



CURRENT SERIES

INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY OF

GENESIS

Genesis means "origins" or "beginnings."

First book of Moses and the Bible, its 50 chapters are exceeded only by Psalms (150), Isaiah (66), Jeremiah (52).

Genesis summarizes human history for more than two millennia after creation (chs. 1-11), then focuses on Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph less than two millennia before Christ (chs. 12-50).

GENESIS OVERVIEW

Genesis can be divided into two main sections. The first part (chs. 1-11) serves as a prologue to the second part (chs. 12-50), the book's main event—God's sovereign work in Abraham's family to accomplish his good will for all nations.

Genesis is not merely a beginning; it provides the foundation for the rest of the Biblical narrative.

All great stories have a great beginning and the Bible is no exception. Genesis describes creation by God's divine word, rebellion by the human family, judgment and grace from the covenant Lord, election of Abraham's family and especially Jacob's descendants to embody and convey the message of salvation—all of these basic Biblical themes are soundly presented in the book of beginnings.

GENESIS ORIGINS

- universe, solar system, planet Earth (1:1-19)
- light, atmosphere, hydrosphere (1:2-8)
- plant and animal life (1:9-13, 20-25)
- human race (1:26-31; 2:7)
- work, agriculture (2:15; 4:2, 3, 20; 8:22)
- rest: the Sabbath (2:1-3)
- marriage, home, family (2:18-25; 4:1, 25)
- sin, suffering, death (3:1-4:15)
- arts and crafts (music, metallurgy, 4:21, 22)
- religion (4:26; 5:22-24; 6:8, 22)
- human government (9:6; 10:1-32)
- various languages (11:1-9)
- nation of Israel (12:1-3)

Epic is the story we find ourselves in; God's Story, our story. We encounter kings and queens, scribes and poets, beggars and thieves, fishermen and shepherds; ordinary people encountering an extraordinary God. In the Bible's pages we find a story that compels us to join in. It's a story that does not merely inform us, but transform us.



APPLICATION

Three basic questions form this section.

What does this story tell us about God?

God is the divine creator of life and all creation. He loves and cares for his creation. God was grieved by mankind's rebellion yet sought out to make a covenant with those who would follow him. The covenants that he initiated in Genesis reflect his determination to do good to mankind and hold them accountable: Adam and Eve (1:26-31; 2:15-17); Noah (9:1-17); Abraham (chs. 15, 17), Isaac (26:2-5), Jacob (28:10-22; 32:24-30; 35:9-15).

In all of this we see God's passionate resolve to be in relationship with us, despite all we do to the contrary.

WHAT IS MY STORY? (THOUGHTS) :

What does this story tell us about humanity?

Mankind was created in the image of God and lived in union with God until sin and rebellion entered through mankind's selfishness. This book tells us that mankind has grieved the heart of God, but that God still chose to love us and establish his covenant through Abraham and his descendants.

How do we apply this to our lives?

Through the people in the stories of Genesis, we see ourselves. We see people who were used by God despite their failures and doubts. We see people who had great faith and others who struggled to believe - despite evidence to the contrary. And we see our great God who is there in the midst of it all.