

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 their seed, each according to its kind,

Chapter 1

¹Job 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

²Jer. 4:23

³2 Cor. 4:6

⁶Job 37:18; Ps. 136:5; Jer. 10:12; 51:15

⁷Prov. 8:27–29^f; Ps. 148:4

⁹Job 38:8–11; Ps. 33:7; 136:6; Jer. 5:22; 2 Pet. 3:5

¹¹Ps. 104:14

¹⁴Jer. 10:2; Ezek. 32:7, 8; Joel 2:30, 31; 3:15; Matt. 24:29; Luke 21:25

¹⁵Ps. 104:19

¹⁶Deut. 4:19; Ps. 136:7–9

¹⁸Jer. 31:35

²¹Ps. 104:25, 26

²²ch. 8:17; 9:1

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 ‘signs and for ^jseasons,⁶ and for days and years,¹⁵ and 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 ⁱrule 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 ¹¹God 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 to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and

¹Or a canopy; also verses 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 20 ²Or fashioned; also verse 16 ³Or Sky; also verses 9, 14, 15, 17, 20, 26, 28, 30; 21 ⁴Or Land; also verses 11, 12, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30; 21 ⁵Or small plants; also verses 12, 29 ⁶Or appointed times ⁷Or flying things; see Leviticus 11:19–20

fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”²³ And 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, ^a“Let us make man¹ in our image, ^bafter our likeness. And ^clet 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;
^fmale and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, ^s“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. ^tYou 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. ^{31v}And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and ^wall the host of them. ²And ^xon the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from

²⁶ch. 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:8^f; ch. 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10; James 3:9
^ach. 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

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 ^yThese 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 ^zbush 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 man ^ato 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 ^bdust from the ground and ^cbreathed into his ^dnostrils the breath of life, and ^ethe man became a living creature. ⁸And the LORD God planted a ^fgarden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. ⁸The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, ^hand 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 ⁱHavilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the ^jTigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man ^kand 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 ^lyou shall not eat, for in

^{4y}ch. 1:1

^{5j}[ch. 1:11, 12]^hch. 3:23

^{7f}ch. 3:19, 23; 18:27; Ps. 103:14; Eccles. 12:7; 1 Cor. 15:47^c ch. 7:22; Job 33:4; Isa. 2:22
^dJob 27:3^c Cited 1 Cor. 15:45

⁸ver. 15; ch. 13:10; Isa. 51:3; Ezek. 28:13, 31:8; Joel 2:3

^{9c}ch. 3:22; Rev. 2:7; 22:2, 14^h ver. 17

¹¹ch. 10:7, 29; 25:18; 1 Sam. 15:7

¹⁴Gen. 10:4
¹⁵ver. 8

¹⁷ch. 3:1-3, 11, 17

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

the day that you eat¹ of it you^m shall surely die.”

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; ⁿI 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 ^pbrought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The 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. ²¹So the LORD God caused a “deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made⁵ into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is ^rbone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was ^staken 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 you die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

¹⁷Rom. 6:23;

James 1:15

¹⁸¹1 Cor. 11:9;

1 Tim. 2:13

¹⁹ch. 1:20, 24

²Ps. 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] ¹1 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

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2 Cor. 11:3; Rev.

12:9; 20:2

³ch. 2:17

⁴ver. 13; John

8:44; [2 Cor. 11:3]

⁶So 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 ^xand ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, ^yand he ate. ^{7z}Then the eyes of both were opened, ^aand 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 ^bhid 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 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, ^cbecause 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, ^d“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, ^e“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 ^fdust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and
the woman,
and between your offspring¹¹
and ^gher offspring;
^hhe shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in
childbearing;
ⁱin pain you shall bring forth chil-
dren.

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

¹Your desire shall be for¹ your husband,
and he shall ^hrule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the
voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
^lof which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’

^mcursed is the ground because of
you;

ⁿin 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;

^ofor you are dust,
and ^pto dust you shall return.”

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

²²Then the LORD God said, ^q“Behold,
the man has become like one of us in
knowing good and evil. Now, lest he
reach out his hand^r and take also of the
tree of life and eat, and live forever—”

²³therefore the LORD God sent him out
from the garden of Eden ^sto work the
ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He
drove out the man, and at the east of
the garden of Eden he placed the ^tcheru-
bim 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.” ²And again, she
bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was
a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker
of the ground. ³In the course of time
Cain brought to the LORD an offering of

¹⁶ch. 4:7; Song
7:10 ¹1 Cor. 11:3;
14:3; 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; [Ec.
25:18-22; Ezek.
28:11-16]

“the fruit of the ground,⁴ and Abel also
brought of ^vthe firstborn of his flock
and of their fat portions. And the LORD
^whad regard for Abel and his offering,
⁵but ^xfor Cain and his offering he had
no regard. So Cain was very angry, and
his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain,
“Why are you angry, and why has your
face fallen? ⁷”If you do well, will you
not be accepted?⁸ And if you do not do
well, sin is crouching at the door. ²Its
desire is for⁵ you, but you must rule
over it.”

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother.⁶ And
when they were in the field, Cain rose
up against his brother Abel and ⁴“killed
him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain,
“Where is Abel your brother?” He said,
^b“I do not know; am I my brother’s
keeper?” ¹⁰And the LORD said, “What
have you done? The voice of your
brother’s blood ^cis crying to me from
the ground. ¹¹And now ^dyou are cursed
from the ground, which has opened its
mouth to receive your brother’s blood
from your hand. ¹²When you work the
ground, it shall no longer yield to you
its strength. You shall be a fugitive and
a wanderer on the earth.” ¹³Cain said to
the LORD, “My ^epunishment is greater
than I can bear.” ¹⁴Behold, ^fyou have
driven me today away from the ground,
and ^gfrom your face I shall be hidden.
I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on
the earth, ^hand whoever finds me will
kill me.” ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him,
“Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance
shall be taken on him ⁱsevenfold.” And
the LORD ^jput a mark on Cain, lest any
who found him should attack him.
¹⁶Then Cain went away from the pres-
ence of the LORD and settled in the land
of Nod,⁸ east of Eden.

¹⁷Cain knew his wife, and she con-
ceived and bore Enoch. When he built
a city, he called the name of the city
after the name of his son, Enoch. ¹⁸To
Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered
Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methu-
shael, and Methushael fathered
Lamech. ¹⁹And Lamech took two wives.
The name of the one was Adah, and

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 ^{ch.} 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
⁸2 Kgs. 24:20; Ps.
51:1; Jer. 143:7; Jer.
52:3 ^{ch.} 9:6; Num.
35:19
¹⁵Ps. 79:12 [Ezek.
9:4, 6; Rev. 14:9, 11]

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