

EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Week 2

Genesis 1-11



In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

Genesis and the Big Story of Scripture

Genesis sets the foundation of the story of the Bible and the major themes of creation, fall, restoration and redemption that plays out through the rest of the Bible!

Who wrote the book of Genesis?

- Moses
- He wrote the first 5 books of the Old Testament, called the Pentateuch or law.

For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for **he wrote** of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe **his writings**, how will you believe my words?"

John 5:46-47

When and why was the book of Genesis written?

- During the life of Moses, after the exodus from Egypt.
- To show the Israelites, and us, who God is.

Redemptive Context

The one big story that is holding the Bible together is God's work in history to redeem, to rescue, to save a people by His grace and for His glory.

What would be missing in our understanding of the rest of the Bible if we didn't have Genesis 1-11?

First Section - Genesis 1:1-25

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. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Genesis 1:1-5

First Section - Genesis 1:1-25

What do we learn about God in the creation narrative?

1. God is creator
2. God eternal
3. God is self-sufficient
4. God is sovereign
5. God is good

Second Section - Genesis 1:26-2:17

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.”

Genesis 1:26-28

Second Section - Genesis 1:26-2:17

What do we learn about mankind in the creation narrative?

1. Mankind is created in the image of God.
2. Mankind is meant to reflect that image.
3. Mankind is not God, they are created by God.

Genesis 1-2 is foundational because it describes what the rest of the Bible is getting back to. If you were to study Genesis 1 and 2, you'd see God's perfect plan for gender, for marriage, for work, for the physical creation, for government, for our relationship with God and with each other.

Third Section - Genesis 3:1-24

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” - Genesis

3:1-5

Third Section - Genesis 3:1-24

“Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

Genesis 3:7-8

Third Section - Genesis 3:1-24

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Genesis 2:17

Third Section - Genesis 3:1-24

The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 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.”

Genesis 3:14-15

Third Section - Genesis 3:1-24

The promise of the seed to Eve

Genesis 3:15 → Jesus

Fourth Section - Genesis 4

“And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”

Genesis 4:25

Fifth Section - Genesis 5

- These verses all end with the same phrase: “*and then he died*” —a constant drum beat, reminding us of the dreadful certainty of what awaits sinners in this world, even those who are of the “*seed of the woman*” and meant to be obedient to God.
→ They are still sinners

Sixth Section - Genesis 6:1-9:17

So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

Genesis 6:7

Sixth Section - Genesis 6:1-9:17

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

- Genesis 6:11-12

Sixth Section - Genesis 6:1-9:17

Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”

Genesis 8:17

Sixth Section - Genesis 6:1-9:17

God's judgement seen in un-creating the world

- The flood

God's grace seen in re-creating the world

- The commission given in Genesis 8:17

Typology

God in His providence has done things in the Old Testament – caused events, created institutions, used people – that are *types* of the things he will do in the future. Generally things about Jesus.

Seventh Section - Genesis 10-11

So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Genesis 11:8-9

What would be missing in our understanding of the rest of the Bible if we didn't have Genesis 1-11?

What would be missing in our understanding of the rest of the Bible if we didn't have Genesis 1-11?

- Chapters 1-2: **God's perfect design**, the reality of our past and future, and our guide for the present.
- Chapters 3-11: **The nature of our sin**. Not until Romans 1 will we again see in the Bible such a plain depiction of the absolute and whole-hearted rebellion of mankind against its creator.

What would be missing in our understanding of the rest of the Bible if we didn't have Genesis 1-11?

“Nearly all the wisdom which we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves.”

- John Calvin, *Institutes of Christian Religion*

Creation - Genesis 1-2

Fall - Genesis 3

Redemption - Genesis 3:15

For Next Week

- Memorize Genesis 12:2-3
- Watch “Overview: Genesis Ch. 12-50” by the Bible Project on YouTube

1. Introductions: name & the book of the OT you are least familiar with
2. What would be missing from our understanding of the rest of the Bible if we did not have Genesis 1-11?
3. Based off of Genesis 1-11, why is God's design the best thing for us and why should we live according to it?