply truth to themselves.


SAMPLE

Just think about this:

- ❓ Are we going to accept by faith what God says in the Bible, or are we going to ignore Him and only believe what we can see?

Scripture

There are three ways you will be using Scripture in these lessons:

1. When you see the **open Bible icon**  with the words “Read [Scripture],” invite a student to read that passage aloud.

SAMPLE



Read Genesis 1:1.

2. Anytime a portion of a verse is quoted, you should read it directly from the lesson. Do not read the whole verse, or have your students turn to it, because the rest of the verse contains themes not pertinent to the topic being taught.

SAMPLE

Psalm 14:1 says, “*The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’*”

3. **Verification verses** are intended as a resource for you and are not to be read to the students.

SAMPLE

Teaching aids

1. **Chronological Maps:** A set of three maps cover the key locations covered in these lessons. Instructions tell you when to point to a location on the map. Always have the appropriate map or maps on display.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE

2. **Chronological Time Line:** Designed specifically to be used with these lessons, the time line highlights the characters and events covered in this course. Instructions tell you when to point to it. Always keep it on display. A copy of this time line is included at the end of each lesson to show you where you are in the teaching curriculum.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE

3. **Prophecy Chart:** This chart lists Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ. Instructions tell you when to point to it. Once it has been introduced in Lesson 30, it should always be on display. It is Supplemental Visual 28.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE

4. **Posters:** These supplemental visuals will greatly enhance your teaching. Instructions tell you when it is appropriate to use them. If you prefer digital copy, you will find them on the DVD.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE

Teacher: Show Supplemental Visual 1.

DVD

A PowerPoint-type presentation of the key points for each lesson is located on the DVD that comes with the lessons. This will be helpful for students as they take notes, and will aid you in keeping the class on track.

The DVD also includes the chronological maps, time line and other supplemental visuals.

Student Notebook

This optional notebook provides space for the students to jot down key lesson points during class.

Each notebook lesson also contains questions for personal study and review after class, along with an answer key so the students can check their answers to the personal study questions. It is not intended for the teacher to check the answers or review the questions during class time, because it would take too long. Built into each lesson is a short time of review; key questions from the notebook are covered in that review.

God said He would punish the world, but He promised to save Noah and all who entered the ark.

Overview

1. Introduction
2. The Bible lists the generations from Adam to Noah. (Genesis 5:3-5; 22-32)
3. God the Spirit was constantly urging the people to repent. (Genesis 6:3; Proverbs 14:12; Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 2:5)
4. The people became more and more wicked. (Genesis 6:5, 11-12)
5. God decided to destroy the people on the earth. (Genesis 6:6-7)
6. God was gracious to Noah. (Genesis 6:8-10)
7. God told Noah what was going to happen and what he should do. (Genesis 6:13-17)
8. Noah believed God. (Genesis 6:22; 7:1-15; Hebrews 11:7)
9. God shut Noah and his family in the ark. (Genesis 7:16)
10. God destroyed all those outside the ark. (Genesis 1:2; 7:17, 21-23; 8:2)
11. Conclusion

Teacher tip

You should teach everything in this lesson except the content in the gray boxes.

This is one of the longer lessons in this series, but do not pick and choose which points to teach because of time constraint. Each point is a building block and is important to laying a solid foundation for your students to understand truth. If you do not think you can cover all of the material in one session, divide it into two lessons.

1. Introduction

- We will begin by looking back at what we have already learned.

Teacher: Review the previous lesson by asking your students the following questions. The expected answer follows each question, indented and in italics.

- ❓ Why was Abel's offering acceptable to God?

Because Abel believed God and came to Him in the way God had said to come, bringing sheep and killing them so the blood flowed out.

❓ By not bringing the offering that God required, what was Cain showing?

That he did not believe God.

❓ Why did God reason with Cain?

God loved Cain and wanted him to understand that he was a sinner and needed to bring the blood offering God stipulated.

❓ Why did Satan want Cain to kill Abel?

Because Satan is a murderer and hates all people. He knew that if Abel lived, one of his descendants would be the promised Deliverer, and he did not want people to be delivered from the punishment they deserve for their sin.

❓ What was the attitude of Cain's descendants toward God?

They followed Cain's rebellious ways against God, with no interest in knowing Him.

- **We will now turn our attention to the focus of this lesson.**

Throughout history, God warned those who were in danger of receiving His punishment.

He told Adam what would happen if he ate fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He tried to reason with Cain when he refused to come in faith with the correct offering.

God loves us and has our best in mind. It grieves Him when we persist on opposing Him. As long-suffering as He is, we need to understand that there comes a point when God will no longer withhold His punishment for sin.

2. The Bible lists the generations from Adam to Noah.

Teacher: Anytime you see the open Bible icon with the words "Read [Scripture]," as below, invite a student to read that passage aloud.



Read Genesis 5:3-5.

- **Adam died.**

When God created Adam and Eve, He did not intend for them or their descendants to die.

Teacher: Anytime you see the question icon, as below, ask your students the question(s) that follows it and pause for them to respond. Sometimes more than one answer is correct, but occasionally there is only one correct answer. Whatever the case, if the students do not respond with the answer provided in italics, you should teach it.

❓ Why had death come into the world?

Because Adam sinned.

? What are the three aspects of death?

- *Separation from a spiritual relationship with God – spiritual death.*
- *Separation of the soul and spirit from the body – physical death.*
- *Separation forever in the Lake of Fire – eternal death.*

• **Adam’s descendants also died.**

Although we won’t read through Genesis 5, the phrase “*and he died*” occurs repeatedly throughout this chapter. Physical death is part of the consequence of Adam’s disbelief of God’s warning not to eat fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam’s sin brought death to all people.

• **From Adam to Noah, there were 10 generations.**

The people listed in Genesis 5 are from Seth’s family line. It was people from Seth’s line who continued to look for the coming Deliverer promised by God in the Garden of Eden.

Teacher: Point on the Chronological Time Line to the box with the title “**From Adam to Noah.**” It is unnecessary to read all the names in the box.

• **One of Seth’s descendants was a man named Enoch.**

Teacher: Point on the Chronological Time Line to “**Enoch.**” (His name is listed in the box you pointed to earlier.)

Enoch was born a sinner, but he believed God and came to Him in the way He had instructed. Because he believed, Enoch also obeyed and pleased God in the way he lived his life.



Read Genesis 5:22-23

• **Enoch was God’s messenger to the people of his day.**

Verification verses for teacher only: Jude 14-15

? Considering that the Bible was not written at that time, how did Enoch know what to say to the people?

God told him with an audible voice or impressed it on his mind.

• **Enoch warned that God was going to judge and punish the people for their unbelief and evil ways.**

But the majority of them did not believe God’s message through Enoch.



Read Genesis 5:24.

- **Enoch did not die physically.**

Even though he was a sinner and did not deserve God's mercy, God loved and accepted Enoch. God, in His sovereignty, took Enoch out of this world and into Heaven.

Enoch was the only one taken to Heaven without dying at that time. Other people during those years lived for a long period of time, but they eventually died.

- **Enoch's son, Methuselah, lived longer than anyone else.**

Teacher: Point on the Chronological Time Line to "**Methuselah.**" (His name is listed in the box you pointed to earlier.)



Read Genesis 5:25-27.

Methuselah's grandson's name was Noah.

Teacher: Point on the Chronological Time Line to "**Noah.**"



Read Genesis 5:28-32.

- **The population of the earth had greatly increased.**

Ten generations passed from Adam to Noah. Each generation represents a long life span, during which the population of the earth increased dramatically.

Assuming current population growth figures, there would have been as many as seven billion people living on the earth at that time.¹

3. God the Spirit was constantly urging the people to repent.

- **The majority of earth's inhabitants were only interested in having a good time.**

Most of them did not think about God or understand that it was important what He thought about them.

Verification verses for teacher only: Matthew 24:37-39 describes the attitude of the people in Noah's day. Because this passage covers biblical themes not covered in this set of lessons, it isn't necessary to read these verses to your students. You, however, should be aware of them as you teach from Genesis 6.

- **God the Spirit was speaking to the rebellious people.**



Read Genesis 6:3.

¹ Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Record*, 144, (Baker Book House: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1976)