

# Genesis

What the Bible is All About



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## Introduction

The Bible is a permanent communication from God in that it is written down. It claims to be the revelation of God. Within its pages is an accurate description of the human condition. We do not worship the Bible, yet we worship its Author, and it certainly deserves our devotion and respect. The Bible has always changed societies for the better. When interpreted correctly, it has never oppressed, rather, it brings freedom and liberty.

God's Word, the Bible, is a collection of sixty-six individual books in all. We might say from cover to cover we have the library of God. The human writers, inspired by God Himself, come from diverse backgrounds; prophet, priest, farmer, shepherd, king, fisherman, tax-collector, pharisee, even a doctor. Yet with such a array of authors, harmony resonates within its pages.

**The main theme:** It is a book about dominion being lost, and dominion being taken back.

There are three languages used in the writing of the Bible; Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek and it transcends human cultures. The Bible is reliable and can be trusted. For the New Testament books alone, there are over 5,000 manuscripts attesting to the text of the Bible—the point being, we can have a high regard for the Bible because it has been meticulously preserved.

I have mentioned that the Bible is communication from God and therefore contains the record of all we need to know about God and his purposes for us. And yet, in the final analysis, understanding the Bible as God's revelation to us is a matter of faith. But we do not grope about in blind faith. There is so much internal and external evidence for our faith to gain traction. The only way to deny the God-breathed word is to deny the inspiration of the Scriptures. This is what many do with so-called "Higher Criticism", which bases its conclusions on the assumptions and reasonings of men, instead of the evidence preserved for us in the manuscripts.

However, the word of God will never pass away and will last forever (Matthew 24:35).

## How to Approach the Bible

In our study we will approach the Bible from a dispensational perspective. This approach is the best system of interpreting Scripture and allows Scripture to interpret Scripture. The overarching tenet of the dispensational approach is that we take the Bible **literally**. A literal interpretation means, that while there are figures of speech

used throughout, we understand the Bible with normal rules of grammar and the universally accepted meanings of words as expressed by the writer. We should keep this maxim in mind:

*When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense.*

We will also approach the Bible with the purpose in mind that everything comes from God and everything exists for him. The apostle Paul states it beautifully Romans 11:33-36:

**33** O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

**34** For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

**35** Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

**36** For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Since we will discover what the Bible is all about from a dispensational perspective we will see multiple segments throughout that demonstrate the glory of God! **The great plan of the Bible is to present a holy and gracious God as the One who blesses us for his own purposes in spite of our sinfulness.** And, we will see the greatest example of this in his dealings with Israel. God is good to Israel in spite of themselves (See Romans 11:25-36).

Another key approach is recognizing Israel and the Church (or the Body of Christ) as two distinct entities. Israel is not the Church, and the Church is not Israel. The Body of Christ was a mystery in the Old Testament (and gospels). This mystery, revealed to the apostle Paul (Ephesians 3:3,6), tells us that the Gospel brings together Jew and Gentile (or the circumcision and the uncircumcision) in one body. Therefore the Church as we know it consists of a union of Jew and Gentile in one body. This entity will be removed from the earth through an event known as the *catching up*, or more popularly called, *The Rapture of the Church*.

We will look at all this in more detail as we make our way through the Bible. For now, let's get into the word!

### **The Beginning to the Fall**

*The book of Genesis was written by Moses under the inspiration of God.* Moses ascribes everything to the Living God. There is no room for evolution without denying Divine revelation. All of God's works are pronounced "good" seven times. According to Psalm 111:2, God's works are "great." Revelation 15:3, they are "Great and marvelous." Job 37:14, they are "wondrous", and Deuteronomy 32:4, they are "perfect."

E.W. Bullinger makes this point regarding evolution:

*"Man starts with nothing. He begins in helplessness, ignorance, and inexperience. All of man's works, therefore proceed on the principle of evolution. This principle is seen only in human affairs: from hut to the palace; from*

The Direct Acts of God in Creation	
God (or He) created	6 times
God moved	1 time
God said	10 times
God saw	7 times
God divided	2 times
God (or He) called	5 times
God (or He) made	7 times
God set	1 time
God blessed	3 times
God ended	1 time
God rested	2 times
God sanctified	1 time
<b>TOTAL REFERENCES TO GOD'S DIRECT ACTS IN CREATION</b>	<b>46 times</b>

*the canoe to the ocean liner; from the spade and ploughshare to machines for drilling, reaping, and binding, etc. But, the birds still build their nests today as at the beginning. The moment we pass the boundary line, and enter the Divine sphere, no trace or vestige of evolution is seen. There is growth and development within, but no passing, change, or evolution out from one into another. On the other hand, all God's works are perfect."*

Genesis is the first book of the Pentateuch (Penta = five, tech = scrolls: Five scrolls, or books), the others being Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). These books, combined are also known as the Law, and the Torah. This is confirmed by Jesus in [Luke 24:27, 44](#).

The book of Genesis is the foundation on which Divine Revelation rests. It is essential to the true understanding of its every part. Genesis is quoted or referred to sixty times in the New Testament.

It is never specifically mentioned that Moses was the author, but while the book of Genesis is quoted or alluded to about two hundred times in the New Testament, Moses is mentioned by name at least eighty times, and twenty-five refer to specific passages attributed to Moses in the other books of the Pentateuch. Moses may have been the compiler and editor of the material in the book of Genesis, guided by the Holy Spirit.

We will take the book of Genesis, literally. The first chapters describe a perfect world, made for man and placed under his dominion (this will be an important point in God's redemptive plan). Had Adam not sinned, man would have continued to rule and develop that perfect world, for man's good and God's glory. But God's plan has not ended. The earth will be restored to its original perfection, and will continue eternally. Sin and the curse will be removed, and death will be no more.

## **Genesis | Chapter 1**

### **Genesis 1:1-**

Moses states, In the Beginning God created. He doesn't try to prove it. That God created the heavens and the earth is stated fact.

James Bishop Ussher, archbishop of the church of Ireland, a brilliant scholar, created a chronology of the entire Bible. He established a year for the Creation of the world and even pinpointed the month and day. We will use

Bishop Ussher's dating throughout our study. According to Ussher the world was created on October 22, 4004 B.C. That means the earth is only 6,023 years old. Those who hold to this chronology are called "young earth" proponents. Many reputable scientists and scholars hold to a young earth, however the mainline teaching in public and even some so-called Christian schools is that the earth is billions of years old. Young earth proponents are often ridiculed. To be clear, there is no scientific proof that the earth is billions of years old—it is theory, not fact, and yet it has been taught so matter-of-factly that the earth is billions of years old, most people accept it as fact. In our favor, we have a book that provides dates and tells us exactly what happened at Creation.

For a scientific look at the Young-Earth Creationist View, see Dr. Terry Mortenson's in-depth article: <https://answersingenesis.org/creationism/young-earth/young-earth-creationist-view-summarized-and-defended/>

### **Genesis 1:2–**

God created the earth out of nothing. There were no raw materials. He didn't go to the hardware store and purchase the items needed to create. It was without form and void (empty). Just as space and the depth of the universe go on forever today (there is no end), so in the beginning God, like a master artist or sculptor created on a blank canvas of watery nothingness, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. God was in motion.

### **Genesis 1:3–25–**

God is going to take the dark, empty, watery creation and design the world we know today. He will do it in six literal days.

### **Genesis 1:26-31–**

On the same day, when all the earth animals were created, God performs the most stupendous act of creation when He says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." God speaks of His Trinity, who were all involved in the Creation. The key here is that man is created in God's image--unlike all the other creatures, man is special and unique.

Unlike the animals, man will have dominion over everything in the sea and everything on the land. Man is to be the ruler.

God's point: **Man was to rule creation. Creation was not to rule over man. And that principle holds true today.**

## **Genesis | Chapter 2**

Chapter 2 describes in more detail some of the events of the sixth day of Creation, in particular, the creation of man. It compliments chapter 1. Some believe that chapter 2, beginning with verse 4 and continuing through chapter 5:1 was written by Adam and compiled by Moses.

**Genesis 2:8–**

It seems that after the creation of man, God planted a garden eastward in Eden. Perhaps man was created outside of the garden?

**Genesis 2:9–**

We are introduced to two trees in the garden. The tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

The Tree of Life produced fruit that would have given life forever for anyone who ate of it (Genesis 3:22). In the New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2) this tree will be growing on “either side of the river” and its fruit will be for the healing of the nations (maybe economic health?). If this is the same tree in the garden, it yielded a different fruit each month. In both Genesis and Revelation, we should take these as being literal trees.

**Genesis 2:17–**

The second tree, “The tree of knowledge of good and evil” was not to be eaten. Doing so would bring death.

**Genesis 2:20–**

Adam possessed high intelligence and gave names to all the animals.

**Genesis 2:21-25–**

Moses recounts the creation of woman. God put Adam into a deep sleep. From Adam’s side (Hebrew word is tsela which is translated side in other passages where it is used, not necessarily his rib) God fashioned a woman. Some think the idea here that from his side indicates equality and companionship—really it is a beautiful picture of the uniting of a man and a woman. This is the first marriage and is the perfect example of what a marriage truly is; one and one woman. Eve was made from Adam’s side to work alongside him to carry out the divine mandate to “fill the earth and subdue it.” While all mankind inherited their human characteristics, each human has their own soul given to them by God who formed the spirit of man within each man (Zechariah 12:1). And, each man’s spirit returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

**Genesis | Chapter 3**

Genesis Original World	Revelation Eternal World
Division of light and darkness Genesis 1:4	No night there Revelation 21:25
Division of land and sea Genesis 1:10	No more sea Revelation 21:1
Rule of sun and moon Genesis 1:16	No need of sun or moon Revelation 21:23
Man in a prepared Garden Genesis 2: 8,9	Man in a prepared city Revelation 21:2
River flowing out of Eden Genesis 2:10	River flowing from God’s throne Revelation 22:1
Gold in the land Genesis 2:12	Gold in the city Revelation 21:21
Tree of life in the midst of the Garden Genesis 2:9	Tree of life throughout the city Revelation 22:1
Bdellium and the onyx stone Genesis 2:12	All manner of precious stones Revelation 21:19
God walking in the garden Genesis 3:8	God dwelling with His people Revelation 21:3

Everything that was created was good, and man was very good. The future eternal world that God will create will be like His first original creation (see chart). To this point there is no sickness, no pain, no struggle, no heartache, no sin, and no death. All this has changed. We know from living in our world that all is not well. Something went wrong with God’s perfect creation.

How could God have allowed this to happen?

There are no easy answers. In the end it was the man who brought sin into the world.

### **Genesis 3:1–**

We read for the first time about **the serpent**. Nothing is known of this creature except it was **more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made**.

This creature was:

1. Subtle. The English word means "making use of clever and indirect methods to achieve something."
2. A beast of the field. Beast = something that is alive (not a spirit being).
3. Created by God.
4. It could speak. **Said unto the woman.**
5. It could reason. **Hath God said...?**

A key rule of interpretation is to let Scripture interpret Scripture, and always use the clear passage first. By doing this we find out the identity of the serpent.

*Revelation 12:9: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*

*Revelation 20:2: "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years."*

The serpent itself was most likely a created being in which Satan possessed. Or, Satan transformed himself into this creature. The Hebrew word used for serpent is Nachash. Some have argued that it means "a shining one." This might be supported by the apostle Paul when he wrote, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." [2 Corinthians 11:14](#). Therefore, this serpent was not like a serpent we picture in our minds, or have seen today. Putting this evidence together, the serpent then is Satan. He was subtle, living, probably walking (or even flying?).

### **Genesis 3:2,3–**

Eve is not afraid of the serpent, she answers him. She doesn't scream or cower, which lends credence to the serpent being something beautiful, perhaps shining, and friendly. The fact that Eve is answering him shows he may have placed doubt in her mind.

### **Genesis 3:4,5–**

**And the serpent said...Ye shall not surely die.** The plural being used to indicate neither Eve nor her husband Adam would die. Rather, Satan presses the issue further, **your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.** Notice how Satan gives partial truths, just enough To make us doubt.

**Genesis 3:6–**

The beautiful creature placed a seed of excitement into Eve's mind. They wouldn't die, in fact, they would be enlightened! Eve seems to have forgotten the command from God (the only command), and she looks back at the tree:

1. It was pleasant to look at.
2. It was desirable.
3. It would make them wise!

Who wouldn't want any of those things? They all sound like good things!

And they are, but God had commanded not to eat of the tree. It wasn't that the tree was bad, it was that they disobeyed God.

**Genesis 3:7–**

Disobedience to God's command opened their eyes to their nakedness. Now, they could be seen by the serpent in their nakedness; shame, embarrassment, and guilt came over them. They gathered fig leaves and sewed them together to make coverings for themselves.

**Genesis 3:8-11–**

**They heard the voice.** *It could be they heard the sound but it could be voice. **The LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.** Walking could be translated as *moving and cool* can be translated as *spirit, wind, or breath*. Did God manifest himself in physical form, or was he present in spirit?*

However he presented himself, it was personal because the couple hid themselves among the trees, from his presence.

**And the LORD God called unto Adam...where art thou?** This is the first question to ever come from God to a sinner. God calls out to the sinner. He repeats this same call everyday to men and women everywhere; Where art thou? It is the beginning of his judgment, mercy and grace.

Notice Adam's honesty with God, I heard they voice...and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. Certainly, Yahweh knew where Adam was. We cannot hide from God.

Notice too that God is not condemning. He questions Adam two more times in verse 11. **Who told thee...?**

**Hast thou eaten?** A perfect opportunity for Adam to come clean, confess, and receive mercy. But Adam does not confess.

**Genesis 3:12-13–**

Rather than confess, Adam blames God for **The woman whom thou gavest to be with me.** How often do we blame God? God if only you had not done such and such! If only.... **she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.**

The Lord now turns to the woman for questioning, **What is this that thou hast done?** Now the woman places the blame elsewhere, again on one of God's created beings, **The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.**

Genesis Cursed World	Revelation Eternal World
Cursed ground Genesis 3:17	No more curse Revelation 22:3
Daily sorrow Genesis 3:17	No more sorrow Revelation 21:4
Thorns and thistles Genesis 3:18	No more pain Revelation 21:4
Sweat on face Genesis 3:19	Tears wiped away Revelation 21:4
Eating herbs of the field Genesis 3:18	Twelve manner of fruits Revelation 22:2
Returning to dust Genesis 3:19	No more death Revelation 21:4
Evil continually Genesis 6:5	Nothing that defileth Revelation 21:27
Coats of skins Genesis 3:21	Fine linen, white and clean Revelation 19:14
Satan opposing Genesis 3:15	Satan banished Revelation 20:10
Kept from the tree of life Genesis 3:23	Access to the tree of life Revelation 22:14
Banished from the garden Genesis 3:23	Free entry to the city Revelation 22:14
Redeemer promised Genesis 3:15	Redemption accomplished Revelation 5:9,10

**Genesis 3:14-**

Adam has been questioned, Eve has been questioned, now the LORD turns to the serpent and DOES NOT question--rather, God curses him. **Upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.** It is at this time the serpent changes form and becomes **cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field.** Whatever form it had before, whether it walked or could fly, now it would go **upon thy belly.** Notice the contrast between the cursed world and the eternal world (See chart).

**Genesis 3:15-24**

This has been called the *first gospel* because it gives a promise of one who will come from the **seed** of the woman and crush the serpent. A curse is pronounced on the serpent. And although dominion had been given to man, now it has been taken from him and the world has become the dominion of Satan. God in his grace clothed Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness. But dominion was lost and now Satan had become the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). Yet, the promise in verse 15 is that dominion will be taken back! The question for Adam and Eve would have been, *by whom?* And *when?* And certainly, the evil one would try to stop it from happening.

The answer will not come until after the man and woman are expelled from the garden.