

THE  
**PURPLE**  
BOOK

Biblical Foundations  
for Building  
Strong Disciples

**RICE BROOCKS**  
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*The Purple Book*

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## Preface

Anyone who wants God's best for their life must begin by building a strong foundation. Jesus said as much when he declared, "As for those who come to me and hear my words and put them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built" (Luke 6:47–48 TNIV). He then contrasted this wise man with one who was foolish, who heard but failed to act and found himself living in a house built on sand.

Both had their works tested by the storms of life—storms that come even more often in today's uncertain world. And in this real-life game of *Survivor*, only one person was left standing. The large number of damaged and/or collapsed lives in today's church is testimony to the pressing need to once again build strong foundations.

Several years ago I took a team of students to the island of Guam for an evangelistic outreach. Checking into my hotel, I was given what would later prove to be a prophetic sign. "Sir," the clerk said as she handed me my key, "your room is 911." Everyone joked about how I would be getting all the emergency calls.

Two days later, one of the century's worst earthquakes—8.2 on the Richter scale—jolted the island. Even more incredible, it lasted for sixty bone-chilling seconds. Inside room 911, the world seemed to explode. The television hurtled to the floor. Slammed from its perch, the sliding glass door shattered into a million pieces.

We ran for the fire escape only to find the route blocked. With nowhere else to go, we stood on the balcony, riding out the most terrifying minute of our lives. With each tremor came a growing certainty that the building would soon collapse. We were about to die!

Suddenly, just as it felt like the hotel would rip in half, all motion ceased. We found a way out and made our way to the street, singing the praises of our God. Never had I found a more humble audience and had an easier time telling strangers about the Lord!

The next day we toured the island to assess the damage. One of the images that stood out was a brand-new hotel now on the verge of collapse. Two of its floors had disintegrated, and the rest of the structure tilted like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Before the quake, it appeared perfectly sound. But the storm of this earthquake revealed what was really there beneath the surface. Because the foundations were faulty, the entire building had to be torn down.

Thankfully, the engineers who designed our hotel did not make the same mistakes. Though it cost them time and money, they took into account the fact that they were building in an earthquake zone, designing and building the foundations accordingly.

There is an important lesson in all of this. We, too, live along a "fault line." The tectonic plates of sin are pushing hard against us. From the Middle East to our

middle schools—everywhere—we see massive upheaval. If we are going to build lives that will stand, not just any foundation will do.

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.* — 1 Corinthians 3:11 (TNIV)

We must dig down deep and tear out everything that is hostile to Christ. We must hear his words—particularly those that deal with the very foundations of faith—and obey.

The book you hold in your hands will teach you these great foundational truths. It will help bring alive the words that the apostle Paul shared with a young man who was also seeking to build his life upon the rock.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* — 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (TNIV)

Most of us like the teaching part. But far fewer of us are thrilled about being rebuked or corrected. The fact is, however, that it is the latter that separates the winners from the losers. There is no way to be equipped for a good work—or a good life—without God's Word doing a deep work in us. And there is no way to be a disciple without being disciplined. Who has ever heard of a successful athlete, soldier, musician, or scientist who has not subjected themselves to a strict regimen of training and discipline? And so it must be for the children of light.

We are living in one of the greatest times in church history. Technology has drawn the world so tightly together that we can realistically hope to reach every nation and tribe and language with the Gospel. But with this great opportunity comes an even greater responsibility. It is vital that the faith we preach is the one that we live out—in all its powerful, life-and-nation-transforming glory.

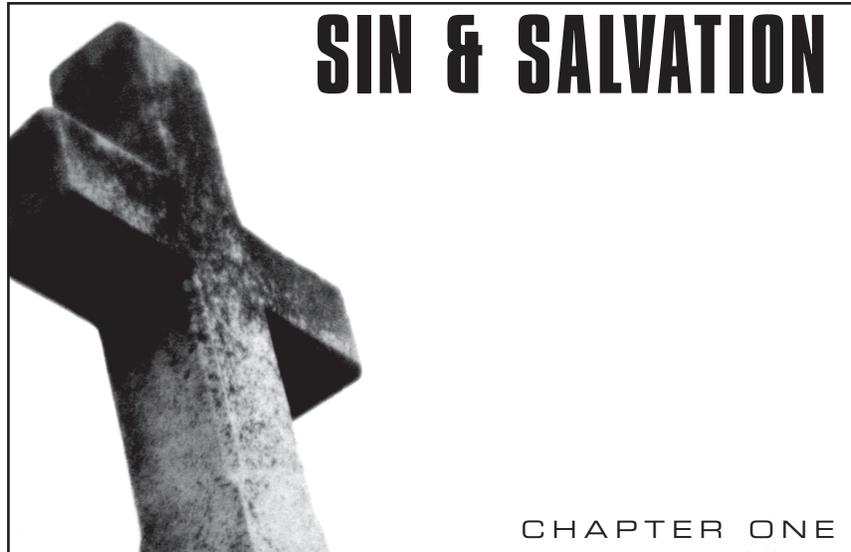
The early church turned their world upside down. They reached multitudes without jets, computers, the Internet—not even a sound system! What spoke the loudest was their lives. People saw the transforming power of Christ in the men and women who left everything to follow him. The fault lines that ran through the Roman Empire and the many earthquakes (both literal and spiritual) that followed, only tested their foundations and helped them stand when everything else around them came crashing down.

Let us pray for a new generation to come forth, pledging their all, doing their part to help turn the world back to righteousness.

*Rice Broocks*  
Co-founder, Every Nation Ministries



**EVERY NATION**



*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . . . Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. . . . All things have been created through him and for him.*

— Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16 (TNIV)



The earth, humanity — all that we see around us — had a beginning.

God declared each phase of creation “good” — until he created the first man, Adam, and said that it was “not good” for him to be alone.

So Eve, the first woman, was created, and the original couple was given everything to enjoy. They were only forbidden to eat the fruit of one tree: the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

The fatal decision that followed and its tragic results have affected all of human history. Humanity would pass down this fatal flaw, this inner corrup-

tion, from generation to generation. The power of evil and darkness would have prevailed — except for God’s intervention. His plan of salvation, of deliverance from evil’s power, began to unfold in that very Garden of Eden. *This* is the primary story of the entire Bible.

# LESSON 1

## THE ORIGINAL STORY

1. What was creation like in the beginning? Genesis 1

v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 12 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 21 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 25 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many commands did God give Adam and Eve? Genesis 2:17

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was God’s command to the first human beings? Genesis 2:16–17

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Read Genesis 3:1–13 to find out what happened next.

4. How did Adam and Eve respond to God’s command? Genesis 3:6–7

\_\_\_\_\_

5. In light of this, do you think you would have responded any differently?

\_\_\_\_\_

Think about what God attempted to shield Adam and Eve from: the knowledge of evil. What loving parents today don’t do everything possible to protect their children from dangerous material — on television, on the Internet or anywhere else?

6. Who tempted Eve? Genesis 3:1

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Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit — in essence saying to God, “We don’t need you or your rules.” They disobeyed God. They *sinned*.

7. How did Adam and Eve react after their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked? Genesis 3

v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 8 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Why do you think they reacted this way?

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9. How did God respond to Adam and Eve’s sin? Genesis 3:8–9

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Notice the two very different responses to humanity’s sin:

- Humanity covered up and hid from God.
- God sought humanity.

Things have not changed much since the beginning. After thousands of years and billions of people, human beings still hide from God — and God still seeks. This is the starting point for understanding salvation.

### Application & Reflection

What did you learn from this lesson? How will you apply it to your life?

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