



WITH STUDY  
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GROWTH

# THE-BOOK-OF GENESIS



CONTEXT

A BIBLE STUDY JOURNAL

MEANING

THIS GUIDE TO THE BOOK OF  
GENESIS PROVIDES CONTEXT,  
KEY SCRIPTURES, AND A PLACE  
TO JOURNAL. READ THE BOOK  
OF GENESIS FOR YOURSELF AND  
WRITE DOWN ANYTHING YOU  
THINK GOD MIGHT BE TRYING TO  
TEACH YOU.

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CONTEXT **A BIBLE STUDY JOURNAL** MEANING



## WHAT IS IT?

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Its name means “origins” or “beginnings.” Genesis is also part of the first group of books in the Bible—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. This group is known by several names: the Torah (Hebrew for “Teaching”), the Pentateuch (Greek for “five tools”), or simply The Law. These five books are the foundation of both the Jewish and Christian faiths.

Genesis gives an account of all the beginnings. The beginnings you’ll read about in Genesis are:

- ▶ Universe
- ▶ Life
- ▶ Man & Woman
- ▶ Marriage & Family
- ▶ Sin & Suffering
- ▶ Sacrifice
- ▶ Death
- ▶ Salvation
- ▶ All the nations
- ▶ Israel

Genesis is beautifully designed and makes use of an ancient Hebrew writing tactic called “Chiasm” which blends parallelism with a build to a climax. Basically, it’s an elegant form of repetition, to point out major themes in the book. If you read Genesis out loud, you might notice this even more.

## WHY IS THIS BOOK SO IMPORTANT?

Genesis is the foundation of the rest of the Bible. All the other writings in scripture assume the knowledge and truth of the origins and explanations found in Genesis. If the Bible's a tree, Genesis is the trunk. None of the other 65 books can stand without it. If you want to understand the Bible's view on God, on life, and even on yourself—start in Genesis.

Genesis recounts the origins of the earth, its contents, and of humanity. Humans, made in the image of the Creator God, display his glory and are set apart for a relationship with Him. This book explains the origin of the Christian worldview on pain and suffering due to the sin that entered creation through the first humans and humanity's impending revolt and disobedience against God. The first 11 chapters of Genesis set up a snowballing deterioration of evil, sin, and wrath for humanity to which there is no answer or escape on their own.

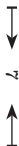
The other 39 chapters of the book of Genesis provide the foundation and beginning of God's answer, explaining the covenant with the nation of Israel originated in Abraham and his descendants who were chosen sovereignly by God out of all the other nations and made righteous by faith. In this book we see grace triumph through God's redemption which will echo throughout all of scripture.

## WHO WROTE IT?

Tradition says that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. Many scholars believe he may have had some source material for parts of Genesis or was given direct revelation by God. Moses was also the author and direct eyewitness for all that took place in the other four books of the Pentateuch. (Except for the part at the very end of Deuteronomy where it says that Moses died; it's assumed that Joshua added the ending of that book.)

## WHO WAS THE BOOK WRITTEN FOR?

Genesis (and the entire Torah / Pentateuch / Law) was written for the generation of ancient Israelites about to go into the Promised Land. These books challenged the Israelites to live faithfully, and receive the promises given generations before them.



## ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK:

<b>THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY</b> CHAPTERS 1-11	<b>THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL</b> CHAPTERS 12-50
CREATION, 1-2	ABRAHAM, 12-24
FALL, 3-5	ISAAC, 25-26
BLOOD, 6-9	JACOB, 27-36
BABEL, 10-11	JOSEPH, 37-50

# KEY FIGURES

MOST IMPORTANT

**God**

CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

**Adam &  
Eve**

THE FIRST MAN AND WOMAN.

**Noah**

THE ONLY FAITHFUL MAN OF HIS TIME.  
BUILT AN ARK.

**Abraham**

THE FATHER OF THE NATION OF  
ISRAEL. FORMERLY NAMED ABRAM.

**Issac**

ABRAHAM'S SON, MIRACULOUSLY  
BORN TO HIM AND HIS WIFE SARAH IN  
OLD AGE.

**Jacob**

ISAAC'S SON. TWIN OF ESAU. KIND  
OF A SCOUNDREL. WRESTLED WITH  
GOD AND WAS EVENTUALLY RENAMED  
ISRAEL.

**Joseph**

JACOB'S YOUNGEST AND FAVORITE  
SON. HAD A BROADWAY SHOW  
WRITTEN ABOUT HIM ("JOSEPH AND  
THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR  
DREAMCOAT," OBVS)



## KEY FIGURES

ALSO VERY IMPORTANT

**Cain**

ADAM AND EVE'S ELDEST. KILLED HIS YOUNGER BROTHER ABEL OUT OF JEALOUSY.

**Abel**

SON OF ADAM AND EVE, KILLED BY HIS OLDER BROTHER CAIN.

**Seth**

ADAM AND EVE'S THIRD SON. EVE NAMED HIM SETH TO SIGNIFY HE REPLACED ABEL.

**Enoch**

AN EARLY PATRIARCH. GENESIS SAYS THAT "GOD TOOK HIM," AND THE BOOK OF HEBREWS TELLS US ENOCH "DID NOT SEE DEATH."

**Lamech**

NOAH'S FATHER. ALSO MENTIONED IN JESUS' GENEALOGY. NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH ANOTHER LAMECH, ONE OF SETH'S SONS.

**Shem**

ONE OF NOAH'S BELIEVING SONS. THE BOOK OF LUKE MENTIONS JESUS AS A DESCENDANT OF SHEM.



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## KEY FIGURES

ALSO VERY IMPORTANT

**Ham**

NOAH'S SECOND SON. SAW NOAH PASSED OUT DRUNK AND TOLD HIS BROTHERS. NOAH WAS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

**Canaan**

HAM'S SON, NOAH'S GRANDSON. NOAH CURSED CANAAN BECAUSE OF WHAT HAM DID.

**Nimrod**

NOAH'S GREAT-GRANDSON. A MIGHTY RULER, THOUGHT TO HAVE BUILT THE TOWER OF BABEL (BUT IT DOESN'T SPECIFICALLY SAY THAT IN THE BIBLE).

**Ishmael**

ABRAHAM'S FIRSTBORN SON. BORN TO ABRAHAM'S SECOND WIFE HAGAR BECAUSE HIS FIRST WIFE SARAH COULDN'T CONCEIVE. LOTS OF FAMILY DRAMA HAPPENING THERE.

**Esau**

ISAAC'S OLDEST SON, JACOB'S TWIN. SUPER MANLY GUY. TRADED HIS BIRTHRIGHT TO JACOB FOR A HELP-ING OF STEW.

## KEY WORDS & PHRASES & SUB-PLOTS:

Watch for these repeated over and over! When you find these ideas, pay attention in order to enhance your understanding of both Genesis and the rest of scripture.

- ▶ “God said”
- ▶ Life
- ▶ Rest
- ▶ Good, Fruitful, Blessing
- ▶ Evil, Curse, Sin
- ▶ “This is the account of....”, Generations, seed
- ▶ Land

### Covenants -

With 1) Noah and 2) Abraham, whose is repeated to Isaac & Jacob and is God’s promised plan of redemption and blessing for all the earth as well as the land that is promised. This land—its battles and occupants—is a major theme in the rest of the Old Testament.

### Enmity -

God “put enmity between” first the serpent and humans (Adam and Eve). Through Genesis we see this enmity develop between individuals and families. Ultimately this grows and helps make sense of the wars between nations in the rest of scripture.



### **Choice of the Unexpected/Weak/Young -**

Throughout Genesis you encounter God bypassing the obvious choice; the oldest or strongest. He frequently chooses what is flawed, even regularly choosing barren women to bear the godly seed. Trust in God is more important than flaws and is the unifying factor of the godly seed.

### **Judah as leader -**

The long Joseph narrative establishes the theme of the tribe of Judah taking a leading role in Israel and protecting and providing for the others. It climaxes in Jacob's blessing of the twelve sons/tribes at the end of the book and links to the coming Davidic Kingdom in the rest of scripture.

### **Egypt & Canaan -**

Genesis explains how Israel ends up in the nation of Egypt from which God will rescue them in the book of Exodus. Both these nations become near neighbors of Israel and are linked to the genealogy of Noah's son, Ham. Both are found in constant conflict with Israel and play a major role through the Bible. In Genesis, you also learn the origin of the other nations that reappear throughout scripture; Moab, Ammon & Edom.



## **KEY QUOTES FROM GENESIS:**

These are key verses we are studying in the book of Genesis. These aren't the only ones, but they really help us get a grasp of the major parts of the story.

### **1:1-3**

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.**

1:26–28

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

2:7-8

then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

2:15, 24

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

6:5, 9

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

**21:6**

And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.”

**22:1–2, 14**

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

25:23, 34

And the Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.” Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

32:27–28

And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

33:4

But Esau ran to meet him  
and embraced him and fell  
on his neck and kissed him,  
and they wept.

41:41-42

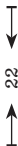
And Pharaoh said to Joseph,  
“See, I have set you over all  
the land of Egypt.” Then  
Pharaoh took his signet ring  
from his hand and put it on  
Joseph’s hand, and clothed  
him in garments of fine  
linen and put a gold chain  
about his neck.

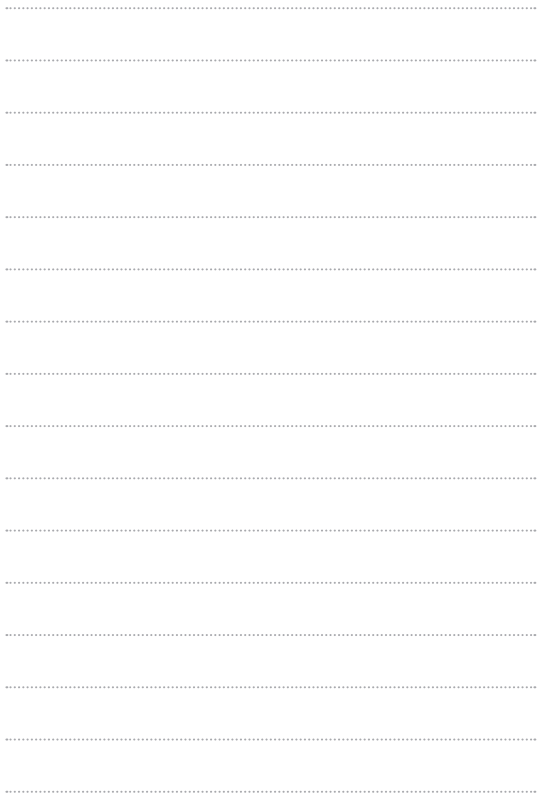
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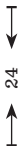
So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years. And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own. And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

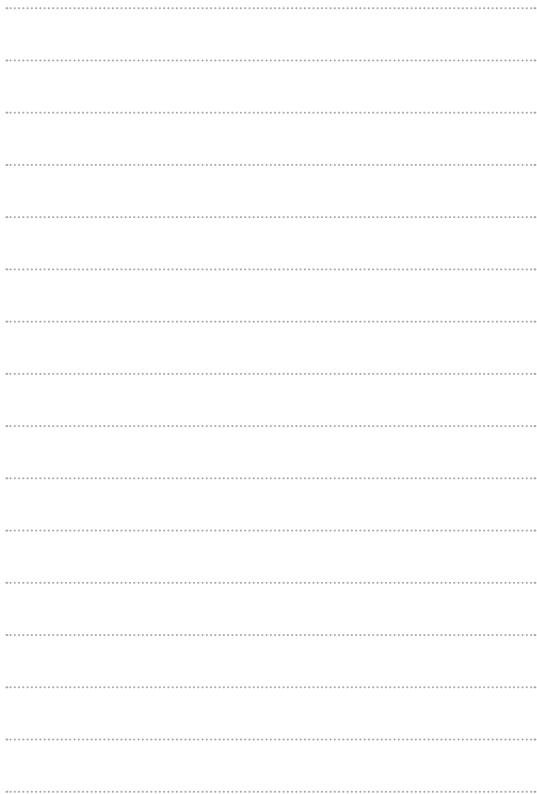




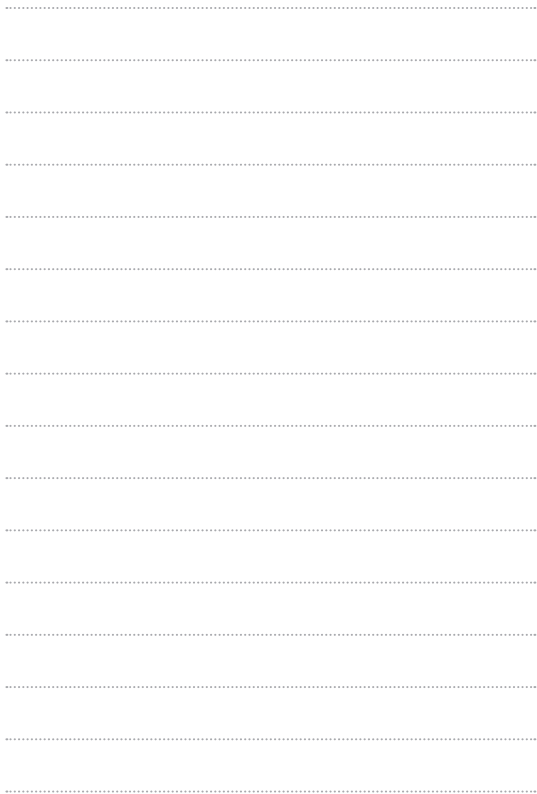


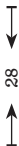






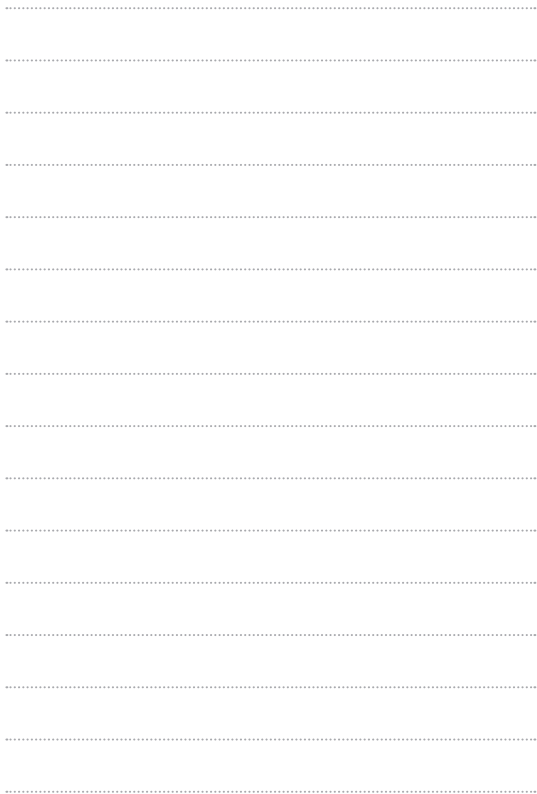




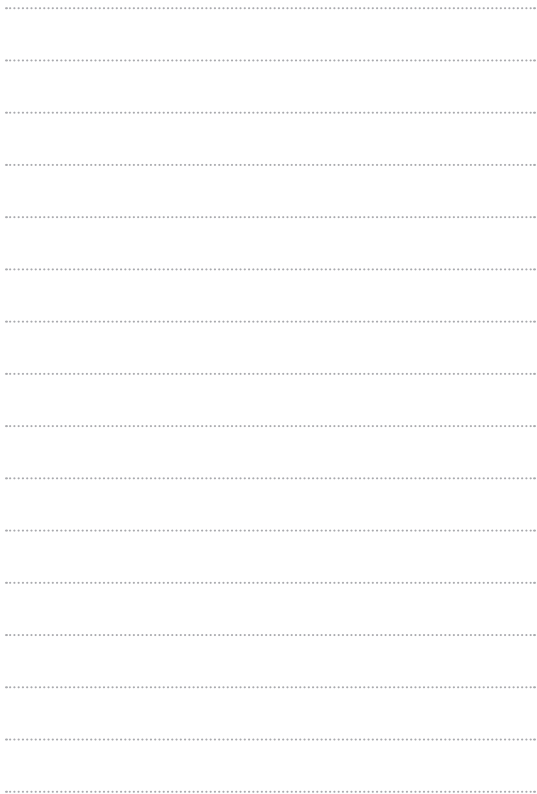


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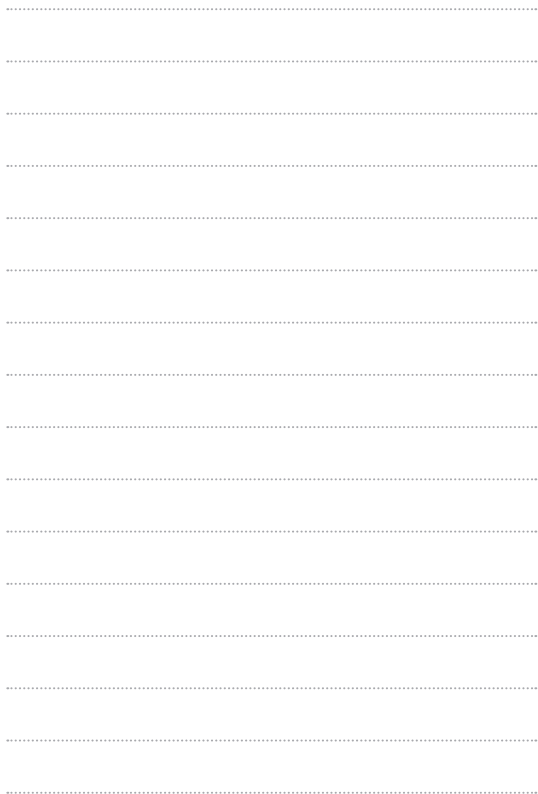


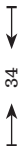














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