



GENESIS

BEGINNINGS, COVENANT & PROMISE

OVERVIEW

Genesis is the book of beginnings. It introduces God as the sovereign Creator of all things and establishes the Bible's foundational truths about creation, humanity, marriage, sin, judgement, grace, covenant, nations, and promise. Chapters 1 – 11 trace creation, the fall, the spread of sin, the flood and Babel. Chapters 12 – 50 narrow the story to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph as God establishes the covenant family through whom blessing will ultimately reach the nations. Genesis begins with God's good creation and ends with His chosen family preserved in Egypt, awaiting fulfillment of His promises.

GENESIS AT A GLANCE

Author	Moses (traditional view; Genesis itself is anonymous)
Date Written	Mosaic era; Genesis does not provide a date of composition
Original Audience	Israel
Purpose	To reveal the Creator, explain humanity's fall and the spread of sin, trace God's preservation of the promised line, and establish the covenant family through whom blessing will reach the nations.
Key Verse	Genesis 12: 1-3
Main Theme	God sovereignly preserves His covenant promise despite human sin and failure
Key People	Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau, Joseph, Judah
Key Places	Eden, Babel/Shinar, Ur, Haran, Canaan, Shechem, Bethel, Hebron, Beersheba, Egypt
Key Events	Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel, call of Abraham, Abrahamic covenant, birth of Isaac, Jacob renamed Israel, Joseph sold into Egypt, family preserved through famine

KEY THEMES

- 1 Creation & the Sovereign Creator**
God creates, orders, fills and rules all things; humanity is uniquely made in His image.
- 2 Sin, Judgement & Grace**
Human rebellion brings shame, death, violence, corruption, and scattering, yet God repeatedly judges while preserving life and extending grace.
- 3 Covenant & Promise**
From Noah to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God binds Himself by covenant and faithfully carries His promises forward.
- 4 Blessing for the Nations**
God's call of Abraham narrows the story to one family without abandoning His worldwide purpose; through Abraham all families of the earth will be blessed.
- 5 God's Sovereign Providence**
God preserves His purposes through barrenness, famine, deception, rivalry, suffering, and even intended evil without making evil good.
- 6 The Promised Family**
God establishes and preserves the family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, preparing the way for Israel and the unfolding biblical story.

PURPOSE AND MESSAGE

Genesis reveals who God is, what He created humanity to be, what went wrong with His good creation, and how His redemptive purpose begins to unfold through covenant and promise. Human sin repeatedly produces death, division, judgement, and exile, but human failure never overturns God's purposes. After the nations are scattered at Babel, God calls Abraham and promises land, offspring, a great name, and blessing that will ultimately extend to all families of the earth. Through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, Genesis demonstrates God's faithfulness, grace, sovereignty, and providence as He preserves the promised family and prepares the way for the rest of scripture.

KEY VERSE

"Now the Lord said to Abram, Go from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Genesis 12: 1-3