



11

The Seven C's of History

Key Themes

- The Bible records actual history.
- God's Word must be our absolute authority.

Key Passages

- Genesis 1:1, 1:31, 3:6–7, 7:11–12, 7:18–21, 11:1–9;
Matthew 1:18–23; Colossians 1:19–22; Revelation 21:1–8

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- List the Seven C's of History in order.
- Relate the Seven C's of History to their approximate dates in history.
- Compare the biblical view of history to the secular view.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Before class, write on the board, "Moses, Abraham, Battle of Jericho, Christ's birth, Tower of Babel, Adam, the Flood."

Students will organize biblical events in chronological order.

- Print and cut apart the Scripture Strips from the Resource DVD-ROM.



Studying God's Word

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

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



Activity: Comparing the Views

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Students will complete a comparison chart using the Seven C's of History.

- Print one Comparing the Views worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Read the following passages to prepare for this week's lesson: Genesis 1; Genesis 3:17–19; Genesis 7:17–23; Genesis 11:4–9; Matthew 1:21–23; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4; John 19:17–24; Revelation 21:4.

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 such things as dinosaurs, fossils, Noah's Ark, Cain's wife, the races, why there is death and suffering, etc. We need to know how to answer these. 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 as presented 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:

- **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.

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 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 only affected 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 or a prophet, or perhaps even our "savior," but he is not the Creator.
- **Cross:** Jesus's death on the Cross shows that he identified with us in our suffering, but in and of itself 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, but 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 when it speaks on history and science. As Jesus told Nicodemus, “If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will 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?

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Those who hold to an old-earth, evolutionary view of history have a completely different worldview from those who hold to the biblical creation view—the Seven C’s of History. The first is a naturalistic (no God) view which promotes autonomous human reason, ignoring God’s written revelation. The other is a “supernaturalistic” view, recognizing God’s involvement in the affairs of man, which starts from God’s perfect revelation—the Bible. These two views are diametrically opposed to one another.

One of the main issues separating these two views concerns the age of the earth. 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. Since then, because of scientific and geological “evidences” of a much older world, many Christians have felt the need to accommodate these erroneous ideas—and have compromised God’s Word by manipulating it to say things it does not say.

The chart at right indicates some past scholars and historians who believed that the earth was young. They calculated the age of the earth based on their study and trust in God’s Word.

Again, keep in mind that the old-earth theory did not become the scientific consensus until the late 1700s. This is when the study of geology became popular and geologists began to date the rock layers as millions of years old. Unfortunately, many theologians and church leaders have accepted these new ideas, rejected the clear teachings of Scripture about a young earth, and pursued old-earth tenets that undermine the Bible’s gospel message.

Our resolve to stand firm on God’s Word must be strong in this area as we determine to contend for the faith as recorded in Scripture (Jude 1:3).

Chronologist	When Lived	Calculated Date of Creation (BC)
Julius Africanus	c. 250	5501
George Syncellus	c. 800	5492
John Jackson	c. 1750	5426
William Hales	c. 1850	5411
Eusebius	c. 350	5199
Marianus Scotus	c. 1050	4192
Thomas Lydiat	c. 1600	4103
M. Michael Maestlinus	c. 1600	4079
Jacob Salianus	c. 1600	4053
H. Spondanus	c. 1600	4051
J. Cappellus	c. 1600	4005
J. Ussher	c. 1650	4004
E. Greswell	c. 1830	4004
D. Petavius	c. 1630	3983
C. Longomontanus	c. 1600	3966
P. Melanchthon	c. 1550	3964
A. Salmeron	c. 1600	3958
J. Scaliger	c. 1600	3949
M. Beroaldus	c. 1550	3927
A. Helwigius	c. 1650	3836

Note: c means circa=approximately.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Lord, your Word gives us the true history of the universe. We see the world continually attacking your Word, your history, your truth. Help me, Father, to impress upon my students the truth of your history to counter the lies the world proclaims. Oh Father, how I long for my students to see your Word as their final authority. Bring them, please, to an understanding of the depth of their sin before you, to repentance of those sins, and may they turn their hearts to your Son, the only Savior and Redeemer.

Review

Our lesson last week focused on the doctrine of the Trinity.

- ? **In what book of the Bible do we find the word Trinity?** *The actual word is not found in the Bible. It is a phrase that was coined to describe the unique nature of the Godhead as revealed throughout Scripture.*
- ? **Who can summarize the concept of the Trinity?** *The Godhead is triune: one God, three Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*
- ? **What analogies can help us understand the Trinity?** *A triangle or the three dimensions of space*

are good examples, but we must be careful with an analogy when describing an infinite God.

- ? **What is the result of rejecting the Doctrine of the Trinity?** *Although not every person who comes to faith in Christ will immediately or perfectly understand the nature of the Trinity, it is a clear teaching of Scripture. As such, not having a proper understanding of the Trinity can lead to the damnation of an individual. Throughout church history, many different heretical views, from denying the deity of Christ to God appearing in different modes, have been taught by false teachers. Many of those ideas continue in cults today.*



➤ Hand out the Scripture Strips as students are coming in. Ask them to find the passage and mark it as they will be reading these passages later in the lesson.

➤ Write on the board, “Moses, Abraham, Battle of Jericho, Christ’s birth, Tower of Babel, Adam, the Flood.” Tell the students to place them in chronological order without referring to any references. Correct order: Adam, the Flood, Tower of Babel, Abraham, Moses, Battle of Jericho, Christ’s birth.



Studying God’s Word

Today, we are going to go on a whirlwind tour through the Bible. We are going to look at a big-picture framework for understanding the history of the universe from the very beginning to the very end—the Seven C’s of History.

As we look at these points in biblical history, we will also examine how the world sees these topics, and contrast the wisdom of the Bible against the claims of mankind’s understanding without the Bible. This framework is intended to help us comprehend God’s plan for the universe and understand the world we live in in light of those truths. By the end of this lesson I hope that you can see how different the secular and biblical histories are and how this framework can help us to keep biblical history in perspective.

The goal of this lesson is to introduce this framework. We will be developing these themes throughout the next three years as we journey through the Bible. You might have lots of questions about the details of each of the ideas, but please hang onto those questions for later. In the next few weeks we will be focusing in on the Creation and then there will be several lessons on the Corruption, and so on. I promise we will get to all of those questions, eventually.



Comparing the Views

MATERIALS

- Comparing the Views worksheet for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out a copy of the worksheet for each student to take notes during the discussion.

Option 1: Divide the class into seven groups, and assign one C to each group. The group is to read the Scripture for their C, fill in the approximate date from the Seven C's Timeline poster, fill in the Biblical View column for their C, and, if they are able, fill in the Secular View column. Then, have each group report their answer as their C comes up during the discussion.

Option 2: Do the worksheet as a whole group activity.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we survey the history of the universe, these worksheets will help you keep track of the details. During our lesson, we will be looking at the dates and basic descriptions of the biblical view.

At the end of the lesson, we will step back through the Seven C's of History and compare them to the secular view of history.



READ THE WORD

We are going to be referring to this timeline frequently today. Point out the specific sections on the Seven C's Timeline poster.

Across the top are the symbols for the Seven C's and this bar gives the dates. In this lower section are some specific events from the Bible and secular history. This poster only covers the time from the early church back to the creation, about 4000 BC.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Creation

So let's start in the beginning with Creation. Genesis 1 describes how God created not just the earth, but the entire universe. Have someone read Genesis 1:1, 1:31.

Genesis 1:1, 1:31

The phrase "the heavens and the earth" is a figure of speech that includes the entire universe much like we might say "the whole nine yards" or "high and low" to describe the totality of something. And the universe was all "very good"—perfect—when God finished His creation.

As we take a plain reading of Genesis 1, God created the universe over a period of six, 24-hour days and then rested on the seventh.

- ? Turn to Genesis chapter 5. What do you notice about these genealogies? They have dates of the birth of a son with the age of the father.

Genesis 5

- ? This list begins with Adam and makes its way to Noah and his sons. With a bit of basic math, how could we determine the time between Adam and Noah? *The time between Adam and Noah could be determined by adding the ages of the fathers at the birth of the son.*

This could be combined with the other genealogies to arrive at the date of Abraham, about 2,000 years after Adam. Other genealogies and extra-biblical sources make it clear that Abraham lived about 2,000 years before Christ. That means that Adam lived about 6,000 years ago. The Bible clearly shows that the timeline of history starts at approximately 4000 BC with creation.

Corruption

Genesis 3:6–7

God had created a perfect universe that was free of death, disease, pain, suffering, and sin. But that quickly changed. *Have someone read Genesis 3:6–7.*

- ? Does the Bible tell how much time passed between the creation of man and fall into sin? *No, there is no direct indication of how much time passed.*

Most commentators suggest that sin entered the world soon after the close of Creation Week. We will discuss some of the reasons for this later. So, this second C, Corruption, is very close to the original creation.

Romans 8:20–22

This act of treason against God not only impacted Adam and Eve, but the entire universe, as we read in Romans 8:20–22. *Have someone read this.*

Catastrophe

Sin increased on the earth as mankind found many ways to deny God's authority. The wickedness became so great that in Genesis 6 God declared that He was sorry He made man and planned to wipe them out. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8).

About 2349 BC (1,656 years after Adam's creation), God chose to judge mankind with a global Flood that would also destroy all of the air-breathing, land-dwelling creatures. Many claim that the Flood was only a local flood and did not cover the entire earth, but the Bible makes it very clear. *Have a student read Genesis 7:11–12, 7:18–21.*

The results of this globe-impacting event are evident today in the sedimentary rock layers that contain the billions of fossilized dead things that were buried in the Flood. These rock layers extend across continents, and cannot be explained without a global flood event that could deposit them.

In later lessons we'll look at how the animals fit on the Ark, how the Flood reshaped the earth, and other important questions, but we can't let ourselves forget that the Ark is a symbol of judgment and God's hatred

Genesis 7:11–12,
7:18–21

for sin, and the rock layers are filled with the evidence. But we also cannot forget that God provided salvation from His wrath—just as He has done in Christ.

- ? Who can think of the next world-changing event in the Bible after the Flood? *The building of the Tower of Babel comes about 100 years after the Flood.*

Confusion

So the Flood ended a little over one year after it began. God commanded the eight survivors to multiply and fill the earth—just as He had commanded Adam and Eve. But they refused and the historical account is found in Genesis 11. *Have someone read Genesis 11:1–9.*

Genesis 11:1–9

We have another example of God's judgment being passed to all of humanity. God confused the languages of the people resulting in various families scattering around the globe. We have a record of these families and where they settled in Genesis 10. This is often referred to as the Table of Nations. *The section titled The Sixteen Grandsons of Noah on the timeline poster gives a summary of the family distributions.*

Tucked into Genesis 10:25 is a clue that helps us determine the timing of this event. Peleg was born and given that name because “in his days the earth was divided.” Since we know when Peleg lived, we can determine that the events at Babel happened around 2240 BC. *Point this date out on the timeline.*

- ? Why is this such an important event in human history? What does it help us explain about the world we live in? *As the people spread across the globe, different people groups were formed with different physical characteristics. What people typically refer to as different “races” are actually all members of the only race, the human race—all descended from Adam and Noah. This also explains the main language families that we see in the world today.*

So far we have covered the first four C's—Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, and Confusion—and we are still in Genesis 11! The next C actually begins in Matthew, so there is a big gap in the framework. The Seven C's of History is intended to show that a foundation in Genesis 1–11 is vitally 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? And, if there wasn't really a fall into sin, if Adam was not a real person, why did Christ have to come in the flesh to redeem us from a mythical event? Trusting God's Word from the very first verse is essential to the integrity of the gospel.

So, with this huge leap in time, there are certainly many more C's that we could add through biblical history. But if we added more, they wouldn't be the Seven C's of History! *(Emphasize the pun intended with the seven seas.)*

- ? Who can think of some other major biblical events beginning with C that occur between Confusion (point on the timeline to about 2000 BC) and the coming of Christ 2,000 years later? *Answers may include Covenant with Abraham, Commandments given to Moses, Camping in the wilderness, Conquering the Promised Land, Captivity under Assyria and Babylon, Crown to represent the time of the Kings, and many other possibilities.*

Christ

In Galatians 4:4–5, the Apostle Paul tells us that “when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

Matthew 1:18–23

The fifth C is the entrance of God in flesh into the world—the incarnation of Christ. We learn a bit about His birth in Matthew 1:18–23. *Have someone read that passage.*

Jesus came to earth to save His people from their sins. Adam had brought sin into the world.

- ? Which of the seven C’s saw sin enter the world? *Corruption.*

Jesus was the fulfillment of a promise made to Eve when God pronounced His curse on the serpent (Genesis 3:15). A Seed would come who would crush the head of the serpent. This happened about 2,000 years ago. Though there is some debate about the exact date of the birth of Christ, it was probably around 5 BC by today’s calendar.

Christ lived a perfect, sinless life in perfect accord with the will of His Father. As Adam is the representative of sin entering the world, Christ is the representative of righteousness before God. All people are born into Adam’s sin and cannot be reconciled to God on their own—they need someone to take their sins away and credit His righteousness to their account. Only then can mankind be reconciled to God and inherit eternal life with Him.

That leads us to the next C. Who can guess what it is? *Cross.*

Cross

Colossians 1:19–22

- ? Why did Jesus Christ die on the Cross? *On the Cross, He bore the punishment for our sin, taking God’s wrath against sin upon Himself. He acted as our substitute and has given us His righteousness in return. Have someone read Colossians 1:19–22.*

This was all a part of God’s plan of redemption that we see throughout the history recorded in the Bible. Paul calls Christ the Last Adam in 1 Corinthians 15:45. Where the first Adam brought death through sin, Christ brings life through His righteousness. This leads us to hope in a future life where the effects of sin will be reversed.

Consummation

The final C in earth's history is the Consummation. Now, this is not truly a historical event, but in a sense, it is. We know with certainty that Christ will return to the earth and reverse the effects of the Curse in a new heavens and earth. So, even though it has not yet happened, it is certain to happen just as the Bible describes.

Let's read about this coming paradise in Revelation 21:1–8. *Have someone read this passage.*

Revelation 21:1–8

What a gracious God to send a Savior to redeem us from a curse we brought upon ourselves and then grant us eternal life with Him in heaven. I trust that is a hope that brings you a sense of joy. *There are several different views of the end times held by Christians. Feel free to expand on this point as time allows.*

And that is the history of the universe in a nutshell!

To review and summarize, let's go back and look at the question I had on the board when you came into class today. *Review the question and show how having a framework to fit these events into helps to make sense of the general flow of history. Use the Seven C's Timeline to show the events in history. If time allows, consider adding some other events into the framework: the pyramids must have been built after Catastrophe and Confusion, the founding of the Church could only have come after the Cross, etc.*



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

We have gone through the Seven C's of History from a biblical perspective; now let's look at them from a secular perspective. You can fill in the last column on your worksheet as we quickly discuss the differences.

- ? What is the most popular idea of how the universe began? *The big bang is the most popular idea to explain the origin of the universe from a secular perspective.*
- ? Does anyone know how long ago the big bang is believed to have happened? *13 billion years for the beginning of the universe and 4.5 billion years for the earth's formation.*

The idea of creation implies a creator, so secularists should not even use the word to describe the origin of the earth or universe if they are consistent in their thinking.

As for the first people, the popular idea is that they evolved from ape-like creatures somewhere in Africa and later evolved into different races in different areas of the world. *Students fill in the last column for Creation.*

On to Corruption. From an evolutionary perspective, there has always been death, disease, and struggle in the world. The idea of sin is something that the world tries to suppress. Secular psychologists don't even believe that sin exists. Rather than calling violent anger a sin, they refer to it as a mental disorder. Rather than speaking of adultery, they call it a fling or an affair, something that is perfectly acceptable. Rather than being born into Adam's sin, the secular view teaches that we are born either good or neutral, and that we then learn bad behavior from our surroundings. All of these ideas are clearly unbiblical. *Students fill in the last column for Corruption.*

? **So what about a global catastrophe? How does the world view Noah's Flood?** *They reject it as a myth or legend. At best, they believe it was a large, local flood that was elevated into mythical proportions. Some have even concluded that the Ark was a spaceship that brought life to earth from another planet. Students fill in the last column for Catastrophe.*

So if the Flood is a myth, then the migration of all people from the Middle East is rejected as well. Rather than believing the biblical explanation for the people groups and languages, secularists suggest that different races of people evolved gradually over millions of years and languages did not emerge until much later. *Students fill in the last column for Confusion.*

When it comes to Christ, the secular belief is that He may be considered a good teacher, a humble prophet, or an enlightened sage, but He is definitely not the Son of God, and He definitely did not create the universe, as Colossians 1:16 tells us. *Students fill in the last column for Christ.*

Although some secularists would admit that Jesus Christ died on a cross at the hands of the Romans, He certainly did not do it for salvation from sin. He did not face God's wrath against sin as He hung on the cross since there is no such thing as sin. *Students fill in the last column for Cross.*

? **And as to the future, what is the end of each person in this world from a secular view?** *When people die, they return to dust. Since there is no soul, there is no need for an afterlife. Eventually, mankind will evolve into something different.*

The end of the universe from a secular view follows one of two courses: either the universe will gradually grow cold and die a heat death, or it will begin to contract and squeeze back together in a big crunch and possibly spawn another big bang and a new universe. From a secular perspective, there is no hope for the future. *Students fill in the last column for Consummation.*

I trust you can see how the biblical view and the secular views of history just don't line up at all. Every person must decide whether they will trust in God's account of the history of the universe or man's ideas.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Now let's try to understand how this framework and the Scripture passages that we looked at can help us answer questions about the world we live in.

- ? How do you see this framework being helpful as you interact with the people in your life (siblings, neighbors, other students, co-workers, etc.)? *Allow students to share their ideas.*
- ? How do you see this biblical framework of history being attacked in our society? *Prompt students to think about each of the events and how they represent the heart of the battle over the authority of Scripture. For instance, the battle over the meaning of marriage is founded in creation. God created one man for one woman for life in the beginning, and society is trying to change that by attacking the biblical foundation. The Catastrophe is denied in favor of the rock layers forming over millions of years. The need for the Cross is challenged as people deny the Corruption that has impacted every human. There are many other attacks on biblical truth.*
- ? Who can name the Seven C's of History in order? *Consider using the Seven C's Creation Evangelism Cube or Seven C's Silicon Wristband as a memory aid.*
- ? Which of these seven events is challenged the most from within the church? *Answers will vary depending on the experiences of the students, but it is unlikely to be the last three C's. Attacks on the foundational book of Genesis are much more common than direct attacks on Christ and His work on the Cross. It is still true that any attack on these ideas is an attack on the authority of Scripture.*

Next week, we will revisit these seven events in history from a slightly different perspective.



MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 119:89–90 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.

We only have two more weeks working on this memory passage. I trust it is being hidden in your heart and reminds you of God's faithfulness throughout all of history. *Ask if there is anyone who is willing to recite the verse for the class.*



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Pray that we will trust God's Word as the history of the universe and our final authority.
- Pray that we will be able to defend God's Word as the truth we believe and trust.
- Pray that the students will know God's truth and repent of their sins so that they will one day rejoice with all the saints of God in the new heaven and earth that Jesus has promised us at the Consummation.

