

From the Garden to Glory

Genesis

Author: Moses (commonly accepted)

Timeline: c. 4004 - 1804 B.C.

Location: Garden of Eden
Canaan
Egypt

Category: Historical
Pentateuch

Theme: Origins - Man's Sin and God's Salvation

Overview:

Genesis (Greek for “Beginning”), called Bereshith by the Jews (Hebrew for “In the beginning”), is well named. The book of Genesis gives the only true account of creation by the only One who was there—the Creator! Genesis is *history*. Like all history, it is interpretive. It is *theological* history, or facts narrated in a framework of the divine plan. It has been well said that “history is His story.”

In the first eleven chapters, through the writing of Moses, the Holy Spirit traces the beginnings of man, woman, marriage, the home, sin, sacrifices, cities, trade, agriculture, music, worship, languages, and the races and nations of the world.

The remainder of Genesis traces the family of Abraham and his descendants: Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Introduction:

As we begin the book of "Beginnings" consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. What would you like to learn this year about the Old Testament?
2. What is your typical response to new beginnings: excitement, fear, worry, creating a plan, jumping in impulsively, other?
3. What "new beginnings" are you experiencing in your life right now? How do you feel about these?
4. Genesis 1:1 presents God as the Creator of the universe. When did you begin your relationship with the Lord? What did you most appreciate about Him then? What do you most appreciate about Him now?
5. How does knowing God as Creator cause you to worship and praise Him?
6. Think about all that the Lord has created. List five things for which you are especially grateful.

Creation

Read Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31; 2:7-22

1. The Amplified Bible translates Genesis 1:1 thusly: *"In the beginning God (prepared, formed, fashioned, and) created the heavens and the earth."*

A. Look up the following words in a dictionary and write their definitions.

Prepared:

Formed:

Fashioned:

Created:

B. Using these definitions, rewrite Genesis 1:1 in your own words.

2. Read Hebrews 11:3. How does this add to your understanding of Genesis 1:1? What does it mean to you to belong to a Creator God who "framed the worlds by His word?"
3. Look at Genesis 1:31. What was God's pronouncement concerning everything that He had made?
4. Look at Genesis 2:15. Work was considered important and good; it was God's plan for man even *before* the Fall. Where has God "put" you at this moment in time, and what is He directing you to "tend and keep" while you are there?

The Fall

Read Genesis 3:1-24

1. Look at verse 1-4. What techniques did the serpent use to convince Eve to disobey God?

2. What techniques does the enemy use to tempt you to disobey God? How do you protect yourself from falling prey to these snares? Be specific.
3. Look at verse 7-15. What were some of the consequences of disobedience? How did it impact Adam's and Eve's relationship with one another? How did it impact their relationship with God?
4. What are the specifics of the curse as it relates to women (v:16)? How do you see the effects of this curse in relationships between men and women today?

The Flood

Read Genesis 6:1-7; 7:7-24; 8:6-22; 9:1-16

1. Look at 6:5. How is man described?
2. Read James 1:13-15. What causes sin? What is the progression of sin described in these verses? All sin begins in the mind. How do you protect your mind? Be specific.
3. Look at 6:6-7. How did God feel about the condition of His creation and what was His response?
4. Look at 6:8, 6:22 and 7:5. Noah found favor in God's eyes. List the qualities and characteristics you see in Noah's life from these verses. What is God asking you to do at this point in your life? How are you responding?

The Beginning of Languages

Read Genesis 11:1-9

1. Look at verse 4. This plan seems to make sense from a human perspective. What was the problem with this plan?
2. Can you think of a time when you relied on "common sense" rather than seeking the Lord? What were the consequences?
3. Webster's defines *ambition* as "an ardent desire" or "a desire to achieve a particular end". What is the difference between godly ambition and worldly or fleshly ambition? How do you distinguish between the two in your own life?
4. Have you been attempting to promote yourself by erecting some "tower" of your own? Read Psalm 139:23-24 to the Lord as your prayer, and ask Him to uncover any impure ambition or motives. Confess anything He reveals, receive His forgiveness and walk in His grace.

The Abrahamic Call and Covenant

Read Genesis 12:1-9; 13:14-18; 15:1-21; 17:1-14; 22:1-19; 26:1-5; 28:10-15

1. Look at 12:1-3. God called Abram to leave his home and go to an unknown land. What has the Lord called you to leave? To what "new lands" has He called you? How have you been blessed by obeying Him in these areas?
2. Look up the word *covenant* in a dictionary and write the definition. It has been said that the Abrahamic Covenant was "unconditional, depending solely upon God who obligates Himself in grace to bring to pass the promised blessings." What does this mean?

3. Abraham erected an altar to God wherever he went. What is an altar? How do you build an altar to the Lord in your life?
4. Abraham was called a "friend of God." What does it mean to be a friend of God? In what ways are you a "friend of God"? How would you like to grow in this area?

The Story of Joseph

Read Genesis 37:1-36; Genesis 39 and 42

1. Why were Joseph's brothers jealous and envious of him?
2. Read Galatians 5:19-21. With what other sins are envy and jealousy linked in these verses? Why do you think God considers envy and jealousy such serious sins?
3. Look at 39:2. How has the Lord been with you during difficult times? How has He caused you to be successful?
4. Look at 39:8-9. What were Joseph's reasons for refusing to commit adultery with Potiphar's wife? What are your reasons for refusing to sin in the face of great temptation?

Jacob's Final Blessing

Read Genesis 49

1. What was Reuben's sin? What were the consequences? What does it mean to be unstable? How do you keep from being an "unstable" woman?

2. How did Jacob describe Simeon and Levi? How do you avoid anger and self-will in your own life? Be specific.

3. What did Jacob have to say about Issachar? How does industriousness characterize your life? How could you improve in this area?

4. Look at verse 28. What does it mean that Jacob "blessed each one according to his own blessing"? How has the Lord done this in your life?

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Genesis consider the following questions and write your answers:

1. What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?

2. What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?

3. List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

Praise and worship the Lord:

Confess an area of sin to the Lord:

Thank the Lord:

Ask for something from the Lord: