

Genesis

The word genesis means "beginning or origin". It is not the purpose of Genesis to give a detailed account of how God created everything, but just to present a general outline in a single chapter with a few basic details. The purpose is not to tell us HOW but WHO.

Outline of the Book

1. Mankind in General (1-11)
 - Creation (1-2)
 - The Fall of Man (3-4)
 - Noah and the Flood (5-10)
 - The Tower of Babel (11)

2. The Patriarchs of Israel (12-50)
 - Abraham (12-25)
 - Isaac (21-35)
 - Jacob (25-49)
 - Joseph (30-50)

Creation (1-2)

No theologian or scientist can improve on the introduction to the account of creation - "In the beginning God". In these 2 chapters we are introduced to the most common names for our God:

- **Elohim (translated God)** – means infinite strength and absolute faithfulness. He is the God who created the universe and is all powerful, all knowing, and all loving

- **Jehovah (translated LORD)** – is used anytime God is dealing with His people. It brings out the close and personal nature of our God

It is also important to note that the Hebrew word for day is Yom and does not necessarily mean a 24-hour period. It may also be translated as time or age.

The Fall of Man (3-4)

1. **The Temptation** – God is not the creator of sin, nor does He tempt men to sin. Temptation is the work of Satan (3:1-6)
2. **The Yielding** -Eve yielded to the temptation of Satan and in that moment the human race fell
3. **The Results** – Immediately there was a loss of innocence and glory and a sense of guilt. There was also a loss of the desire to fellowship with God. Notice that neither Adam nor Eve wanted to take the blame.
4. **The Grace of God**
 - God sought out Adam (9)

- The Promise of a Redeemer (3:15) – is the first reference in the Bible to the coming Messiah
- The first Sacrifice is made (21)

Noah and the Flood (5-10)

This section presents the account of the flood and emphasizes the faith of Noah. We should have an understanding of what happened in Noah's day, if we are to know the coming of the Lord is near. Compare Noah's time with Matthew 24:37-39.

The Tower of Babel (11)

After the flood, God commanded the people to replenish the earth, but they had other plans and so God caused them to speak in different languages in order to spread them out over the earth as He first intended

Abraham (12-25)

This is one of the great adventures of the Bible. God used this one man to begin the fulfillment of His promise in Genesis 3:15 to send a Savior to the world. The seven promises to Abraham are found in 12:2-3 and Acts 7:3.

Isaac (21-35)

Isaac is quite often overlooked in a study of Genesis because his life was less exciting than the other patriarchs even though he lived longer than any of them. Isaac was a beloved and obedient son who had twin boys Esau and Jacob. God confirmed with Isaac the covenant he had made with his father Abraham (26:2-5).

Jacob (25-49)

Isaac had a son name Jacob who was the father of 12 sons. These became the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel (49:28). Israel is the name that God gave to Jacob (32:28) and subsequently to the entire nation.

The 12 Sons of Jacob and Tribes of Israel

Reuben	Juday	Gad	Zebulon
Simeon	Dan	Asher	Josheph
Levi	Naphtali	Issachar	Benjamin

Joseph (30-50)

This is one of the most suspenseful biographies in the Bible. Joseph was sold for 20 pieces of silver. He was taken to Egypt as a slave where he was first humiliated and then later exalted. There is not one negative word about Joseph in the entire story. Joseph is also the most complete picture or shadow of Christ in the Old Testament:

- Both were beloved by their fathers (Gen. 37:3, Matt. 3:17)
- Both were shepherds (Gen 37:3, John 19:11-14)
- Both were severely tempted (Gen 39:7, Matt. 4:1)
- Both were taken to Egypt (Gen. 37:26, Matt. 2:14-15)
- Both were sold for the price of a slave (Gen 37:28, Matt. 26:15)

- Both were highly exalted for their suffering (Gen. 41:41, Phil. 2:9-10)

The book of Genesis concludes with the death of Joseph. This book begins in a garden and ends in a graveyard. What a revealing statement about the consequences of sin! Genesis shows that God first came to create and then to do a work of redemption. To create, he only had to speak. To redeem His fallen creation, He had to suffer. He made many by His own breath; He saves him by His own blood!