September 1

Creation

The Fall

 Close your eyes for a moment and imagine yourself in a lush garden with all your needs supplied, when suddenly a smooth talking serpent or snake shows up unknown to Eve this was the beginning of the end of her happy home.

 Evil was represented here by a snake; evil presents itself in many ways in this life, bright lights, painted ladies, promise of good times through drugs and alcohol.

 When Eve said they couldn’t eat of the tree in the middle of the garden because they would die, the serpent replied – Read: Genesis 3:4, 5.

 Eve eyed the beautiful fruit and thought how good it would be to wise – Read: Genesis 3:6. We need to look beneath the glamour to the real character of temptation.

 The human race had fallen into sin and knew the presence of evil.

 Life is like that, when all is well and life is easy, we’re not satisfied we go looking for something new, adventuresome. We need to stay steadfast in the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Proverbs 15:3

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, never to be overcome by grand exteriors but use your guidance to choose what is best.

September 2

Sin

The Consequences

 That night when the Lord came to the Garden, Adam and Eve heard him they hid – Read: Genesis 3:9-13. Doesn’t this sound like us, blaming someone else for our mistakes and sins?

 The consequences for all involved: From Genesis 3:14-19 –

* The serpent would crawl on its belly
* There would be hate between people and snakes/between good and evil
* The woman would have pain in child bearing
* The woman would desire her husband
* He would rule over her
* For the man: The ground would be cursed and he would have to toil to have food to eat.
* Humans would return to dust.

 The most immediate consequence was being cast out of the garden!

 Never be led to believe that sin doesn’t have its consequences, because it does those consequences may not be felt immediately but there will be a time of reckoning.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Proverbs 14:9

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, never to willfully sin.

September 3

Out in the World

Cain and Abel

 Adam and Eve left the Garden and started a family. Cain and Abel were their first two sons.

 Cain became a farmer and Abel a shepherd. When it came time to make an offering to the Lord –Read: Genesis 4:3-5. This offering is for worship, not forgiveness of sin. Note that Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil but Abel brought the fat portions and the firstborn. Abel’s offering found favor with God but Cain’s did not. The attitude of giving was wrong. Cain became angry. In his anger and resentment Cain killed Abel.

 Although God knew – Read: Genesis 4:9. That is a good question for us as well, are we suppose to take care of our brother? Our “brother” meaning our brothers in the family of God, yes, we are never to stop caring and sharing our goods as well as ourselves for the needs of others.

 Cain was sent away from the presence of God to wander.

 If we’re out of the presence of the Lord we are homeless wanderers on this earth too.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Galatians 6:2

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to serve others in a way that will be pleasing to you. Thank-you for the shedding of your blood so my sins can be forgiven.

September 4

 Out in the World

Mankind’s Wickedness

 In the generations between Adam and Noah the people lived to a very old age for example – Read: Genesis 5:25-27. Because of the wickedness in the world – Genesis 6:3.

 God was originally pleased with all of his creation, but as time passed and sin became commonplace on the earth, God became disappointed with mankind – Read: Genesis 6:7.

 As we know not all mankind was destroyed but once again sin has become prevalent in the world God will once again cleanse the world with his second coming. When, where or how exactly things will go then we don’t know but we must keep ourselves cleansed from sin through forgiveness thus being prepared for His second coming.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 6:11

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to fill my life with good and not evil, to know your will and build my life with it in control. Thank-you for your care and concern for me.

September 5

A Chosen Man

Noah

 Through all the wickedness in the world, God was able to find one man that he was pleased with, Noah was that man. Read: Genesis 6:8, 9 note all the descriptions of how God found Noah – none of these imply sinless perfection.

 God told Noah of his plan – Read: Genesis 6:13-21. Picture if you can, a man and his family constructing a very large boat, on perfectly dry land and when asked, saying that God had instructed him to build this boat because there was a flood coming that would destroy everything. The ridicule and hate that Noah must have suffered, but he finished the ark as the Lord had told him to do.

 We too are subject to ridicule when we proclaim what God has done for us or that we are doing something that the Lord has told us to do. We have attributes that caused God to choose us to do His work, not unlike those of Noah, righteous, steadfast and obedient. Noah remained faithful, was saved through the flood to start new generations on earth. We must remain faithful to God and we will be saved through all eternity.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 6:22

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to do everything you command me to do, and give honor and glory only to you.

September 6

Labor Day

Unemployed

 Unemployment among the work force of this world is high. We should not worry if unemployed about our daily needs – Read: Matthew 6:31-33.

 In God’s work there is no unemployment – Read: John 4:35.When the fields are ready for harvest on the farm all hands are needed, the world is ready for harvest unto the Lord Jesus. Our hearts and hands are needed to spread the Word of God.

 Be a willing servant of God – Read I Chronicles 28:9.

 Labor Day is set aside to salute the American work force, but even if earthly unemployed; we are never out of God’s work!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 6:30

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord whether employed on earth or not, to do your work and your will while here on earth.

September 7

The Flood

In the Ark

 Noah finished the ark, took his family, the animals and food into the ark as God commanded.

 Imagine spending a year in a boat – Genesis 7:14-16.

 Think of all the food needed for just the animals! Noah and his family, eight in adults, must have had quite a job keeping all those animals fed and clean! The ark was very large, seventy-two feet longer than a football field, as wide as two standard houses and had three stories high.

 Noah probably didn’t know all that he was getting into when accepted God’s assignment to build the ark, but he remained faithful and saw it through.

 We complain when it rains a few days, imagine forty days of continual rain, than all those animals and being in the ark all that time, the Lord had to be with them all to peace among the animals and among the people.

 Our entire life is an assignment for God, we don’t know all that lies ahead of us, but we do know that if we are faithful God will take care of us.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 8:1

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, let me always know that you have not forgotten me. If anyone moves it isn’t you Lord away from me but me away from you.

August 8

After the Flood

The Covenant

 After the flood was over and the occupants of the ark were dispersed, Noah presented a sacrifice to God.

 God made a covenant with Noah and his sons – Read: Genesis 9:11-17.

 We’ve all seen lovely rainbows in the sky and it is a reminder that God keeps his word and is always with us.

 Noah’s sons were responsible for repopulating the world: Japheth and his descendants lived in the north and west regions of earth. Ham’s grandson, Nimrod, was the first conqueror. Ham’s son Canaan cursed by his grandfather was the beginning of the Canaanites. Shem’s descendants are the Hebrews. Read Genesis 10:32.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Genesis 9:19

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for the beauty of the rainbow and your everlasting promises.