

In the Beginning

19-25 SEP 2017

Genesis 1 – 24

Week 1 --- 49 Weeks to Go

Genesis tells the story of God’s purpose and plan for his creation and demonstrates God’s sovereignty and the Love God has for His creation. Everything begins with God, who elects a people of his own. Genesis is the origin of major themes of Scripture: God’s creation of the universe, humanity’s origin and mission, mankind’s fall and predicament, God’s authority, human responsibility and divine sovereignty, God’s judgement, God’s justice and mercy, God’s plan for redemption, the covenant of grace, transformation of the sinner, and the obedience and faith of man -- all told through the stories of the pioneers of the faith.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: GE 1:1—4:26
Day 2: GE 5:1– 6:22
Day 3: GE 7:1 – 8:22
Day 4: GE 9:1 – 11:32
Day 5: GE 12:1 – 15:21
Day 6: GE 16:1—20:18
Day 7: GE 21:1 – 24:67

Outline

The creation (Day 1)
Man’s Rebellion: sin, death and judgement
 The Fall (Day 1)
 The Judgement of the Flood (Days 2-4)
 The Judgement on the Tower of Babel (Day 4)
The Life of Abraham (Days 4-7)
 The Birth of Ishmael (Day 6)
 The Birth of Isaac (Day 7)

Key Characters

Adam	Eve
Cain	Abel
Noah	Japheth
Shem	Ham
Abraham	Sarah
Terah	Nahor
Hagar	Ishmael
Isaac	Rebekah
Lot	

Key Locations

Garden of Eden
Mesopotamia
Babylon/Babel
Ur
Haran
Egypt
Sodom and Gomorrah
Canaan
Mt. Moriah

Key Terms

Covenant, promise, swear
Blessing
Descendants
Land (Canaan)
Sin, evil, wickedness
Sacrifice

Key Verses

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth [GE 1:1]

So God created man in his own image [GE 1:27]

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing [GE 12:2]

I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. [GE 17:7]

EPOCH 1
(Creation – 2000 BC)

EPOCH 2
(2000-1500 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE1: God created the heavens, the earth and everything that lives. He made humankind in his image, and gave them charge over the earth.

GE2: God formed a man and gave him the garden in Eden, except the tree of good and evil. Adam was alone so God made a woman as his partner.

GE3: The serpent deceived the woman. She and Adam ate from the tree. The ground was cursed, and God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden.

GE4: Eve's sons made offerings to the LORD. Only Abel's was acceptable, so Cain killed him. Abel's blood cried out and God sent Cain away.

GE5: Adam's line was: Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and Noah. Noah's sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth.

GE6: Humankind corrupted the earth with evil. God decided to destroy them. He told Noah to build an ark to be saved from the flood.

GE7: Noah and his family went into the ark with two of each creature. It rained for forty days and forty nights and the earth was covered.

GE8: The flood abated. Noah sent out a raven and two doves. When the earth was dry God called them all out of the ark. Noah built an altar.

GE9: God blessed Noah and set the rainbow as a sign that he would never flood the earth again. Noah got drunk and cursed Ham's son Canaan.

GE10: Japheth's line lived in the coastlands; Ham's included Nimrod and the Canaanites; Shem's lived in the East. These formed the nations.

GE11: They began building a great tower for themselves, but the Lord confused their language. Shem's line included Abram who married Sarai.

GE12: God told Abram, "Go, I will make you a great nation. You will be a blessing." In Egypt Abram lied about Sarai and Pharaoh was cursed.

GE13: Abram journeyed with his nephew Lot. Their servants argued, so Lot went to Sodom, Abram to Canaan. The LORD promised Abram the land.

GE14: The kings went to war and took Lot captive. Abram rescued Lot. Melchizedek blessed Abram and Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE15: The Lord promised Abram an heir and many descendants. Abram believed. He was told that they would be enslaved but would then return.

GE16: Sarai told Abram to have children with Hagar. Hagar conceived, then ran away, but an angel sent her back. Hagar's son was Ishmael.

GE17: God made a covenant with Abram and renamed him Abraham. He renamed Sarai Sarah and promised them a son. The men were circumcised.

GE18: Three visitors came and said that Sarah would have a son next year. Sodom was very evil; Abraham pleaded with the LORD for the city.

GE19: Angels took Lot out of Sodom. The city was destroyed by fire and Lot's wife was turned to salt. His daughters had children for him.

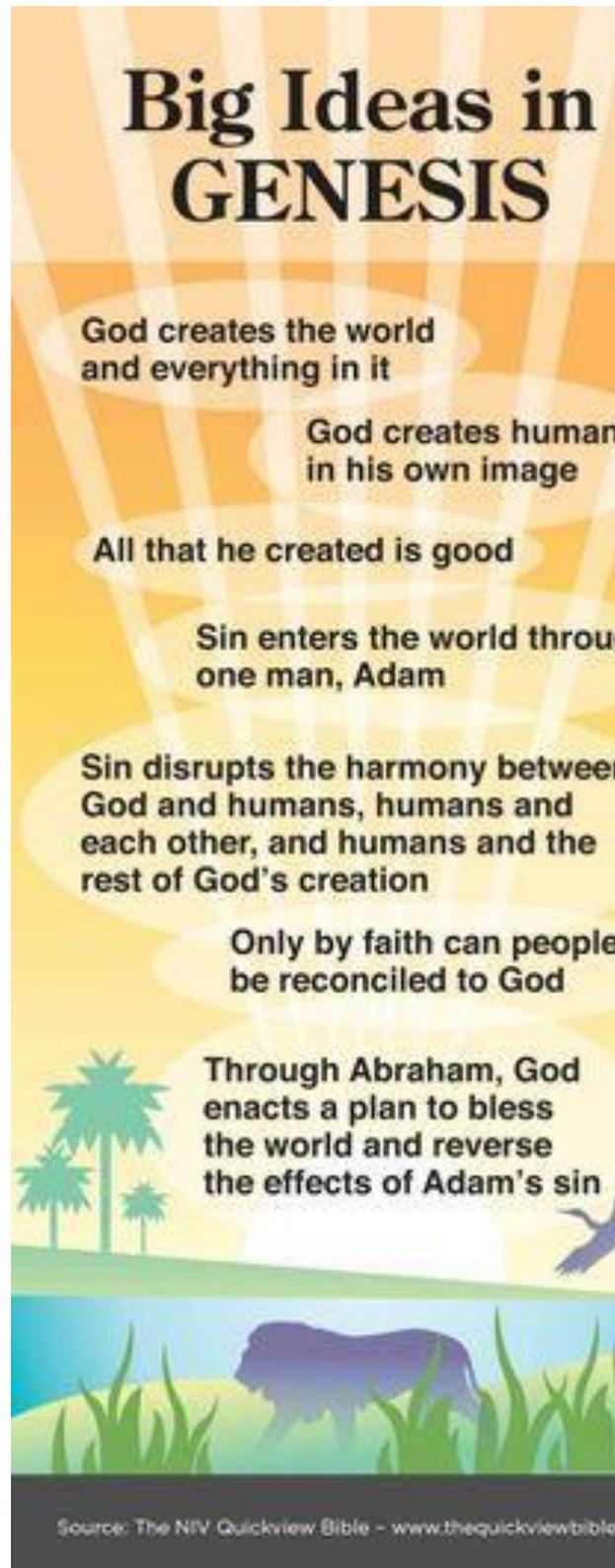
GE20: In Gerar Abraham said, "Sarah is my sister." King Abimelech took her but God warned him in a dream. He restored Sarah to Abraham.

GE21: As promised, Sarah had a son: Isaac. She had Hagar and Ishmael sent away but God preserved them. Abraham and Abimelech made a treaty.

GE22: God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. As Abraham obeyed, an angel stopped him. The LORD provided a ram instead and blessed Abraham.

GE23: Sarah died in Kiriath-arba. Abraham asked the Hittites for a burial site. He bought a cave from Ephron and buried Sarah there.

GE24: Abraham's servant went to Nahor to find a wife for Isaac. He met Rebekah by the well. She went back with him and married Isaac.



Names for God

<i>Hebrew Name</i>	<i>English Meaning</i>	<i>Scripture</i>
El-Elyon	God Most High	Gen. 14:18,22
El-Kanna	Jealous	Exod. 34:14
El-Olam	Eternal God	Gen. 21:33
El-Shaddai	God Almighty	Gen. 17:1
Jehovah (YHWH)	The LORD	Exod. 6:2-3
Jehovah-Adon Kal Ha'arets	Lord of All the Earth	Josh. 3:13
Jehovah-Bara	Creator	Isa. 40:28
Jehovah-Chereb	Glorious Sword	Deut. 33:29
Jehovah-Eli	My God	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Elohenu	Our God	Exod. 8:10
Jehovah-Gibbor Milchamah	Mighty in Battle	Ps. 24:8
Jehovah-Go'el	Redeemer	Isa. 49:26; 60:16
Jehovah-Hamelech	The King	Ps. 98:6
Jehovah-Hashopet	The Judge	Judg. 11:27
Jehovah-Hoshe'ah	The LORD Who Saves	Ps. 20:9
Jehovah-'Izuz 'Gibbor	Strong and Mighty	Ps. 24:8
Jehovah-Jireh	The LORD Will Provide	Gen. 22:14
Jehovah-Kabodhi	My Glory	Ps. 3:3
Jehovah-Keren-Yish'i	Horn of My Salvation	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Machsi	My Refuge	Ps. 91:9
Jehovah-Magen	The Shield	Deut. 33:29
Jehovah-Makeh	The LORD Who Strikes You	Ezek. 7:9
Jehovah-Ma'oz	My Fortress	Jer. 16:19
Jehovah-Mekoddishkem	The LORD Who Makes You Holy	Exod. 31:13
Jehovah-Melech 'Olam	King Forever	Ps. 10:16
Jehovah-Mephalti	My Deliverer	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Moshi'ech	Your Savior	Isa. 49:26; 60:16
Jehovah-Nissi	My Banner	Exod. 17:15
Jehovah-'Ori	My Light	Ps. 27:1
Jehovah-Rohi	My Shepherd	Ps. 23:1
Jehovah-Rophe	The LORD Who Heals You	Exod. 15:26
Jehovah-Sabaoth	The LORD of Hosts	1 Sam. 1:3
Jehovah-Sel'i	My Rock	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Tsidkenu	Our Righteousness	Jer. 32:6
Jehovah-Uzi	My Strength	Ps. 28:7



Three Tiered Universe and The Creation

Modern people think of the earth as a globe spinning around the sun in the vastness of space, but in the ancient world, the Israelites included, people saw things much differently. All throughout the Bible, we find the common ancient view that the cosmos was a three-tiered order, consisting of three distinct realms stacked on top of each other: the skies, or heavens above; the land, surrounded by water; and the waters below.

The earth was a flat, disc-shaped piece of land floating on deep cosmic waters, which is why if you dig deep enough, you eventually hit water (this is “the deep” in [Genesis 1:2](#)), so they believed the land must be suspended, or “floating” above the deep by pillars (you’ve maybe heard the biblical phrase, “pillars of the earth”). The land, surrounded by waters, is where humans and land animals lived, and the waters around the land was “the sea,” where all the sea creatures lived. Ancient Israelites also observed that the sky was a dome shape and that the sun, moon, and stars were embedded into the dome. Above the sky, was more water, which the dome typically held back, but not always, which explained why sometimes it rained.

[The Bible Project. Retrieved from <https://thebibleproject.com/blog/genesis-ancient-cosmic-geography/>]

Messianic Prophecies in the Bible

The Messiah Would Be	Old Testament Prophecy	Fulfilled in Jesus Christ
A descendant of Abraham	GE 17:7	GAL 3:16
From David's Family	2 SA 7:12-13	AC 13:32
Preceded by a Messenger	MAL 3:1	LK 1:17
Born of a Virgin	ISA 7:14	MT 1:18
Born in Bethlehem	MIC 5:2	MT 2:1
The Shepherd	ISA 40:11	JN 10:11-16
The Prophet	DT 18:15	AC 3:20-22
The Priest	PS 110:4	HEB 5:5-6
The King	ZEC 9:9	John 18:33,37
The Redeemer	ISA 59:20	LK 2:1
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	ZEC 11:12	MT 26:15
Mocked	PS 22:7-8	MT 27:39-44
Spat on	ISA 50:6	MK 14:65
Crucified	PS 22:16	JN 19:18
Resurrected	PS 16:10	LK 24:6, 31, 34

GOD Always Existed

Long before there were planets or stars God was living, for God always existed. God was not created.

God has always existed as one God in three persons:

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit

The oneness of God and the distinctness of each person of the Trinity is a divine mystery.



Creation [Genesis 1:1-2:3]

Long, long ago (the Bible doesn't address the details of how or when), God created everything out of nothing. God created the entire physical universe, all living things, and finally humans.

People were lovingly created in God's own image for the purpose of having a relationship with God.



The Fall [Genesis 2:15-3:24]

Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect relationship with God in the Garden of Eden until they chose to willfully disobey Him.

They used 3 time-honored excuses:

- Someone told me it would be okay
- It sounded like something fun to do
- A friend did it first

Adam and Eve (and all sinners since) have experienced more pain and more hard work as a consequence of this first sin.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

The Flood [Genesis 5:28—10:32]

Many, many generations after Adam and Eve, there came a time when everyone alive was wicked except Noah and his family. God told Noah to build an enormous ark that would rescue his family and all animal species from destruction by a flood.

Noah and his wife and their 3 sons (Japheth, Shem and Ham) and their wives spent 120 years building the ark and 375 days in the ark.

When the flood waters receded, the ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat. God then established His first covenant with humans.

The nations that have descended from Noah's sons:

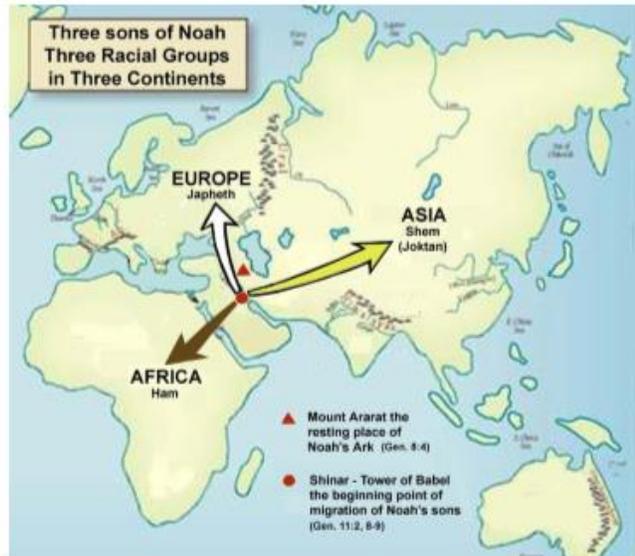
Japheth: Indo-European peoples

Shem: Semetic and Asian peoples

Ham: African peoples

Covenant #1: The Noalic Covenant

God will never again deal with wickedness by sending a flood to cover the earth. The rainbow is an everlasting sign of this covenant that God made with all generations.

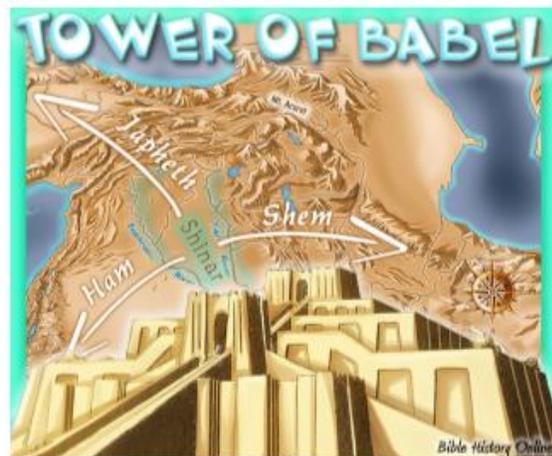


The Tower of Babel [Genesis 11:1-9]

Many generations after Noah, when the world had just one language, the city of Babel (Babylon) was the summit of human accomplishment. The people of Babel confused their great advancements with a lack of a need for God.

In their rebellion against God, the people of that time conspired to build a temple-tower (a monument of human pride) that would reach to the heavens and make them god-like.

God confounded their efforts by confusing their language. This had the effect of ending the building program and scattering the people abroad.



Lieber, D. (1994). *Bible 101 getting the big picture*. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

Abraham travels to Canaan

[Genesis 12:1—22:13]

Abram and Sarai (along with Terah, Lot, Nahor and family and a host of servants and animals) left the idol worshipping city of Ur in the kingdom of Chaldea and traveled to Haran.

Terah (Abraham's father) died in Haran.

Nahor (Abraham's brother) and his family chose to stay and live in Haran.

Abraham, Sarah and Lot (Abraham's dead brother's son) traveled on from Haran to Canaan.

God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah and promised Abraham a land, a son, a people, and a blessing to all nations through one of his descendants.

Abraham slept with Sarah's servant (Hagar) and a son named Ishmael was born (the father of all Arab peoples).

Sarah (over 90 years old) gave birth to Isaac (the promised son).

Abraham offered up Isaac on Mt. Moriah.

Covenant #2: The Abrahamic Covenant

God promised Abraham a land (the Promised Land), a son (Isaac), many descendants, and a blessing to all people through one of Abraham's descendants (Jesus).



Isaac seeks a wife from Haran

[Genesis 24:1-67]

Abraham did not want Isaac to choose a wife from among the idol worshippers in Canaan so he sent a servant to the home of his brother Nahor in Haran to find a suitable wife for Isaac.

Nahor's granddaughter, Rebekkah, agreed to leave Haran and travel to Canaan to marry her cousin Isaac.

Isaac and Rebekkah had twin sons: Esau (Edom) and Jacob

Ishmael was sent away from Canaan to live in the desert of Arabia. Ishmael's descendants are the Arab people of today.

Mohammed (the founder of Islam) was a descendant of Ishmael and Abraham.



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Week 1 --- 49 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 1 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- How does God being the creator of all in the universe and the world help define who God is? What characteristics of God are shown through the creation?
- What is God's Image? What characteristics of God was man expected to follow to be "in his image"?
- What character traits are displayed in God's decision to "Bless" all nations through Abraham? How does God continue to bless us today?
- What does God's openness to Abraham's requests to save Sodom tell you about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Adam and Eve enjoyed a perfect relationship with God in the Garden of Eden until they chose to willfully disobey Him. Why would God create us and give us the freedom to turn away from Him? What are the temptations today that cause people to turn from God? When do people tend to turn toward God?
- How did humans (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Lot and his family, Rebecca and Isaac) make decisions that threatened or supported God's plan? How does this challenge/comfort us?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you respond when you see all the things God created? How does having a Sabbath allow you to appreciate God and all He created?
- How does being made in the image of God impact your view of yourself? When do you see the image of God reflected in others? In yourself?
- If you were asked by God to create an ark (like Noah) or leave family and friends and start a new life in a strange land (Abraham) what would the reaction be? By you? By your family? By friends? By society? How do you generally react when you feel God is leading you to do something? Have you ever felt you were in this situation?
- How do you react when God scatters your projects and plans (like the Tower of Babel or Sarah and Haggai)?
- How do you think you would have reacted to God's instruction to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice?
- When you talk to God, what do you expect God to do?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- How does the view of the earth during ancient times impact the way we understand the story of the creation? [See Week 1 handout]
- How does the story of creation in the Bible differ from the creation stories of other cultures (narratives on pages 4 and 5 of study Bible)?
- How does the story of the flood differ from flood stories in other ancient traditions? (narrative page 10, 11 and 12)
- Discuss how the culture led Sarah to try to "take things into her own hands" with getting an heir for Abraham (narrative pg 33)