



The First Book of Moses Called **Genesis**

Who wrote this book?

There is some debate about who wrote Genesis. However, many scholars believe Moses wrote it.

Why was this book written?

Genesis tells how God created the universe and human beings. It also covers the special promises God made to Abraham.

What do we learn about God in this book?

God created all things. He loves people, but He will punish sin. God promises, however, to save people who trust Him.

Who are the key people in this book?

The most important people in this book are Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, and Joseph.

When did this happen?


No one knows when the creation or the flood occurred. Abraham was born about 2150 B.C. His great-grandson Joseph died about 1800 B.C.

Where did this happen?

Genesis 1–11 happened in Mesopotamia. Genesis 12–36 took place in Canaan, which is also called the promised land. The rest of Genesis took place in Egypt. (See the map index at the back of this Bible to find Egypt.)

What are some of the stories in this book?

God creates the universe	Genesis 1
God creates Adam and Eve	Genesis 2
Adam and Eve sin	Genesis 3
Noah builds an ark	Genesis 6
God sends a flood to punish sin	Genesis 7–8
God gives promises to Abraham	Genesis 12
Abraham prays for a city	Genesis 18
Jacob steals Esau's blessing	Genesis 27
Jacob's name is changed	Genesis 32
Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery	Genesis 37
Joseph becomes a ruler	Genesis 39–41



The History of Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light, that *it was good*; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

⁶Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." ⁷Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. ⁸And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

⁹Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear"; and it was so. ¹⁰And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was good*.

¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, and the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. ¹²And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*. ¹³So the evening and the morning were the third day.

Words to Treasure

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1



Did You Know?

What does create mean?

! The word *create* means "to make something new." God did just that when He created the universe. Genesis tells us that God created everything. Read this chapter and you will find many things that God created.



¹⁴Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made* the stars also. ¹⁷God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was good*. ¹⁹So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

²⁰Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." ²¹So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, 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 fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

²⁴Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind"; and it was so. ²⁵And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle accord-

1:2 * Words in italic type have been added for clarity. They are not found in the original Hebrew or Aramaic.

ing to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*.

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all^a the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹And God said, "See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food"; and it was so. ³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very good*. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ²And on the seventh day God ended His work

which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

⁴This *is* the history^a of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was* no man to till the ground; ⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

⁷And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Life in God's Garden

⁸The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

1:26^a Syriac reads *all the wild animals of*.
2:4^a Hebrew *toledoth*, literally *generations*

You're Special

Read Genesis 1:26-27. God made you in His own image. You are not like the other creatures God made—humans are the only creatures that God created in His own image or likeness. That doesn't mean that you *look* like God or that you're *equal* to God, but it does mean that you are His very special creation.

Look at pictures of your mom or dad when they were your age. How were they like you? How were they different? Your parents love you very much because you are their child, and you are like them in important ways. Ask your mom or dad to tell you why they think you are special.

God loves you very much because you are His child and His one-of-a-kind special creation. You are made in His own image, but you are still your very own person. Write a letter to God, thanking Him for adopting you as His son or daughter, for creating you in His image, and for loving you so very much.

Live It!



Genesis 1:26-27

People Bible in Times

Adam

God created Adam, the first human being, in His own image. That means that in many ways Adam was like God. God made Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him. God placed Adam in the garden of Eden to take care of it.

¹⁰Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good. Bdelium and the onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but 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."

¹⁸And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the LORD

God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

²³And Adam said:

"This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

The Temptation and Fall of Man

3 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and

2:14 * Or Tigris

People Bible in Times

Eve

God did not want Adam to be alone, so He created a helper for him. Her name was Eve, and God made her from one of Adam's ribs. Adam and Eve lived together in the garden of Eden.

Did You Know?

What kind of fruit did Adam and Eve eat?

3:6 The Bible does not name the fruit that Adam and Eve ate. It's not really important. The important point of this story is that Adam and Eve disobeyed God. He had told them not to eat the fruit from this particular tree, but they did it anyway. Genesis 3 tells what happened because they disobeyed.



they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

¹¹And He said, "Who told you that you

were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

¹²Then the man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

¹³And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

¹⁶To the woman He said:

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

¹⁷Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

Wrong Decisions

Adam and Eve made a wrong decision, and they ate from a tree that God had told them to leave alone. Do you ever wonder why they did it? For some answers, read Genesis 3:1-13. Adam and Eve made the wrong decision because:

- 3:4 Someone told them it was all right to do the wrong thing.
- 3:5 It looked like an exciting thing to do.
- 3:6 A close friend did it first.

After Adam and Eve had made that wrong decision, they felt guilty and afraid. They hid from God when He entered the garden. They knew they had done wrong, but it was too late.

Think about what you should say if someone tells you it's all right to do a wrong thing, if something wrong looks exciting, or if a friend does a wrong thing first and wants you to do it too. If you can't think of a good answer, ask an older friend or your mom or dad for advice.

Live It!



Genesis 3:1-13



Bible verses to read when you feel . . .

WORRIED
1 Peter 5:7 John 14:1
Luke 12:25-26

CONFUSED
Psalm 25:4-5 Proverbs 4:11
Matthew 7:7-8

ANGRY
Proverbs 15:1 James 1:19-20
Ephesians 4:26

UNIMPORTANT
1 Samuel 16:7 Matthew 5:14-16
1 Timothy 4:12

SCARED
Joshua 1:9 Psalm 56:3
Psalm 46:1

GUILTY OR SORRY
1 John 1:9 Psalm 86:5
Micah 7:18

TEMPTED
Matthew 26:41 2 Timothy 2:22
1 Corinthians 10:13

SAD
Psalm 34:18 James 1:2-3
John 14:1-2

ALONE OR LONELY
Romans 8:38-39
Genesis 28:15 John 14:18