

GENESIS

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It is also the first of the five books of the Law. *Genesis* actually means “beginning,” and it is filled with beginnings: the beginning of the universe, the earth, plant and animal life, and people, families, and nations. Sadly, it is also the beginning of sin.

The first eleven chapters tell the story of creation and how sin came into the world. Adam and Eve were created by God in His own image. But they chose to disobey God, bringing sin, suffering, and even death into the world.

The rest of Genesis is often called the “patriarchal history.” It tells of how God chose Abraham and his descendants to be His people. Genesis also contains all the exciting stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. The book ends as the Israelites come to live in Egypt.

Who?

Genesis was written by Moses. Of course, Moses was not alive when the earth was created—his writing was inspired by God. That means God told Moses what to write.

When?

Moses, the writer of Genesis, lived during the 1400s BC. The events of Genesis begin with creation—the beginning of time itself—and end with the death of Joseph in 1805 BC.

Why?

Genesis shows that God is the Lord and Creator of all things. He has perfect control over all of His creation. God can use even terrible things to bring about great good—just as He did when Joseph was sold into slavery.

The Big Picture

Genesis tells us where we came from (God) and how sin came into the world (disobeying God). It also shows us the beginnings of God’s grace. Even before creation, God had a plan to save His people—first, through His promise to Abraham, and finally through Jesus, His Son.

Stories from Genesis

- » The Creation *Genesis 1:1–2:3*
- » The Temptation and the Fall *Genesis 3:1-7*
- » God Warns Noah *Genesis 6:9-22*
- » The Tower of Babylon *Genesis 11:1-9*
- » Joseph’s Dreams *Genesis 37:1-11*





God Created the World, Genesis 1:1-25

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

BIG QUESTIONS?

Genesis 1–2

Q: Who created everything?

A: God created everything. He created the world and people to bring Him glory.

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse "sky." Evening came and then morning: the second day.

⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. ¹² The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it

was good. ¹³ Evening came and then morning: the third day.

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. ¹⁵ They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night — as well as the stars. ¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹ So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." ²³ Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Genesis 1:27

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

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

CHRIST CONNECTION

God Created the World

Genesis 1:1-25 The Bible says that Jesus is Lord over all of creation. Everything was created by Him and for Him. The Son has always existed, and He holds everything together.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."
²⁹ God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, ³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given every green plant for food."

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Genesis 1:31

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. ² On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

Man and Woman in the Garden

⁴ These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on

Seeing THE BIG PICTURE

God Created the World

Genesis 1:1-25 In the beginning, there was only God. Then God created the heavens and the earth and everything that fills them. With just a word, He built up mountains and carved out seas. He placed the sun, the moon, and each star in the heavens. At His command, fish filled the seas, birds flew into the air, and animals sprang up to roam the earth.

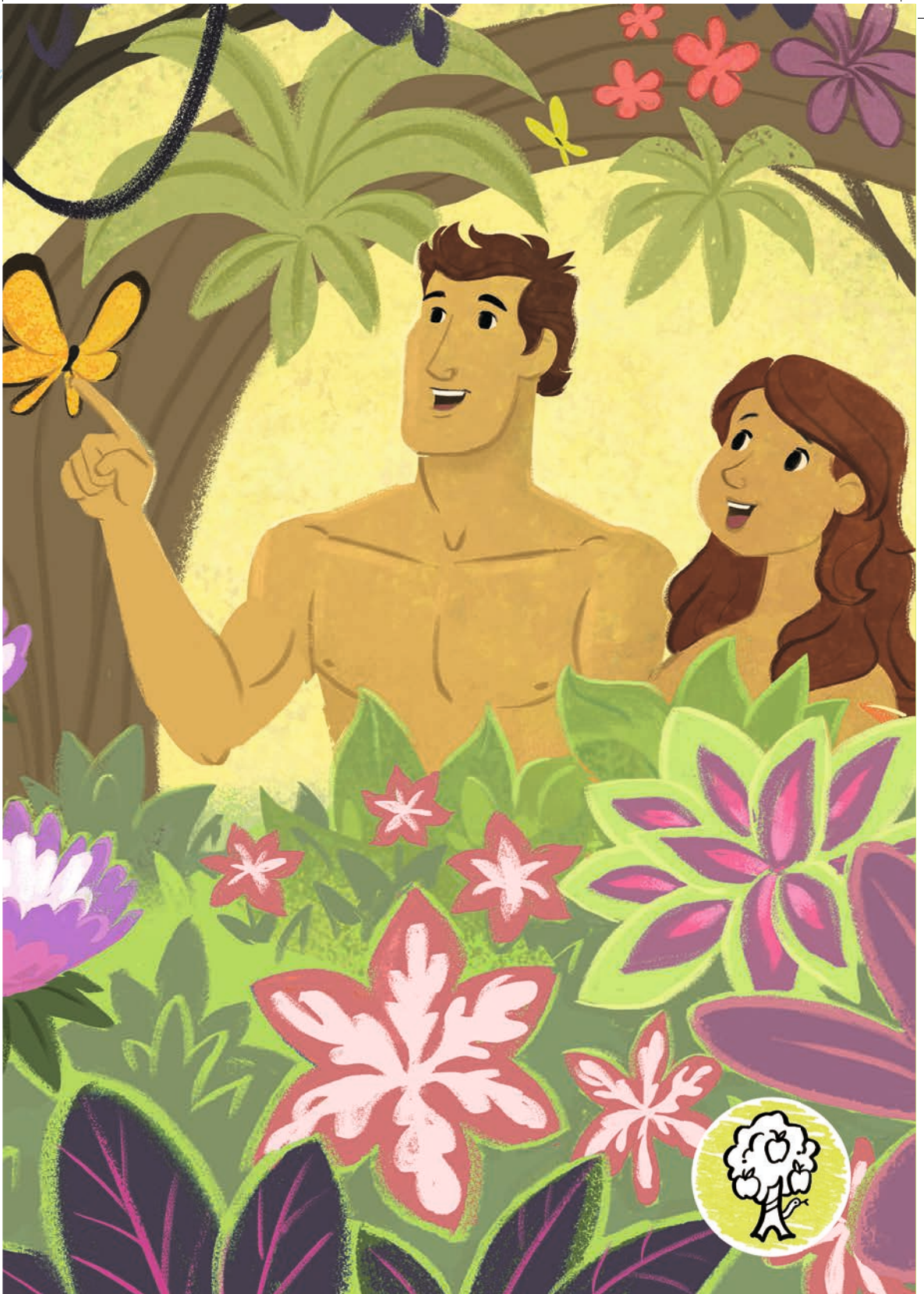
the land, and there was no man to work the ground. ⁶ But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance



Eden (EE duhn)

Region in which God planted the first garden. The exact location is not known. Four rivers ran through the garden. Two of them, the Tigris and Euphrates, are in present-day Iraq. Genesis 2:8-14.



God Created People, Genesis 1:26-2:25

Seeing THE BIG PICTURE

God Created People

Genesis 2 On the sixth day of creation, God made Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. Unlike all the other things He created, Adam and Eve were made in God's own image. Then, God looked at everything He had made and said it was good.

and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die." ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." ¹⁹ The LORD God

CHRIST CONNECTION

God Created People

Genesis 2 God created people in His own image. Adam was like God in some ways, but he was not a perfect representation of God. God sent His Son, Jesus, to show us exactly what God is like (Colossians 1:15). Jesus is the perfect representation of God because He is God (Hebrews 1:3).

formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. ²² Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ And the man said:

This one, at last, is bone of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;
this one will be called "woman,"
for she was taken from man.

²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

The Temptation and the Fall

3 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. ³ But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"

CHRIST CONNECTION

Sin Entered the World

Genesis 3:1-24 Since Adam and Eve, everyone has sinned against God. Our sin separates us from God. God promised that one of Eve's descendants would put an end to sin and death. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live as Adam didn't—perfectly sinless. God the Son came into the world to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

⁴ "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable



Sin Entered the World, Genesis 3:1-24