

Journey Of A Lifetime



LESSON 2 . . . THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Genesis gets its name by a common book-naming principle in the Bible. This is an important principle to remember as we study the Bible, because in many instances the name of the book reveals what the book is about. This naming principle is used in all five of the books of Moses. *Genesis* deals with the beginning of such things as matter, the universe, animal and plant life, man, sin, and the Hebrew race. The word *genesis* means “beginning or origin.” Therefore, it is a fitting name for the first book of the Bible.

Notes

It is not the purpose of *Genesis* to give a detailed account of how God created everything but to present a general outline followed by a few basic facts. The purpose is not to tell us HOW but WHO.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK:

- I. MANKIND IN GENERAL (chps. 1-11)**
 - A. The Creation (1-2)
 - B. The Fall of Man (3-4)
 - C. Noah and the Flood (5-10)
 - D. The Tower of Babel (11)

- II. THE PATRIARCHS OF ISRAEL (chps. 12-50)**
 - A. The Life of Abraham (12-25)
 - B. The Life of Isaac (21-35)
 - C. The Life of Jacob (25-49)
 - D. The Life of Joseph (30-50)

I. MANKIND IN GENERAL (chps. 1-11)

A. The Creation (chps. 1-2). The depth and fullness of these two chapters could never be explained in one brief lesson, so we will simply look at the major truths.

(1) *The Creator.* No theologian or scientist can improve on the introduction to the account of creation, *In the beginning God . . .* The name for God in Genesis 1 is *Elohim* (el-oh-heem), which means “infinite strength and absolute faithfulness.” In Genesis 2 we are introduced to the word *LORD*, which comes from the Hebrew word *Jehovah*.

Often in the Bible the Holy Spirit uses the name *Elohim* (God) to refer to God when He is dealing with the physical universe. The name *Elohim* is always translated: capital *G*, small *o*, and small *d*. When you see the word *God* in the OT, it is from the Hebrew word *Elohim*.

However, when God is dealing with His people, the word *Jehovah* (translated *LORD*—all capitals) is used. The story of Noah is a good illustration of this. Read Genesis 6:22 and 7:1 & 16, and note the two names used for God. When God is dealing with the animals, the name *Elohim* is used, but it is *Jehovah* who shuts Noah in the ark. God’s relationship with His people is different from His relationship with all other creation.

(2) *The Seven Days of Creation*. The Hebrew word for *day* in Genesis 1 is *Yom* and does not necessarily mean a period of 24 hours, but is also translated *time, age, perpetually*, etc. in the Bible. God could have created the universe through a process that took millions of years, or He could have simply spoken all creation into being instantly.



Some people have difficulty accepting instantaneous creation. However, when you ask most people how old Adam was when God created him, they will probably answer, “30” or “35”. If God created Adam with age already in him, couldn’t He have done the same with the earth, moon, stars, and all the universe? It is without question an omniscient, omnipotent God could create anything or everything at this very moment, and then under scientific examination, that creation could appear to be millions or billions of years old. God can create not only matter and time, but **age** as well.

First Day: Light created (1:3-5)

Second Day: _____ (1:6-8)

Third Day: Land and plants created (1:9-13)

Fourth Day: Cosmic light becomes the sun and stars (1:14-19)

Fifth Day: _____ (1:20-23)

Sixth Day: Animals and man created (1:24-31)

Seventh Day: _____ (2:2-3)

B. The Fall of Man (chps. 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 Sin*. Eve yields to the temptation of Satan, she involves Adam, and the human race falls.

(3) *The Results*. Immediately there is a loss of innocence and glory, replaced by a sense of guilt. There is also a loss of desire to fellowship with God. Notice neither Adam nor Eve wants to take the blame. Adam blames Eve, and Eve blames the serpent, but God holds them all responsible (3:17-19).



(4) *The Promise of a Redeemer*. Genesis 3:15 is the first reference in the Bible to the coming Messiah.

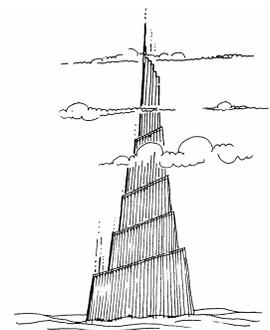
(5) *The Progression of Sin*. In chapter 4 we find anger, jealousy, hatred, and finally murder when _____ kills _____ (4:8). Sin leads to more sin.

C. Noah and the Flood (chps. 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 when the coming of our Lord is near.

What are the similarities between the days of Noah and the days preceding the coming of Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:37-39)?

D. The Tower of Babel (chp. 11). After the flood God commands the people to *replenish the earth* (9:1), but they have other plans. What do the people do (11:1-4)?

To force the people to spread out over the earth as He first intended, God causes them to speak in different languages. The word *babel* means "confusion."



II. THE PATRIARCHS OF ISRAEL (chps. 12-50)

A. The Life of Abraham (chps. 12-25). Now we come to one of the great adventures of the Bible—Abraham's walk with God. God uses this man to begin the fulfillment of His promise in Genesis 3:15 to send a Savior to the world.

What does God promise to do through this one man and his descendants (Genesis 12:2-3)?

B. The Life Of Isaac (chps. 21-35). Isaac is Abraham's son of promise through his wife Sarah. Ishmael is his first son through the servant Hagar. Ishmael is the result of a lapse of faith on the part of Abraham and Sarah. In Genesis 22:1-14 Abraham offers Isaac as a sacrifice on Mt. Moriah. Arabs believe he offered Ishmael because they are descendants of Ishmael. Jews are descendants of Isaac. Both Jews and Arabs are descendants of Abraham.



Isaac is quite often overlooked in a study of *Genesis* because his life is less exciting than the other patriarchs, even though he lives longer than any of them. God confirms with Isaac the covenant He has made with his father Abraham (26:2-5).

C. The Life of Jacob (chps. 25-49). Isaac has a son named Jacob, who becomes the father of twelve sons:

Reuben	_____	Gad	Zebulon
Simeon	Dan	_____	Joseph
Levi	Naphtali	Issachar	_____

These become the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. *Israel* is the name God gives to Jacob (32:28) and subsequently, to the Jewish nation. Through which tribe does Christ come (Genesis 49:10, Matthew 1:1-2, & Luke 3:33)?

D. The Life of Joseph (chps. 30-50). The story of Joseph, one of the twelve sons of Jacob, is one of the most suspenseful biographies in the Bible. Read Genesis 45:4-8 and 50:18-20, and explain how Joseph's life reveals the supremacy of God and His care of His own (see also Romans 8:28):

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 on the consequences of sin!!!