

—Year 1—

The Seven C's of History

The Bible is the history book of the universe.

Lesson Focus

The Bible provides a complete history of the universe. The Seven C's of History reveal the major historical events that are foundational to the Bible's important messages.

Key Passages

Genesis 1:1, 2:17; Genesis 7:23, 11:9; Matthew 1:21; John 19:17–18; Revelation 21:4

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- List the Seven C's of History in order.
- Give a brief description of each of the seven C's explaining what happened in history.

Building Blocks

Join Bryan and Avery as they demonstrate foundational truths from the Bible.

Teaching Tips

- As you discuss the tower of Babel, younger students might enjoy learning the word *hello* (or another common word) in different languages. (Spanish-*hola*, French-*bonjour*, Italian-*ciao*, etc.)
- Challenge older students with a Bible drill. Call out a Bible reference in the lesson. If you have more than one student, see who can find it first. Repeat with other verses. If you have only one student, time him with a stopwatch.

Optional Introductory Activity

Read several pages from a familiar children's book out of order—begin in the middle, go to the end, then back to the beginning. Ask students to tell you what you did wrong in reading the story. Discuss the correct way to read a story, from beginning to end, in order for it to make sense.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Most people look at the Bible as a book that contains interesting stories and theological teaching. They don't understand that the Bible is a history book. Christianity is not based on myths and fables—it is based on real history revealing major events that are foundational to the Bible's important messages. We like to call it the history book of the universe!

The accounts are actual historical accounts—Adam was real; he was created on day six of creation; his sin cast the whole human race into sin; the flood was a real, global catastrophic event; Jesus Christ really lived, died, and rose again for the payment of the sins of his people—the Bible is true and can be trusted (1 Corinthians 15:1–4).

When we don't see the Bible as a history book, we are often left unprepared to answer questions accurately and biblically—questions presented to us by our children, family, neighbors, and friends about things such as dinosaurs, fossils, Noah's ark, Cain's wife, the races, and why there is death and suffering. We need to know how to answer these questions. We need to realize that God's Word cannot be compartmentalized into the "spiritual" area of our lives. It must be integrated into our every waking moment; we must live, answer questions, and make decisions based on a biblical worldview—based on God's truth, not man's.

The Seven C's of History in this curriculum represent major biblical events that have affected (and will affect) our world history. We start at the beginning—Creation—and follow a timeline of history to its end—Consummation. The Seven C's are the following:

Historical/Apologetics Background

There are basically two views of history: the biblical view, which we outline using the Seven C's of History, and the secular view, which relies on man's ideas from outside the Bible to try and determine the events of the past. These secular ideas are opposed to the Bible's true history. They are prevalent in our culture and often found even in the church today.

Below are some of the erroneous views that stand in opposition to the seven C's as presented above. It is important to be aware of them and be prepared to give a defense to anyone who questions God's Word (1 Peter 3:15).

Creation: The universe was created from a big bang about 13 billion years ago; the earth formed

Creation: In the beginning—about 6,000 years ago—in six 24-hour days, God made a perfect creation (Genesis 1).

Corruption: The first man, Adam, disobeyed the Creator. His sin brought death and corruption into God's very good creation (Genesis 2:17).

Catastrophe: Adam's race became so wicked that God judged the world with a great catastrophe—a global flood—saving only those on the ark built by Noah (Genesis 7:23).

Confusion: When Noah's descendants disobeyed God's command to fill the earth, God brought confusion on their language, forcing them to spread over the earth (Genesis 11:7–8).

Christ: The Creator became a man, Jesus Christ, who obeyed God in everything, unlike the first man, Adam (Matthew 1:21–23).

Cross: Jesus, the Messiah, died on the cross to pay the penalty for mankind's sin against God. He rose from the dead, providing life for all who trust in him as Savior (1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

Consummation: One day, at the consummation, the Creator will remake his creation. He will cast out death and the disobedient, create a new heaven and new earth, and dwell eternally with those who trust in him (Revelation 21:4).

When we start with the Bible, the history book of the universe, we can develop a worldview that trusts God's Word over man's word—and we will learn to confidently answer the questions we are asked based on the foundation of the truth of God.

about 4.5 billion years ago. Animals and man have evolved to their present state.

Corruption: The world has always had disease, struggle, and death. Sin and guilt are just psychological conditions that must be overcome.

Catastrophe: If there was a flood, it was a local flood that affected only the Mesopotamian region.

Confusion: There are different races of mankind, and these races reflect different levels of evolutionary development.

Christ: If Jesus even lived, then he was a good man, a prophet, or perhaps even our "savior," but he is not the Creator.

Cross: Jesus' death on the cross shows that he identified with us in our suffering, but it has no significance for salvation.

Consummation: Either all men will be saved because God is loving and would never send anyone to hell, or there is no afterlife, and people return to the dust when they die.

The Word of God can be trusted not only when it speaks of spiritual and moral principles, but also when it speaks on history and science. As Jesus told Nicodemus, "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" (John 3:12). In other words, if we can't believe the Bible's history, starting in Genesis, why should we believe its gospel message? If we can't trust the Bible's history in the first several chapters, then when can we start trusting it?

Unfortunately, there are many who don't trust the Bible's history in Genesis. These people hold

to an old-earth, evolutionary view of history. They have a naturalistic (no God) view that promotes autonomous human reason, ignoring God's written revelation. This is a completely different worldview from those who hold to the biblical creation view—the Seven C's of History. There hasn't always been a divide regarding this biblical authority. Before the 1700s, it was the general consensus of the church that God created the world, as described in the book of Genesis, around 4,000 to 6,000 years ago.

Again, many theologians and church leaders jumped on the "old-earth bandwagon" and have accepted the fallible geological dating methods of man, which disregard the clear teachings of Scripture about a young earth. They have pursued old-earth tenets that undermine the Bible's gospel message.

As Bible-believing Christians, our resolve to stand firm on God's Word must be strong as we contend for the faith (Jude 1:3).

The Seven C's of History

Just as we would read a story from beginning to end for it to make sense, we have to understand the true events of the world's history in the correct order. We have these events recorded in the Bible.

God tells us in his Word what has happened in the past and what will happen in the future.

The history in the Bible is very long. But if you can remember seven C's, you can learn the main events.

Creation—*Everything was created by the power of God's word.*

When did history begin? What was the first event in the history of the universe?

We don't often think of history as having a beginning. But history is just the record of what has happened in the past. And the past had to start somewhere! God has described the how and when of this beginning in the first book of the Bible. This is where we find the first C—Creation.

Read Genesis 1:1 and 31

God tells us in his Word that he created the heavens and the earth. He created everything by the power of his word—he spoke everything into existence. He created it all about 6,000 years ago in six 24-hour days!

On the sixth day of creation week, God's creation was finished, and it was very good. It was a place with no death, no violence, no disease, no sickness, and no fear! Everything was perfect.

Corruption—*Sin entered God's very good creation.*

But it didn't stay perfect for long! The second C is Corruption. **Corruption means that something is ruined.** The "corruption" we are talking about here is sin. Adam and Eve were

the first people ever to sin against God. They disobeyed him, and their sin ruined God's very good creation. It separated them from God because God is holy, and he hates sin.

Read Genesis 2:17

This was God's only command to Adam and Eve. They were not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they did, they would die. Of course, we know they disobeyed God, and they paid the consequences. But their sin reached further than just that garden.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world and brought death into God's very good creation.

Because of Adam's sin, all of us sin, and we must all die someday. This corruption from sin affected everyone who would ever live.

Adam and Eve were punished. They became separated from God and were thrown out of the garden. They lived lives of hard work and suffering because of their sin. Adam and Eve had many children who grew up and had their own families. Soon the world was full of people!

Catastrophe—A global flood brought judgment on the wicked world.

But now sin had entered into the world, and every person since Adam has been born with a sinful heart. So people continued to disobey God and sin against him. God is holy, and he was not pleased with the wickedness and sins of the people. He had to punish them. And that brings us to our third C—Catastrophe. A catastrophe is a huge disaster. God sent a flood to judge the world and to punish the sins of the people. This huge disaster covered the earth and destroyed everything in it.

Read Genesis 7:23

Everything that lived on the ground of the earth was destroyed. All the land animals, all the birds, all the people. Only Noah, his family, and the animals that God brought to the ark were saved from the flood. We can see the results of the flood today in the rock layers that contain billions of fossils. The entire world was changed because of the flood.

Confusion—God judged sin by confusing the common language.

The next event in God's history is Confusion. After the flood, Noah and his family started life over again. It wasn't long before there were many people on the earth once again. But they continued to disobey God.

God commanded all the people of that time to move away and fill the earth. Instead of obeying God's command, they all stayed together in one place. They began to build a great tower to the heavens, the tower of Babel, so they could make a name for themselves.

Read Genesis 11:9

Once again, God punished the people. This time, he confused the language. Suddenly, the people could not understand each other. That forced them to divide up into groups that spoke the same language. Then those groups scattered around the world. In Genesis 10, we have a

record of these families and where they settled. This is often referred to as the Table of Nations, and you might even find a diagram in your Bible that explains how the people groups spread out.

Why is the tower of Babel an important event in human history?

As the people spread across the globe, different people groups developed with different physical characteristics and languages. All the diversity we see in the world today is explained by the dispersion from Babel.

So, we have covered the first four C's—Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, and Confusion—and we are only in Genesis 11! The Seven C's of History show us that a foundation in Genesis 1–11 is very important to the Christian faith. If we can't trust the teachings in the opening book of the Bible, when can we start trusting it?

Christ—*The Creator and Son of God came to earth as a man.*

God is holy, and he must punish ALL sin. He punished Adam and Eve. He punished the people of Noah's day. And he punished the people at the tower of Babel.

Remember, when Adam sinned at the very beginning, he passed a sin nature on to all people who would come after him. We all sin and disobey God! Because of our sin, we deserve to be judged and punished by God. Unless someone would take our punishment for us.

Read Matthew 1:21

Adam brought sin into the world, but Jesus came to earth to save his people from their sins. That is the fifth C—Christ!

From the beginning, God had a plan to save sinners for all eternity. He sent Jesus to fulfill the promise made to Eve when God pronounced his curse on the serpent in Genesis 3:15. A Seed (or offspring) would come who would bruise, or crush, the head of the serpent.

At just the right time in history, God sent his Son into the world. Jesus Christ lived a perfect, sinless life in perfect obedience to the will of his Father. Christ came to provide the way for us to enter the kingdom of God. And only through him could God's plan be accomplished—the plan to offer forgiveness and eternal life to sinners.

How would Jesus be able to offer forgiveness to sinners?

Cross—*Jesus was crucified on the cross, the perfect sacrifice for sin.*

That brings us to the sixth C—the Cross.

Read John 19:17–18

Jesus carried his cross to Golgotha, where he was crucified. He suffered a painful death even though he did not deserve it. Jesus is the ONLY person who never sinned. He was perfect. Yet he chose to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins on himself. Because he had no sin,

Jesus was the only one who COULD take the punishment for sins.

The Bible tells us that all who repent, or turn away from their sins, and turn to Jesus in trust and obedience will be saved from God's punishment. They will be saved because they believe in Jesus Christ—the Savior—who chose to take the punishment on himself for sinners.

Consummation—*God promises a new heaven and a new earth for all believers.*

We are nearly through all Seven C's of History, the history of the universe which began with Creation and will end with Consummation, the final C!

This word means the ultimate end of something. It uses the idea of bringing something to completion. So, when we talk about the consummation of history, we are talking about the very end of history as we know it and what God is planning to do at that time. Christ will return to earth to judge sin once and for all and reverse the effects of the curse in a new heaven and new earth. For anyone who rejects Jesus or the truths about him in the Bible, this is a terrible promise that God will bring

eternal judgment. But for those who have believed and trusted in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, this is a wonderful promise that we will be with God forever!

Read Revelation 21:4

At the consummation, God will wipe away every tear. There will be no more death or mourning, no more crying or pain. We can look forward to this time when God will restore his creation. Everything will be made new, and it will once again be very good! This life of sin and death and suffering will finally be over for all who believe and trust in Jesus.

Application

The seven C's cover the history of the world—Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. We can read about each of these events in the Bible and as we look at them more closely, we will see how they explain the world we live in today.

God has been in control of everything from the very beginning, and he has promised a wonderful future for all eternity for those who put their trust in Jesus.

The Bible is true and will not change. But there are many people in the world today who teach things that are not what the Bible teaches. For example, some people attack the truth of

creation by saying that evolution is true or that the universe began with the big bang.

- 1 How can you know the truth about these things?
- 2 What if a friend asks you why people and animals have to die. What would you say?
- 3 Can you explain the history of the universe using the Seven C's of History?

Possible answers: 1) Read and study the Bible; ask questions; don't believe everything you hear; trust God and his Word; 2) God created everything very good, but sin and death entered the world when Adam disobeyed God in the garden. 3) Answers will vary but should follow the pattern in this lesson.

Comprehension Questions

1. What does the Bible say happened “in the beginning”? *God created.*
2. How does the Bible describe God's creation before the second C? *It was very good.*
3. How long ago did God create the heavens and the earth? *About 6,000 years ago.*
4. Which people committed the very first sin against God? *Adam and Eve.*
5. What entered the world after Adam sinned? *Sin and death.*
6. Which C explains how sin entered God's very good creation? *Corruption.*
7. Why did God bring a global flood on the world? *The people were sinful and wicked.*
8. Which C stands for the global flood, which was God's punishment on a wicked world? *Catastrophe.*
9. Who survived God's punishment of the global flood? *Noah, his family, and the animals with him on the ark.*
10. What happened at the tower of Babel because of the people's disobedience? *God confused the people's language.*
11. How did God show his love for sinners who deserved punishment from him? *He sent Jesus Christ into the world to take the punishment for sin.*
12. What did Jesus come into the world to do? *Save sinners; take the punishment for sin by dying on the cross.*
13. God has promised that he will create a new heaven and a new earth. Which C describes this time in history? *Consummation.*
14. At the consummation, what will all things be once again? *Very good.*
15. Can you list the seven C's in order? *Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, Consummation.*