

Book Study -- GENESIS

A tool to help with reading the Bible.



Produced by XA Denton Chi Alpha | UNT & TWU

Summary, provided by biblestudytools.com

Genesis speaks of beginnings -- of the heavens and the earth, of light and darkness, of seas and skies, of land and vegetation, of sun and moon and stars, of sea and air and land animals, of human beings (made in God's own image, the climax of his creative activity), of marriage and family, of society and civilization, of sin and redemption. The list could go on and on. A key word in Genesis is "account," which also serves to divide the book into its ten major parts (see Literary Features and Literary Outline) and which includes such concepts as birth, genealogy and history.

The book of Genesis is foundational to the understanding of the rest of the Bible. Its message is rich and complex, and listing its main elements gives a succinct outline of the Biblical message as a whole. It is supremely a book that speaks about relationships, highlighting those between God and his creation, between God and humankind, and between human

beings. It is thoroughly monotheistic, taking for granted that there is only one God worthy of the name and opposing the ideas that there are many gods (polytheism), that there is no god at all (atheism) and that everything is divine (pantheism). It clearly teaches that the one true God is sovereign over all that exists (i.e., his entire creation), and that he often exercises his unlimited freedom to overturn human customs, traditions and plans. It introduces us to the way in which God initiates and makes covenants with his chosen people, pledging his love and faithfulness to them and calling them to promise theirs to him. It establishes sacrifice as the substitution of life for life (ch. 22). It gives us the first hint of God's provision for redemption from the forces of evil (compare 3:15 with Ro 16:17-20) and contains the oldest and most profound statement concerning the significance of faith (15:6; see note there). More than half of Heb 11 -- a NT list of the faithful -- refers to characters in Genesis.

Author: Moses, according to Jewish tradition

Date: Uncertain, perhaps 1450-1410 B.C.

Purpose: To show how the world and everything in it came about and to show God's desire to have a people set apart to worship him.

Themes: Origin of the world, humanity, sin, and the nation of Israel; the sovereignty and trustworthiness of God; obedience and blessing.

Descriptions provided by Tyndale's New Living Translation Bible book preface

Reading Checklist:

Chapter 1: ____		
Chapter 2: ____	Chapter 19: ____	Chapter 36: ____
Chapter 3: ____	Chapter 20: ____	Chapter 37: ____
Chapter 4: ____	Chapter 21: ____	Chapter 38: ____
Chapter 5: ____	Chapter 22: ____	Chapter 39: ____
Chapter 6: ____	Chapter 23: ____	Chapter 40: ____
Chapter 7: ____	Chapter 24: ____	Chapter 41: ____
Chapter 8: ____	Chapter 25: ____	Chapter 42: ____
Chapter 9: ____	Chapter 26: ____	Chapter 43: ____
Chapter 10: ____	Chapter 27: ____	Chapter 44: ____
Chapter 11: ____	Chapter 28: ____	Chapter 45: ____
Chapter 12: ____	Chapter 29: ____	Chapter 46: ____
Chapter 13: ____	Chapter 30: ____	Chapter 47: ____
Chapter 14: ____	Chapter 31: ____	Chapter 48: ____
Chapter 15: ____	Chapter 32: ____	Chapter 49: ____
Chapter 16: ____	Chapter 33: ____	Chapter 50: ____
Chapter 17: ____	Chapter 34: ____	
Chapter 18: ____	Chapter 35: ____	

Genesis chapters 1-11

Translated as 'origin' from Greek, the Book of Genesis sets the stage for the redemptive storyline of the Bible. The story opens with God confronting chaos and disorder to bring order and beauty in creation. Humans are formed and appointed to participate in God's divine rule of the universe. As his representatives, humanity can choose to trust God for wisdom to rule, resulting in blessing for the entire world.

However, the humans choose to define good and evil on their own, which begins a destructive cycle that reintroduces chaos and disorder back into God's good world. The first eleven chapters of Genesis show a repeated theme of rebellion, from the garden to Cain and Abel, the "sons of God," the flood, and finally Babylon.

God continues to give humanity the chance to bring blessing into the world, and they continually choose their own way. Yet God promises, even in our rebellion, that a wounded victor will come who will defeat evil at its source. It's this plan that God sets into motion beginning in Genesis 12.

Milestones:

Creation

- The Book of Genesis opens with God creating the heavens, the earth, and all life. He creates humans in his own image and rests in the goodness of what he has created.

Garden of Eden

- God places Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, depicted as the perfect unity of heaven and earth. God blesses them and appoints them to rule the earth as his representatives.

The Rebellion

- Instead of trusting God for wisdom to rule, humans listen to the voice of a serpent and take good and bad into their own hands. Sin and its consequences are introduced into the world, yet God promises a wounded redeemer will come.

The Flood

- Humanity and spiritual evil proliferate across the earth, spreading abundant violence. God floods the earth, yet he saves Noah and his family. God reinstates his covenant with Noah. Yet Noah also ends up naked and ashamed in a garden.

Scattering of Nations

- Instead of filling the earth as God commissioned, humanity comes together to exalt themselves in Babylon. In response, God confuses their language and scatters them across the earth.

Chapters 1-3: The creation of the world and humanity / The Fall of Adam and Eve

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

From what you read, what is something that you feel like God is showing you at this moment?

What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Chapters 4-9: Fallen Humanity

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

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Additional Notes:

Chapters 9-11: Spread of humanity around the world.

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What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Genesis chapters 12-50

In chapters 1-11, the book of Genesis recounts God's good world and humanity's repeated rebellion. How will God restore blessing to the world? We find the answer in the family of Abraham.

God makes a covenant with Abraham, saying that all the nations will be blessed through his family. The rest of the book of Genesis traces this story through four generations. In each generation we see human failure paired with God's commitment to rescue and bless. As the story of Joseph summarizes at the end, "You planned this for evil, but God planned it for good, to save many lives" (Gen 50:20).

As the book of Genesis closes, we see a promise of a king through the line of Judah who will be king over the nations and will restore blessing to the world (Gen 49:8-13). It's this promise that will find its fulfillment in Israel's Messiah.

Milestones:

Abraham

- God promises to bless and multiply Abraham's family to be a blessing. Abraham fails along the way but learns to trust God's promise.

Isaac and Jacob

- Abraham's son Isaac has twin boys—Jacob and Esau. Jacob steals Esau's birthright, is later deceived himself, and eventually is renamed "Israel" (one who wrestles with God).

Jacob's Sons

- Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, is hated by his brother and sold into slavery in Egypt. God uses the situation to save Jacob's family and many others from famine.

Jacob's Blessing

- At the end of his life, Jacob blesses his sons and foresees a king from Judah's line who will ultimately fulfill God's promise to Abraham.

Chapters 12-16: Life of Abraham (part 1)

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What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Chapters 17-21: Life of Abraham (part 2)

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

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What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Chapters 22-25: Life of Abraham (part 3)

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

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What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Chapters 26-29: Life of Isaac and his sons, Jacob and Esau (part 1)

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

From what you read, what is something that you feel like God is showing you at this moment?

What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Chapters 30-33: Life of Isaac and his sons, Jacob and Esau (part 2)

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

From what you read, what is something that you feel like God is showing you at this moment?

What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Chapters 34-36: Life of Isaac and his sons, Jacob and Esau (part 3)

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

From what you read, what is something that you feel like God is showing you at this moment?

What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Chapters 37-40: Life of Joseph (part 1)

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

From what you read, what is something that you feel like God is showing you at this moment?

What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Chapters 41-45: Life of Joseph (part 2)

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

From what you read, what is something that you feel like God is showing you at this moment?

What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Chapters 46-50: Life of Joseph (part 3)

What are two things that you noticed about God's character in this section?

From what you read, what is something that you feel like God is showing you at this moment?

What is something that you learned or were challenged by that you can apply to your life?

What is something you read in this passage that you did not previously know or understand?

Additional Notes:

Next, pick up one of these booklets from the XA store.

1. *Genesis* - 50 chapters
2. *The Torah* (Exodus - Deuteronomy) - 133 chapters
3. *Joshua and Judges* - 45 chapters
4. *Ruth and Esther* - 14 chapters
5. *The Kings* (1 Sam - 2 Chronicles) - 177 chapters
6. *After Babylon* (Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel) - 35 chapters
7. *Psalms* - 150 Psalms
8. *Poetry* (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs) - 93 chapters
9. *Isaiah & Ezekiel* - 110 chapters
10. *Jeremiah and Lamentations* - 57 chapters
11. *Minor Prophets, Pre-Exile* - 43 chapters
 - (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk)
12. *Minor Prophets, Post-Exile* - 24 chapters
 - (Zephaniah, Obadiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)
13. *Synoptic Gospels* (Matthew, Mark, Luke) - 68 chapters
14. *John* - 21 chapters
15. *Acts* - 28 chapters
16. *Paul's Letters to churches* - 59 chapters
 - (Romans, 1 & 2 Cor., Galatians, 1 & 2 Thes.)
17. *Paul's Prison Epistles* - 15 chapters
 - (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon)
18. *Paul's Letters to people* (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus) - 13 chapters
19. *Apostle's Letters* (Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 2 3 John, Jude) - 34 chapters
20. *Revelation* - 22 chapters