

**Study Guide for sections of the
Commentary on Genesis , by
John Calvin**

**Extra Reading for the course:
"The Primeval History"**

ACADEMIC
PACKET

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Read Calvin's Commentary on Genesis, volume 1, Chapters 1-11

Review Questions:

Genesis 1

1. What does Calvin say about the theory that the use of the plural noun Elohim clearly refers to the triune nature of God?
2. How does Calvin understand the meaning of the phrase "without form and void" (in Hebrew: tohu and bohu) in Genesis 1:2?
3. What is the significance of the fact that light and darkness preceded the creation of the sun and the moon, according to Calvin?
4. Does Calvin believe that the whole work of creation was completed in a moment?
5. How does Calvin understand the word "firmament" (in Hebrew: rakia) in Genesis 1:6?
6. What is Calvin's view of the meaning of the "image of God" in man?
7. What is Calvin's view of which aspects of man were affected by the Fall?

Genesis 2

1. According to Calvin, what does it mean that God "rested" on the seventh day?
2. How does Calvin interpret the statement in Genesis 2:7, that God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul"?
3. According to Calvin, what was the significance of forbidding man to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?
4. What did God say was "not good" after he had created man?
5. What is Calvin's understanding of the main reason God created woman?
6. How does Calvin understand the significance of the fact that God brought the woman to man?
7. What does Calvin believe is strictly prohibited by the statement: "They shall be one flesh."?

Genesis 3

1. How does Calvin explain the fact that the serpent was evil? Was he always evil? If not, how did he become evil?
2. According to Calvin, why would a good God permit Adam to be tempted?
3. Does Calvin believe that man sinned by his own free choice?
4. What was the consequence of Adam's eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?
5. What does Satan say will happen when they eat from the tree God has forbidden?
6. What important doctrine did Pelagius deny?
7. How does Calvin interpret the promise of Genesis 3:15?
8. After man was deceived by the serpent, what happened to the image of God in which man was formed, according to Calvin?
9. How did Adam and Eve's sin affect mankind, according to Calvin?
10. According to Calvin, why did God not allow Adam and Eve access to eat of the Tree of Life after the Fall?

Genesis 4

1. What did Cain bring as an offering to the Lord?
2. Why did God look with greater favor on Abel's offering, according to Calvin?
3. How does Calvin understand the statement: "At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord."?

Genesis 5

1. How does Calvin describe the nature of Seth, the son of Adam?
2. According to Calvin, what was taught by the fact that Enoch went to be with God without dying?

Genesis 6

1. How does God describe humanity in the sixth chapter of Genesis?

2. How are the thoughts of man described for us in the sixth chapter of Genesis?
3. How does Calvin understand the statement that God "repented" for making man on the earth?
4. According to Calvin, who were the "giants" (nefilim) mentioned in Genesis 6:4?

Genesis 7

1. Noah found _____ in the eyes of the Lord.
2. What did God intend to destroy in the Great Flood, according to Genesis 7:4?
3. With what does Calvin compare the Ark of Noah?

Genesis 8

1. What command that was given to Adam is restated to Noah and his sons?
2. What was the first thing Noah did after the flood subsided?
3. Why was Noah's sacrifice a sweet smell to God, according to Calvin?

Genesis 9

1. What was required as punishment for murder, according to Genesis 9:5-6?
2. What is stated about man's nature according to Genesis 9:6?
3. How does Calvin interpret the statement in Genesis 9:6 about the nature of man?
4. What does God promise to Noah that He will never do again?
5. What token of the covenant does God reveal to Noah?

Genesis 10

1. What is the importance of Genesis, chapter ten, according to Calvin?

Genesis 11

1. How many languages were there among the people when they first gathered at Babel?

2. What is the reason given by the people for building the city and tower that reached the heavens at Babel?
3. What did God do to the people after he stopped the building of the tower of Babel?
4. What does "Babel" mean?