



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known



GENESIS

| *Grace From The Beginning*





Genesis – a great place to start! For centuries Jews and Christians have started to read their Bibles right here. Genesis is a book of beginnings. It speaks of the origins of man, Israel, sin, and redemption. It introduces several biblical themes, the most important of which is God’s sovereign authorship of life.

In Genesis, the Almighty is depicted as Creator, Sustainer, and Judge of all things. He creates man from the ground and breathes life into his inanimate body. He provides the first couple with a home, a mission, and a blessing. Even after He judges their sin, the Lord remains a part of His people’s lives. Cain rebels, Abraham haggles, and Jacob deceives. Yet they individually discover that God is the One authoring the script, directing the play, guiding their steps.

WHY GENESIS?

We should love Genesis for the same reason we must love the Old Testament: it’s good exercise for spiritual health - exercise in godliness (1 Tim 4:8). Can a person grow spiritually without reading the OT? Maybe. But it’s much harder.

Some object to studying the OT, saying, “We no longer live under the Law, so why should we study what it says?” But in Rom. 15:4, and 2 Tim. 3:15–17, Paul showed that OT books like Genesis could still be instrumental in saving, sanctifying, and equipping the people of God.

In a world that blames God for disasters, yet credits luck or karma for life's blessings, we must be reminded that the Lord alone is the universal Master. Evil and **suffering** are not from His hand, yet He is mighty enough to work the worst of circumstances for our ultimate good and His own exalted glory. It is ours to choose whether we will cooperate with His unfolding redemptive drama—whether we will submit our lives to His will. Each step taken and word spoken should be a confession of who is crafting our life's story. In Genesis, we are confronted with the lives of the faithful and faithless, and are challenged to emulate the former, so that we might thereby please God (Heb. 11:6) and not remain in abject darkness (John 12:46).

If we truly want to draw closer to God's heart, we will allow our faith to be tested and refined in the fire of trial (1 Pet 1:6–7). In Genesis, we see that process played out in an up-close and uncomfortably familiar way. But the book also gives us a glimpse of God's matchless love, of His concern for the welfare of His people, and of His plan to redeem a fallen, wretched world. Genesis can strengthen our spiritual muscles; it can clarify our faulty vision and transform our nagging deficiencies.

AUTHOR

Internal literary evidence in each book of the Pentateuch supports the view that a single author wrote each. Moreover, a unity exists among the first five books of the Bible that would argue for the same author for all five. Moses is the traditional author of Genesis and was considered to be the author of the first five books of the Old Testament by the Israelites of the Old Testament and by most conservative evangelical scholars.

Because Genesis ends approximately 400 years before Moses lived, the material of this first book must have been “compiled” by Moses based on direct revelations, family tradition, and with reference to existing historical records. Nevertheless the resulting book is to be considered inspired by God and trustworthy in all that it affirms (Mat. 19:4-5).

DATE OF WRITING

The composition of the book must be within the lifetime of Moses during the time of the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites (around 1446-1406 B.C.).

THE AGE OF MANKIND

The events recorded in Genesis stretch historically from creation to Joseph's death. If the genealogies in Genesis have no gaps, then the creation of the world was approximately some 6,176 years ago. If there are gaps in the genealogies (more likely) then the time period could be made to fit with the more commonly accepted conservative evangelical view that mankind has been on earth around 10,000 years.

TITLE

The English title Genesis is a transliteration of a Greek word (*geneseos*) used in the Septuagint translation for the key Hebrew term (*toledot*) which means "the generations of/the histories of/the account of."

RECIPIENTS

The book was written initially for the Israelites who were part of the group that left Egypt and hoped to enter the Promised Land. The book would have encouraged the Israelites to trust their faithful, omnipotent God.

PURPOSE

The general purpose of Genesis is to provide an accurate record of the history of God's sovereign establishment of His covenant of blessing with His people. In Genesis we see God establishing His relationship with Abraham as a means of blessing the entire world.

The context of the Abrahamic covenant includes: the beginning and establishment of the earth and the human race, the fall of mankind into sin, the resulting judgments and the means by which God would seek to reestablish His rule over creation, the previous judgment of all corrupt humans and the blessing of obedient Noah (and his family), and then the choosing of Abraham through whom God's blessing would come to all nations. This material was designed to instruct Israel about its heritage of promise as well as to remind the nation of the absolute faithfulness of its God.

GENESIS VS. SCIENCE?

For the past century, Genesis has been a battlefield for biblical scholars. One Bible scholar compared Genesis 1-11 with a minefield that has to be crossed with great care. But the original purpose of Genesis was not to answer our 21st century inquiries, and we shouldn't read it like a science textbook. When we talk about Creation, we are dealing with events no person witnessed. They are beyond the human experience. They are the majestic works of God. It is unfair to expect the Bible to be a scientific textbook.

But Scripture and science need not live in enmity with one another as some presume they do, and should science ever disagree with Scripture, then the Bible is to be our ultimate authority.

It is, after all, the revealed Word of God. It is sad that those who claim to know Christ feel the need to subject His words to science's claims, or to expect every phenomenon in Scripture to have a scientific explanation. Science might be able to explain the Flood or the destruction of Sodom, but it will never be able to explain a virgin birth or an empty tomb. Science never died for my sins, and when the Son of Man returns in His unparalleled glory to be marveled at by all the nations and takes His Bride home, to what will science attribute that great day?

We have no biblical reason not to take Moses literally in Genesis chapters 1-2 when he claims that God created the universe in six days and then rested. Nor do we have any biblical reason to doubt the historicity of Adam and Eve or the Fall. We cannot be dogmatic when divine revelation does not permit us to be so, yet just as Moses wrote to combat the lies of ancient paganism, he also left evidence to expose Darwin's deception.

In writing Genesis, especially chapters 1-2, it was not the primary purpose of Moses to refute error. More than anything, Moses wanted Israel's God to be exalted as Lord of all. This is what the Bible is all about. This is what we should be about! All things were created by God's word, are sustained by His power, and work to His glory (Rom 11:36). We need God as a play needs a playwright, or a masterpiece needs a master craftsman. To those who live within His boundaries, the Lord provides blessing and life, but to those who do not, curses and death. More than a science lecture or a polemic against paganism, Genesis was meant to publicize the majesty and mercy of God.

OUTLINE OF GENESIS

THE CREATION OF HEAVEN AND EARTH (1:1–2:3)

1. Creator and Creation (1:1–2)
2. Six Days of Creation (1:3–31)
3. Seventh Day—Day of Consecration (2:1–3)

THE GARDEN OF EDEN (2:4–3:24)

1. The Man and Woman in the Garden (2:4–25)
2. The Fall of Mankind (3:1–24)

ADAM AND EVE'S FAMILY OUTSIDE THE GARDEN (4:1–26)

ADAM'S FAMILY TREE (5:1–32)

1. Introduction: Creation and Blessing (5:1–2)
2. "Image of God" from Adam to Noah (5:3–32)

PROCREATION AND PERVERSION (6:1–8)

THE STORY OF NOAH (6:9–9:29)

1. Righteous Noah, the Waves of Judgment and the Ark of Promise (6:9–8:14)
2. The Word of Promise (8:15–22)
3. Covenant with the New World (9:1–17)
4. Noah's Sons and Future Blessing (9:18–29)

THE NATIONS AND THE TOWER OF BABEL (10:1–11:9)

The Table of the Nations (10:1–32)

The Tower of Babel (11:1–9)

THE FAMILY HISTORY OF SHEM (11:10–26)

1. Shem "After the Flood" (11:10–11)
2. Shem's Sons (11:12–26)

THE STORY OF ABRAHAM (11:27–25:11)

The Call of Abram (11:27–12:9)

Abram in Egypt (12:10–20)

Abram and Lot Separate (13:1–18)

Abram Rescues Lot (14:1–24)

The Covenant Promise (15:1–21)

THE BIRTH OF ISHMAEL (16:1–16)

THE COVENANT OF CIRCUMCISION (17:1–27)

THE OVERTHROW OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH (18:1–19:38)

SARAH AND ABIMELECH (20:1–18)

ISAAC DISPLACES ISHMAEL (21:1–21)

COVENANT WITH ABIMELECH (21:22–34)

THE TESTING OF ABRAHAM (22:1–19)

THE GENEALOGY OF REBEKAH (22:20–24)

PURCHASE OF BURIAL GROUND (23:1–20)

THE BETROTHAL OF REBEKAH (24:1–67)

THE DEATH OF ABRAHAM (25:1–11)

THE FAMILY HISTORY OF ISHMAEL (25:12–18)

THE STORY OF ISAAC (25:19–35:29)

First Encounters of Jacob and Esau (25:19–34)

Isaac and the Philistines (26:1–33)

Jacob Cheats Esau out of His Blessing (26:34–28:9)

Jacob Meets God at Bethel (28:10–22)

Jacob Arrives at Laban's House (29:1–14)

Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel (29:15–30)

The Birth of Jacob's Sons (29:31–30:24)

Jacob Outwits Laban (30)

Jacob Leaves Laban (31)

Jacob Returns Esau's Blessing (32–33:20)

Dinah and the Hivites (34:1–31)

Journey's End for Jacob and Isaac (35:1–29)

THE FAMILY HISTORY OF ESAU (36)

THE STORY OF JOSEPH (37–50:26)

Joseph Is Sold into Egypt (37–36)

Tamar and Judah (38:1–30)

Joseph and Potiphar (39:1–20)

Joseph in Prison (39:21–40:23)

Joseph in the Palace (41:1–57)

Joseph's Brothers Visit Egypt (42:1–45:28)

Jacob's Family Moves to Egypt (46:1–47:31)

The Last Days of Jacob and Joseph (48:1–50:26)



FINAL THOUGHTS

Join this amazing journey through this “book of beginnings” to when the world was an infant and our common ancestors were learning to walk with the Lord. Listen to their stories. Celebrate their victories. Agonize their failures. And may your faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob deepen as He equips you for every good work.

Main References:

- 1) *Wenham, Gordon J.*; Genesis: Word Biblical Commentary, 1987
- 2) *Hamilton, Victor P.*; The Book of Genesis: New International Commentary on the OT, 1990
- 3) *Mathews, Kenneth A.*; Genesis: New American Commentary, 1996
- 4) *Sailhamer, John H.*; Genesis: Expositor’s Bible Commentary, 1990
- 5) *Walvoord, John F., Zuck, Roy B.*; The Bible Knowledge Commentary. 1983
- 6) *Keil, Carl F. & Delitzsch, Franz.*; Commentary on the Old Testament. 2002
- 7) *MacArthur, John J.*; The MacArthur Study Bible. 1997

GENESIS Series
Lesson 1

Creator and Creation
Genesis 1:1-2

☞ **WELCOME**

A Time for **Assembly**: *Introduction* to gather together through ice breaker.
(10 minutes)

For Starting Communication:

Describe your birthplace, that is, your place of origin.

⏏ **WORSHIP**

A Time for **Adoration**: *Inspiration* to worship God through invocation, thanksgiving, and reading Scripture.
(25 minutes)

Read Psalm 19: 1-4. Pray together, expressing praises to God for His wondrous creation, and thanking Him for His provision of resources through His creation.

Suggested Songs:

“This is My Father’s World” Hymn
“Only a God Like You” Tommy Walker

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-2

⏏ **WORD**

A Time for **Admonition**: *Instruction* to communicate one’s investigation of the story (content), interpretation based on the setting (context), and integration of the two for the spiritual truth (concept).
(50 minutes)

1. What does “Genesis”, the title of the book, mean? What is the purpose of the book?
2. What does the Bible (Genesis 1:1) declare with regards to the creation of the earth?
3. What does the phrase “God created the heavens and the earth” declare as truth?
4. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the creation of the world (v.2)? Read Isaiah 31:5.
5. How is the earth described as initially created by God?

⇒ WALK

A Time for **Accountability**: *Invitation* to apply the implication of the Scripture (connect), implementation of a specific action (conduct), and intercession for the saints/seekers (concern).
(about 35 minutes)

1. What are the characteristics of God that you can glean from Genesis 1:1-2?
2. As we realize that this world is God's creation, what will be your attitude towards it?
3. How can the group pray for you? Share now your personal needs or concerns with your accountability and prayer partners. These may include attitudes that need to be changed and specific actions to be done in obedience to God's Word. As you intercede for each other ("saints"), pray also for others outside the group who need to know Jesus ("seekers").

References:

Boice, James Montgomery. *Genesis Volume 1*. Baker Books. Paperback edition 2006.

Guzik, David. *Genesis Commentary* 2013.

Life Application Study Bible. Zondervan and Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 1997.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary Volume 2. "Genesis" Frank Gaebelein, Gen. ed. The Zondervan Corp. 1990.