

GENESIS

Introduction

As its name implies, Genesis is about beginnings. Genesis tells us that God created everything that exists. It shows that God is both the Creator and the Ruler of all creation. But it also tells of humanity's tragic fall into sin and death, and of God's unfolding plan of redemption through his covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Genesis includes some of the most memorable stories in the Bible, beginning with Adam and Eve (chs. 1–4), continuing through Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and ending with the life of Joseph (chs. 37–50), who died before 1600 B.C. Traditionally, Jews and Christians have recognized Moses as the author, writing after the Exodus from Egypt, commonly dated around 1440 B.C. though some prefer a date around 1260 B.C.

The Creation of the World

In the “beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was ^bwithout 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.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, ^d“Let there be an expanse¹ in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷And God made² the expanse and ^eseparated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were ^fabove the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven.³ And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, ^g“Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth,⁴ and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, ^h“Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants⁵ yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is

Chapter 1

¹^aJob 38:4–7; Ps. 33:6; 136:5; Isa. 42:5; 45:18; John 1:1–3; Acts 14:15; 17:24; Col. 1:16, 17; Heb. 1:10; 11:3; Rev. 4:11
²^bJer. 4:23
³^c2 Cor. 4:6
⁶^dJob 37:18; Ps. 136:5; Jer. 10:12; 51:15
⁷^eProv. 8:27–29
^fPs. 148:4
⁹^fJob 38:8–11; Ps. 33:7; 136:6; Jer. 5:22; 2 Pet. 3:5
¹¹^gPs. 104:14

¹⁴^hJer. 10:2; Ezek. 32:7; 8; Joel 2:30, 31; 3:15; Matt. 24:29; Luke 21:25
^fPs. 104:19
¹⁶^dDeut. 4:19; Ps. 136:7–9
¹⁸^eJer. 31:35
²¹^gPs. 104:25, 26

their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for ⁱsigns and for ^jseasons,⁶ and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶And God ^hmade the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to ^lrule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds⁷ fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹So ^mGod created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according

¹ Or a canopy; also verses 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 20 ² Or fashioned; also verse 16 ³ Or Sky; also verses 9, 14, 15, 17, 20, 26, 28, 30; 2:1 ⁴ Or Land; also verses 11, 12, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30; 2:1 ⁵ Or small plants; also verses 12, 29 ⁶ Or appointed times ⁷ Or flying things; see Leviticus 11:19–20

to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man¹ in our image, ²⁷after 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."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And 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." ²⁹And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

²²ch. 8:17; 9:1
²⁶ch. 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:8 ²⁷ch. 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10; James 3:9
²⁸ch. 9:2; Ps. 8:6-8; James 3:7
²⁷ch. 2:18, 21-23; 5:2; Mal. 2:15; Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6
²⁸ch. 9:1, 7
²⁹ch. 9:3; Ps. 104:14, 15; 145:15, 16
³⁰Ps. 147:9
³¹Eccles. 7:29; 1 Tim. 4:4

Chapter 2
¹Deut. 4:19; Ps. 33:6
²Ex. 20:8-11; 31:17; Deut. 5:12-14; Heb. 4:4
⁴ch. 1:1
⁵ch. 1:11, 12
⁶ch. 3:23
⁷ch. 3:19, 23; 18:27; Ps. 103:14; Eccles. 12:7; 1 Cor. 15:47 ⁸ch. 7:22; Job 33:4; Isa. 2:22
⁹Job 27:3 ¹⁰Cited 1 Cor. 15:45
⁸ver. 15; ch. 13:10; Isa. 51:3; Ezek. 28:13; 31:8; Joel 2:3
⁹ch. 3:22; Rev. 2:7; 22:2, 14 ¹⁰ver. 17
¹¹ch. 10:7, 29; 25:18; 1 Sam. 15:7
¹⁴Dan. 10:4
¹⁵ver. 8

The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

The Creation of Man and Woman

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵When no bush of the field² was yet in the land³ and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man⁴ to work the ground, ⁶and a mist⁴ was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the LORD God formed the man of ⁸dust from the ground and ⁹breathed into his ¹⁰nostrils the breath of life, and ¹¹the man became a living creature. ¹²And the LORD God planted a ¹³garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ¹⁴And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. ¹⁵The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, ¹⁶and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of ¹²Havilah, where there is gold. ¹³And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹⁴The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁵And the name of the third river is the ¹⁶Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man ¹⁶and put him in the garden of Eden to work

it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat¹ of it you ¹⁸shall surely die."

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; ¹⁹I will make him a helper fit for² him." ¹⁹Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed³ every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and ²⁰brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²¹The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam⁴ there was not found a helper fit for him. ²²So the LORD God caused a ²³deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²⁴And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made⁵ into a woman and brought her to the man. ²⁵Then the man said,

"This at last is 'bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."⁶

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

The Fall

3 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, 'You⁷ shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but 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

¹⁷ch. 3:1-3, 11, 17 ¹⁸Rom. 6:23; James 1:15
¹⁸1 Cor. 11:9; 1 Tim. 2:13
¹⁹ch. 1:20, 24
²¹Ps. 8:6
²¹ch. 15:12; 1 Sam. 26:12
²³ch. 29:14; Judg. 9:2; 2 Sam. 5:1; 19:13; [Eph. 5:28-30] ²⁴1 Cor. 11:8
²⁴Cited Matt. 19:5; Mark 10:7; 1 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 5:31; [Ps. 45:10; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11]
Chapter 3
¹Matt. 10:16; 2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9; 20:2
³ch. 2:17

⁴ver. 13; John 8:44; [2 Cor. 11:3]
⁶1 Tim. 2:14
⁷ver. 12, 17; Hos. 6:7
⁷ver. 5 ⁸ch. 2:25
⁸[Ps. 139:1-12; Jer. 23:23, 24]
¹⁰ver. 7; ch. 2:25
¹²ch. 2:18; Job 31:33
¹³ver. 4; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:14
¹⁴Isa. 65:25; Mic. 7:17
¹⁵Isa. 7:14; Mic. 5:3; Matt. 1:23, 25; Luke 1:34, 35; Gal. 4:4; 1 Tim. 2:15 ¹⁶Rom. 16:20; Heb. 2:14; Rev. 20:1-3, 10

you die."⁴ ⁵But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁶For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,⁸ she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool⁹ of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"¹⁰ ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The 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 you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring¹¹ and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

¹ Or when you eat ² Or corresponding to; also verse 20 ³ Or And out of the ground the LORD God formed ⁴ Or the man ⁵ Hebrew built ⁶ The Hebrew words for woman (ishshah) and man (ish) sound alike ⁷ In Hebrew you is plural in verses 1-5 ⁸ Or to give insight ⁹ Hebrew wind ¹⁰ In Hebrew you is singular in verses 9 and 11 ¹¹ Hebrew seed; so throughout Genesis

¹ The Hebrew word for man (adam) is the generic term for mankind and becomes the proper name Adam ² Or open country ³ Or earth; also verse 6 ⁴ Or spring

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
ⁱ in pain you shall bring forth children.

^j Your desire shall be for ^k your husband,
 and he shall ^l rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree ^l of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ ^m cursed is the ground because of you;

ⁿ in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,
 till you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
^o for you are dust,
 and ^p to dust you shall return.”

²⁰ The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.² ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand ^q and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—”
²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden ^r to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the ^s cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Cain and Abel

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten³ a man with the help of the LORD.”² And again, she bore his

¹⁶[John 16:21] /ch. 4:7; Song 7:10
¹1 Cor. 11:3;
 14:34; Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18;
 1 Tim. 2:11, 12;
 Titus 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:1, 5, 6
¹⁷ch. 2:17 ^mch. 5:29; [Rom. 8:20-22] ⁿEccles. 2:22, 23
¹⁹ch. 2:7; Ps. 103:14 ^pJob 34:15; Ps. 104:29; Eccles. 3:20; 12:7; Rom. 5:12
²²ver. 5 ^qch. 2:9
²³ch. 2:5
²⁴Ps. 18:10; 104:4; Heb. 1:7; [Ex. 25:18-22; Ezek. 28:11-16]

Chapter 4

³Lev. 2:12; Num. 18:12
⁴Ex. 13:12; Num. 18:17; Prov. 3:9
⁵Heb. 11:4
⁵[Prov. 21:27]
⁷Eccles. 8:12, 13; Isa. 3:10, 11; Rom. 2:6-11 ^qch. 3:16
⁸Matt. 23:35; Heb. 12:24; 1 John 3:12; Jude 11
⁹John 8:44
¹⁰Heb. 12:24; [Rev. 6:10]
¹¹Deut. 27:24; [Num. 35:33]
¹³ch. 19:15
¹⁴Job 15:20-24
¹⁵1 Kgs. 24:20; Ps. 51:11; 143:7; Jer. 52:3 ^rch. 9:6; Num. 35:19
¹⁵Ps. 79:12
¹⁷[Ezek. 9:4, 6; Rev. 14:9, 11]

brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of “the fruit of the ground,”⁴ and Abel also brought of “the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD “had regard for Abel and his offering,⁵ but ^xfor Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted?⁴ And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. ^z Its desire is for⁵ you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother.⁶ And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and ^a killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, ^b “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?”
¹⁰ And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood ‘is crying to me from the ground.’¹¹ And now ^d you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”
¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My ‘punishment is greater than I can bear.’⁷ ¹⁴ Behold, ^j you have driven me today away from the ground, and ^s from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, ^h and whoever finds me will kill me.”
¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him ⁱ sevenfold.” And the LORD ^j put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod,⁸ east of Eden.

¹⁷ Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered

Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹ And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ²² Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
 you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say:

I have killed a man for wounding me,
 a young man for striking me.

²⁴ ^k If Cain’s revenge is sevenfold,
 then Lamech’s is seventy-sevenfold.”

²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed¹ for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”
²⁶ To ^l Seth also a son was born, and he called his name ^m Enosh. At that time people began ⁿ to call upon the name of the LORD.

Adam’s Descendants to Noah

5 This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, ^o he made him in the likeness of God. ² Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man² when they were created. ³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and ^p named him Seth. ⁴ The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵ Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, ^r and he died.

⁶ When Seth had lived 105 years, ^s he fathered Enosh. ⁷ Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸ Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

⁹ When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. ¹⁰ Enosh lived after

²⁴ver. 15
²⁶¹ Chr. 1:1; Luke 3:38 ^mch. 5:6 ⁿPs. 116:17; Zeph. 3:9; Zech. 13:9
Chapter 5
¹See ch. 1:26, 27
³ch. 4:25
⁴For ver. 4-32, see 1 Chr. 1:1-4; Luke 3:36-38
⁵ch. 3:19
⁶ch. 4:26

he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹¹ Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

¹² When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. ¹³ Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

¹⁵ When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. ¹⁶ Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷ Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

¹⁸ When Jared had lived 162 years he fathered ^t Enoch. ¹⁹ Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰ Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. ²² Enoch “walked with God³ after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch “walked with God, and he was not,⁴ ^v for God took him.

²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. ²⁶ Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷ Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹ and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground ^w that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief⁵ from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”
³⁰ Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹ Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

³² After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered ^x Shem, Ham, and ^y Japheth.

Increasing Corruption on Earth

6 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive.

¹ Or against ² Eve sounds like the Hebrew for life-giver and resembles the word for living ³ Cain sounds like the Hebrew for gotten ⁴ Hebrew will there not be a lifting up [of your face]? ⁵ Or against ⁶ Hebrew; Samaritan, Septuagint, Syriac, Vulgate add Let us go out to the field ⁷ Or My guilt is too great to bear ⁸ Nod means wandering

¹ Seth sounds like the Hebrew for he appointed ² Hebrew adam ³ Septuagint pleased God ⁴ Septuagint was not found ⁵ Noah sounds like the Hebrew for rest