

God created the universe - all the galaxies, all the black holes, all the subatomic particles, all the forces that hold things together - the four fundamental forces of gravity, the weak force, electromagnetism, and the strong force. We are stewards of this universe, with dominion over it to maintain its original perfection as best we can.

*Genesis 1:26,28,2:15* Then Elohim said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness! Let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, over the flying creatures of the sky, over the livestock, over the whole earth, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the land." Elohim blessed them and Elohim said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the land, and conquer it. Have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the flying creatures of the sky, and over every animal that crawls on the land." Then YHVH Elohim took the man and gave him rest in the Garden of Eden, in order to cultivate and watch over it.

Complete authority with responsibility to watch over it - our role as caretakers of the universe (yes, not just the earth) requires interaction with His creation. For example, if we don't trim the plant growth, it overtakes everything, and eventually destroys much of what was there before. Vines have tendrils that can break up the exterior of a home, especially stucco exteriors. We should NOT just walk away and let nature take over, because WE ARE INTIMATELY PART OF NATURE. Our stewardship includes the rest of the universe, as we explore it in obedience to the command to watch over it. We learn and discover all that God created, and how we interact with that - our role as caretakers. So we must constantly fulfill our role as caretakers, all the more so since The Fall in the garden of Eden. Our place in the interconnectedness of the universe is critical - and our job since Genesis is to be good caretakers of the universe. THAT requires learning - constantly - about how this universe works.

In the same way, we must be accurate in our planning as we go, not just for short-term immediate concerns (environment and safety) but also for long-term total considerations (human suffering to mine the components for rechargeable batteries, compared to continued reduction of pollutants from fossil fuels and minimal impact from pipelines). Likewise, our planet is so encompassed with satellites that it looks like a city park after a concert cluttered with trash, yet our benefits like GPS are critical. It's a big job, and God knows we can do it, as we apply what we have learned.

In the beginning ...each person knew God's instructions, either directly or by word of mouth (possibly written).

*Genesis 2:16-17* And YHVH Elohim commanded the man saying, "From all the trees of the garden you are most welcome to eat. But of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you must not eat. For when you eat from it, you most assuredly will die!" *[That death is perpetual separation from God.]*

*Genesis 4-5* *[The lives of these before The Flood - like Enoch - show that they knew God's commands.]*

After all that time, the rebellion of people increased so that only Noah was called righteous - not even his family!

*Genesis 6:5* Then YHVH saw that the wickedness of humankind was great on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their heart was only evil all the time.

*Genesis 6:8* But Noah found favor in the eyes of YHVH.

Noah knew (and recalled) God's instructions, because Noah knew which animals to sacrifice.

*Genesis 8:20* And Noah built an altar to YHVH and he took of every clean domestic animal and of every clean flying creature and he offered burnt offerings on the altar.

After The Flood, God told Noah and his descendants to spread out over all the earth.

The Tower of Babel is a critical reminder of our tendency to want to be the ultimate authority, instead of God.

*Genesis 9:1* Elohim blessed Noah and his sons, and He said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the land."

*Genesis 11:1,4,8* Now the entire earth had the same language with the same vocabulary. Then they said, "Come! Let's build ourselves a city, with a tower whose top reaches into heaven. So let's make a name for ourselves, or else we will be scattered over the face of the whole land." So YHVH scattered them from there over the face of the entire land, and they stopped building the city.

This rebellion was as evil as any before The Flood, yet YHVH kept His promise - He did not destroy again. Instead, He eliminated the original language and implemented all new languages (the old one disappeared). ALL languages are created by God, and (by normal human interactions) all languages have interlaced and mutated and expanded into thousands of languages and dialects.

The timeline goes on from there, through Abraham and on to Joseph and then Moses. Anyone who trusted YHVH could follow Him, and it was finalized at Mt Horeb (Sinai). Anyone could obey YHVH.

*Exodus 12:49* The same instruction applies to everyone equally - without distinction - the native as well as the outsider who is living among you.

Each of us is individually responsible for our own actions, and each of us individually lives with the consequences of our actions. We also cause consequences to others for our actions - and their actions cause consequences for us. Nobody forces us to choose disobedience - we are not forced to a specific decision. It is our personal choice.

*Deuteronomy 24:16* Fathers are not to be put to death for children, and children are not to be put to death for fathers - each one is to be put to death for his own sin.

Each person accepts his/her personal individual commitment to the contract (covenant) with YHVH.

*Deuteronomy 6:20,24-25* When your son asks you in time to come, saying 'What are the testimonies and the statutes and the ordinances that YHVH our God commanded you?' then you are to tell your son, 'YHVH commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear YHVH our God - for our good always, to keep us alive, as is the case this day. It will be righteousness to us, if we take care to do all this commandment before YHVH our God, just as He has commanded us.'

When we sin, then we are not just rebelling against God, but we are trying to live as though we can change the laws of nature - the rules of the universe: like "what goes up must come down." I have lot of company with me on the path of rebellion, going the same direction, angels and humans, and EACH of us on that path of rebellion chose that on our own, so we are "birds flocking together" down the path to destruction that we as individuals chose. I HAVE FREE WILL - IF I SIN, THEN I CHOSE IT.

Sin will hurt someone or something. It can't be undone, but only corrected.

*James 1:14-15* But each one is tempted when he is dragged away and enticed by his own desire. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is full grown, it brings forth death.

*Isaiah 53:6* We all like sheep have gone astray. Each of us turned to his own way. So YHVH has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Let's choose life, and obey YHVH.

*Deuteronomy 30:19-20* I call the heavens and the earth to witness about you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore choose life so that you and your descendants may live, by loving YHVH your God, listening to His voice, and clinging to Him. For He is your life and the length of your days.