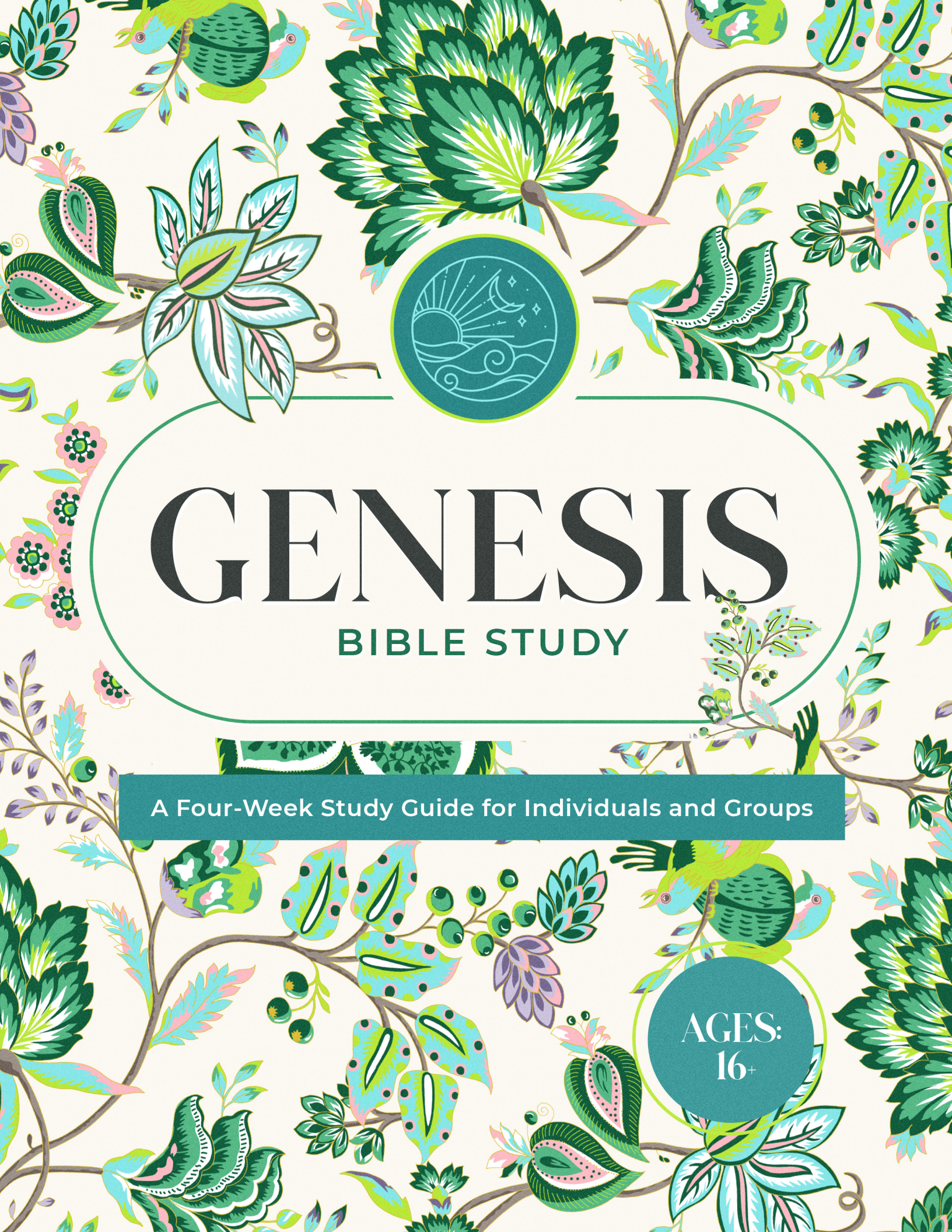




GENESIS

BIBLE STUDY

A Four-Week Study Guide for Individuals and Groups

AGES:
16+

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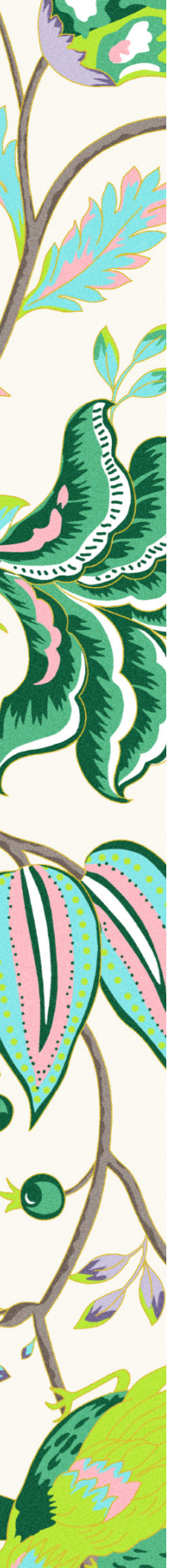
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the book in which God first introduced Himself and His plans for us. Do you want to know how the whole thing started? Do you want to know about the whole Bible all the way back to the very beginning? Genesis contains feisty and fun tales that are full of truth and promote spiritual growth.

The first 11 chapters of Genesis paint an early history of a human race that was more like our modern-day selves than we would likely imagine. Covering the first 1,500 years of human life on our planet, the pre-Flood population was smaller than today's, but not by as much as we might think. People who love God and thirst after the truth have dozens of questions about early Genesis.

After the Great Flood, the focus narrows to God's big plan for one family living in Mesopotamia—a family headed by Adam, then 10 generations later by Noah, and then the 10 generations following Noah to Abraham.

How this Study Works

Genesis is the second-longest book in the Bible next to Jeremiah! But its words are so critically important to who we are—and what we know and don't know about ourselves. This beloved book will still cover a one-month study. Additional days will cover important background subjects, such as the Big Picture of the two main parts of Genesis:

- The Prediluvian Period (Genesis 1-11, 4000-2500 BC)
- The Antediluvian Period (Genesis 12-50, 2500 BC onward, plus background that will make the people of Genesis come to life for us today!)

You will have five days of study each week for one month. Take more or less time as needed—the goal is to finish and come to love God's first written message to mankind.

Despite all its comprehensive materials, the study is neither difficult nor terribly time-consuming. A day's work can be done in 45 minutes, but it can take longer, depending on how much time you'd like to give to the Application Questions, Optional Further Reading and Further Bible Verses each day. The study is designed to be highly individualized, good for small groups and cell groups, but also fine for an individual just looking to improve their knowledge base.

What's to be done each day?

Our Table of Contents, preceding this intro, shows the comprehensive list of chapters that will be covered in the course. Each day of the month-long study is clearly marked so that you'll always know where to pick up.

Each day you will complete the following mini-segments:

- **DAILY READING:** You will read either one chapter a session or one of the three additions.
- **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS:** You'll be given six questions that require either filling in the blanks, picking a multiple-choice answer, or answering true/false. This extra gleaning will reinforce the material you read that day. Each verse is provided where the answer can be found, and the answers are also included for the short answers.
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:** You'll receive either two or three of these longer questions daily, which require more thought and written answers. These are often an effort to get students to think of the passage in terms of how it affects them in postmodern times. These are highly subjective, so they don't come with answers, but you'll find some are covered in the ANSWERS section under APPLICATIONS HELP. Some questions will not require any help while others will contain prompts, explanations, or further information.
- **MAP OF MESOPOTAMIA** during the era of the Genesis, which will be helpful to you on certain days as marked.
- **A TIMELINE** of Bible intrigue during this period, also used on certain days as marked. Look at both the Map and Timeline before starting to give yourself a better sense of time and placement.
- **OPTIONAL FURTHER READING:** In the first 11 chapters of Genesis and a few chapters thereafter, an Optional Further Reading section will introduce articles and even some videos for students curious about this period. This is optional. The stories and concepts concerning the pre-Flood world raise many questions that some students want to pursue further. Doing so will be enlightening, but you shouldn't need any further reading to answer the Application Questions in each section. Use Optional Further Reading as suits your personal desires. Finish each day's work on that day, or continue on in Optional Further Reading for a month!
- **RECOMMENDED BIBLE VERSES:** Once Genesis focuses in on the family of Abraham (chapters 12 through 50), you will often find Bible verses that back up the day's lesson, replacing Optional Further Reading. We suggest you take the time to read Scriptures that back up the ones you are reading that day.
- **ANSWERS & HELP:** The Short-Answer Questions are answered here, along with bits of intrigue and insight on answering the Application Questions.

What Are the MOST POPULAR VERSES, and What TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE Do You Use?

We try to create studies in ways that any version of the Bible can be used. Nonetheless we gravitate in research to two most popular so as to keep with common language to examine difficult constructs. This study was created using the KJV (King James Version) and the NIV (New International Version).

The most popular Scriptures are found in Week 4, Day 5 of this study. Their popularity today is derived by software that recognizes how many times a Scripture is searched on popular websites. Each of the 30,000+ Scriptures have a ranking number. At present, the #1 position goes to John 3:16. The lowest is likely in the Minor Prophets, where rankings appear in the 31,000s!

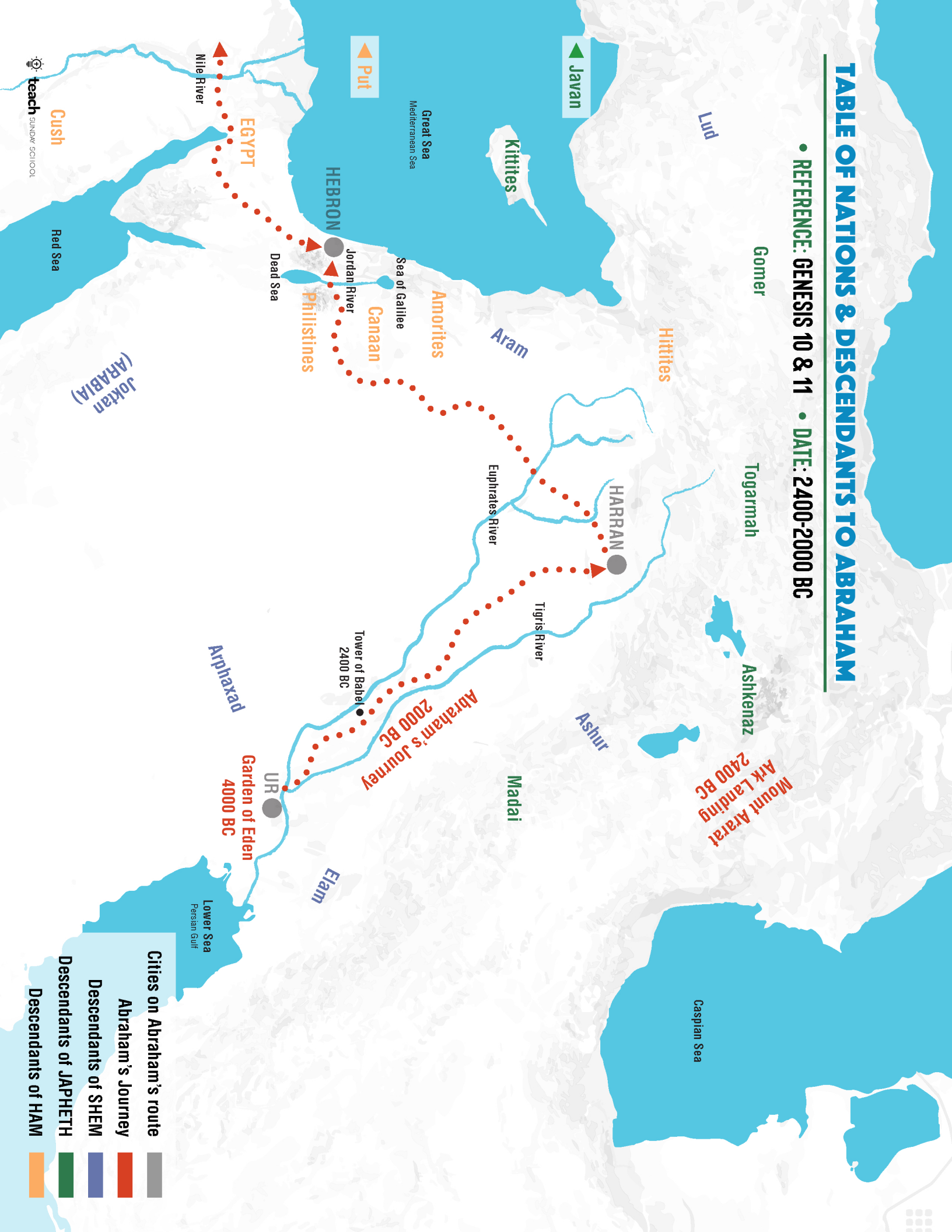
With just a little time each day this month, you will have a wonderful opportunity to know well the Book of Genesis. By the end of the month, you will have confidence that Genesis is as reliable as the Book of John and is a treasure for Christian living.



The following pages contain study tools including two timelines and a map of ancient Mesopotamia in Genesis. You can use them any time you have a related question but also in the lessons where they are marked as needed.

TABLE OF NATIONS & DESCENDANTS TO ABRAHAM

• REFERENCE: GENESIS 10 & 11 • DATE: 2400-2000 BC



Cities on Abraham's route

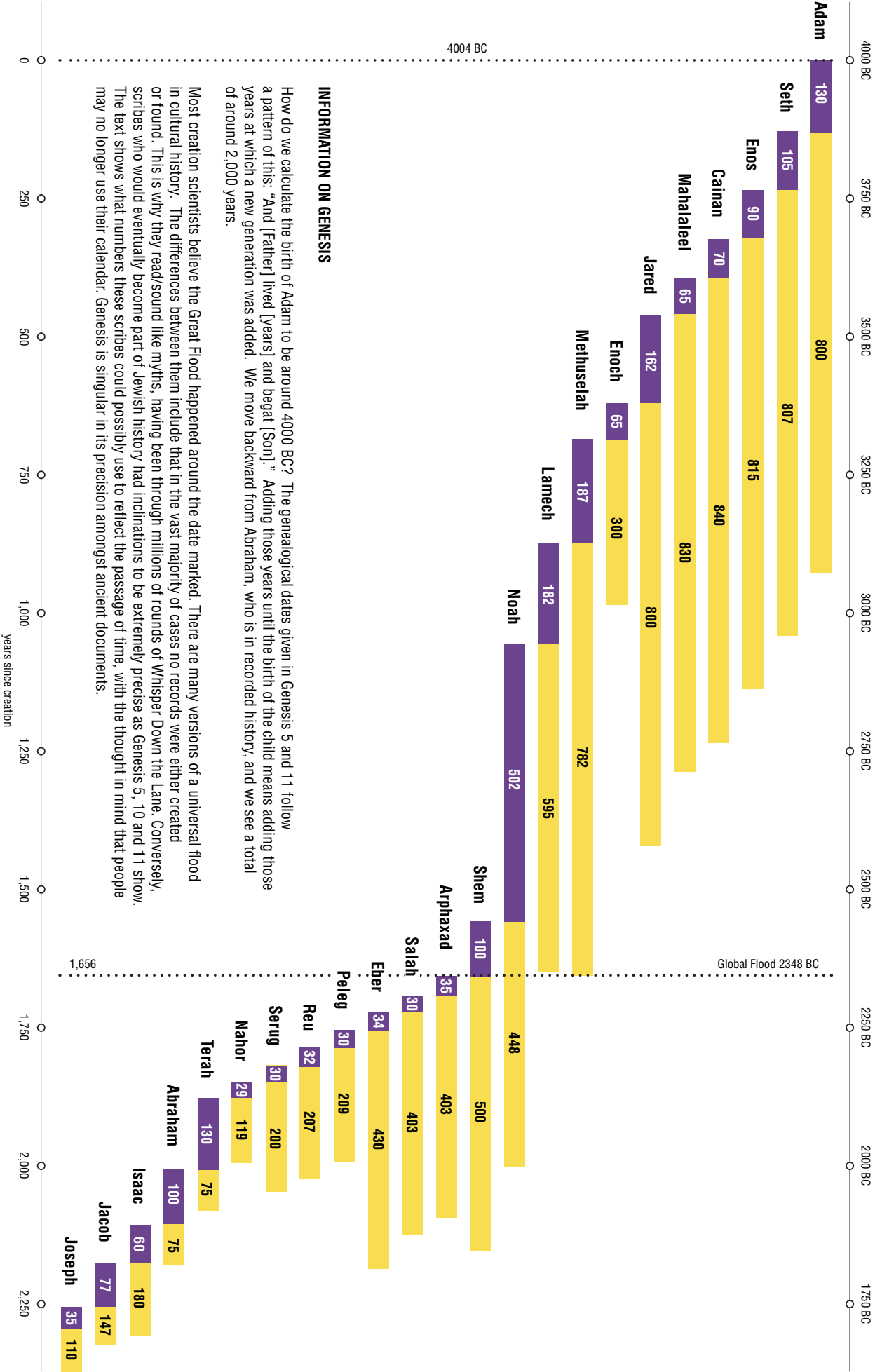
Abraham's Journey

Descendants of SHEM

Descendants of JAPHETH

Descendants of HAM

GENESIS TIMELINE



INFORMATION ON GENESIS

How do we calculate the birth of Adam to be around 4000 BC? The genealogical dates given in Genesis 5 and 11 follow a pattern of this: "And [Father] lived [years] and begat [Son]". Adding those years until the birth of the child means adding those years at which a new generation was added. We move backward from Abraham, who is in recorded history, and we see a total of around 2,000 years.

Most creation scientists believe the Great Flood happened around the date marked. There are many versions of a universal flood in cultural history. The differences between them include that in the vast majority of cases no records were either created or found. This is why they read/sound like myths, having been through millions of rounds of Whisper Down the Lane. Conversely, scribes who would eventually become part of Jewish history had inclinations to be extremely precise as Genesis 5, 10 and 11 show. The text shows what numbers these scribes could possibly use to reflect the passage of time, with the thought in mind that people may no longer use their calendar. Genesis is singular in its precision amongst ancient documents.



TIMELINE OF THE GREAT FLOOD: 370 DAYS

Many people think that Noah and his family were on the Ark for 40 days and nights. But that was just how long it rained! According to Genesis, they were actually on board for over a year!

TIMELINE (DAYS)	DURATION	MONTH/DAY	BIBLE REFERENCE
0	Noah was 600 years old; start of the Great Flood	2nd month, 17th day of the month	Genesis 7:11
40	40 days and nights of rain	3rd month, 27th day of the month	Genesis 7:11–12, Genesis 7:17–20
150	150 days (including the initial 40 days) of rising water	7th month, 17th day of the month	Genesis 7:24—8:5
224	74 more days until the tops of the mountains became visible	10th month, 1st day of the month	Genesis 8:5
264	40 more days until Noah sent out a raven	11th month, 11th day of the month	Genesis 8:6
271	7 more days, Noah sent out a dove	11th month, 18th day of the month	Genesis 8:6–12
278	7 more days, Noah sent the dove again; it returned with an olive branch	11th month, 25th day of the month	Genesis 8:10–11
285	7 more days, Noah sent the dove again; this time it didn't return	12th month, 2nd day of the month	Genesis 8:12
314	29 more days, Noah removed the Ark cover.	601st year of Noah life: 1st month, 1st day of the month	Genesis 8:13
370	56 more days, Noah and family left the Ark	2nd month, 27th day of the month	Genesis 7:11; 8:14–17, Genesis 7:11

For further study, see the source of our information, [Answers in Genesis](#), and feel free to peruse their lengthy list of related Bible verses and articles.



GENESIS

Introduction to Genesis



WEEK 1

Intro 1: A Genesis FAQ with Some Tough Questions

Welcome to the book that precedes all other Bible books—and the book that has taken more skeptical criticism than any book in the Bible. Have you ever been scoffed at for your faith? Reading and understanding Genesis can reduce doubt about God's work of Creation and early biblical history, and help you confidently discuss its truth.

People who love God and thirst after knowledge of Him have questions about early Genesis especially.

Here is an FAQ about this most amazing book. These are general questions, though some contain a challenging concept—the kind that we often don't know how to answer. There are Application Questions at the end for you to reflect on.

GENESIS FAQ

1. **Is Genesis really the first Bible book written?** Some say that the Book of Job was written first. We know that Genesis was compiled by ancient documents, with a great deal of writing by Moses on the Exodus between 1446 and 1406 BC. The Book of Job had a different (unknown) author, and yes, it could have been the first Bible book written. However, some scholars believe it took place in the time of Abraham, around 2000 BC, whereas Genesis takes us back to around 4000 BC.
2. **Fifty chapters makes this a big book. Is it the biggest book in the Bible?** The only Bible book bigger than Genesis is Jeremiah, with 33,002 words, compared to Genesis' 32,046 words. Psalms follows Genesis, and it contains 30,147 words.
3. **Is there some way to break Genesis down more easily in our minds?** Absolutely. Genesis actually covers two periods:
 - a. The Antediluvian Period (4000 BC until the Great Flood.): The first 11 chapters paint an early history of a civilization that was more like us than we would likely imagine. Some Creation scientists have gauged the pre-Flood population to be approaching 1 billion. Even those deriving smaller populations believe that life had spread across most land masses.
 - b. The beginning of the Postdiluvian Period (2400 BC thru 1800 BC): Chapters 12-50 cover the four generations of the family of Abraham, sometimes referred to as the Patriarchs and can be broken down in this way:
 - Generation #1, the life of Abram aka Abraham (beginning in Genesis 12)
 - Generation #2, the life of Isaac (beginning in Genesis 21)
 - Generation #3, the life of Jacob aka Israel (beginning in Genesis 25)
 - Generation #4, the life of Joseph (beginning in Genesis 30)

GENESIS FAQ

4. **The Bible is broken down into genres such as history, poetry, epistles, gospels, etc. What type of book is Genesis considered?** Genesis is history (not mythology!), and if its unfolding of facts solidifies in your mind, its contents will make our world, even today, seem a lot less mysterious and confusing. Genesis is also the first book in the “Pentateuch,” which is the name for the first five books of the Bible.
5. **If Moses wrote Genesis, how did he get all these facts from 2500 years earlier?** The Hebrews were excellent recordkeepers from the beginning, and Moses would have taken every scrap of records home on the Exodus, with some having come through Noah, who would have undoubtedly preserved any such thing during the Great Flood. Remember, God also spoke directly to Moses as well.
6. **Where did Moses find the time to write all five books of the Pentateuch?** Moses was prolific to say the least, but he had almost 40 years to do so. Genesis was written on the Exodus, probably while the people were staying in Kadesh-Barnea, an area south of Jerusalem where Israel spent most of its time during the 40 years in the wilderness. Work on the Pentateuch likely began after their third year in the wilderness, or 1443 BC, and was completed before the death of Moses in 1406 BC.
7. **There are said to be a ton of stories in Genesis. Does it contain the most stories of any book in the Bible?** The Gospels probably contain what could be considered the most “stories,” as they contain not only more than 40 parables told by Christ Himself, but also accounts of where He went and what happened at most places. However, the Book of Genesis holds the next record with the following famous stories. There are other stories in the book...only these are considered “most famous:”
 1. Creation, Fall of Man (1-3)
 2. Noah & the Great Flood (6-9)
 3. Tower of Babel (11)
 4. Sodom & Gomorrah (19)
 5. Lot’s Daughters Rape their Father (19)
 6. The Attempt to Sacrifice Isaac (22)
 7. Isaac & Rebekah (24-35)
 8. Jacob Steals from Esau (27)
 9. Jacob’s Ladder (28)
 10. Jacob Marries Sisters (29)
 11. Joseph Is Kidnapped (37)
 12. Joseph Is Sexually Harassed in Egypt (39)
 13. Joseph Interprets Dreams; Rewards Are Great (41)
 14. Joseph’s Brothers Arrive in Egypt (42)
 15. Joseph Is Revealed (45)
 16. Death of Jacob & Joseph (49-50)
8. **People strike up many arguments that have to do with the Book of Genesis.** Will this study make me argumentative? I just want to live peacefully. Many Christians, especially new ones just learning to love the Bible, simply want to start reading “in the beginning.” This study is designed with those in mind who are tackling Genesis for the first time, or for the first time in a long time. The goal here isn’t to create great apologists (defenders of our faith) from this study. Students should feel comfortable, upon its conclusion, that Genesis is as reliable as Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

GENESIS FAQ

Optional Further Reading: “Life from Life...Or not?” by David Demick, <https://creation.com/life-from-life-or-not>

9. Did God really make the world in six days as Genesis 1 suggests? This subject has been the topic of Biblical discussion for ages and there is some debate among Bible Scholars about how the term “day” is interpreted.

- Some theorize that day in this story is understood as it currently is used, a period of 24 hours.
- Some theorize that day means a thousand years, quoting evidence from scripture (Psalm 90:4, 2 Peter 3:8).
- Some theorize that the word day means an unspecified amount of time, similar to an era. There is some Bible evidence to support this, (Genesis 40:4 and Judges 11:4 where day is translated to mean some time or a season).

While some biblical arguments exist for the planet being quite old, just about everyone—from Bible believers to skeptical scientists—holds to the theory that recorded history showed up around 6,000 years ago (coincidentally, about the time of Adam).

Optional Further Reading: “Can Creationists Be Scientists?” <https://answersingenesis.org/creation-scientists/>

10. How could there possibly be a real Adam and Eve? How could that whole Garden of Eden story be anything except a myth? Adam is discussed or mentioned nearly 25 times in the Bible, including by the Apostle Paul. Jesus mentioned the Garden of Eden. The apostles did not believe the pair was a myth and Adam is frequently mentioned as a true ancestor.

Optional Further Reading: Stewart, Don. Blue Letter Bible, Were Adam and Eve Actual People? https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_696.cfm (note: Read this article with care, as the counterarguments are presented before the thesis and could be mistaken for it.)

11. Why is Abraham such a big deal in Bible stories? The tales of David v. Goliath and Moses parting the Red Sea seem more exciting. Actually, there is little in the Bible more exciting than the stories of Abraham and his three succeeding generations—if you know what you are looking for. Remember, Genesis gives us the history, not just of a local culture or a dying breed of religious folk—Genesis is the initial history of mankind.

An example of excitement that may not be immediately seen with Abraham:

Most Christians know that Abraham had to move far to a Promised Land from God. What they don’t know is that Abraham was an extremely wealthy man for that era, and to make the decision to believe God and move, he likely had to move upwards of 1,000 servants with their children. And once he made the move, he realized he’d just brought them all into a famine. He was a heroic follower of God (AND Jesus), and we can learn a great deal from his adventure.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Often in a study of Antediluvian Genesis, new students will have a lot of questions, including those presented here. What questions do you have that remain unanswered?

- 02** Make a list. See if they are answered in tomorrow's material, which is INTRO DAY #2, containing answers to some of the most difficult questions asked about Genesis, along with great Optional Further Reading choices. Write out some steps you could take to find answers that aren't presented to you tomorrow, and ask God to bless your journey.



Intro 2: Five of the Toughest Questions about Early Genesis

Genesis has taken the brunt of an attack on faith by the scientific community. The attack began around 1960 and is only now starting to relent.

When skeptics confound Christians, their material often roots with early Genesis.

When young people leave the faith, it is often material from Genesis that teachers have attacked that cause the break.

When you find yourself surrendering to argumentative types with some humiliating version of, “Well, you have to take it by faith,” usually the material with which they are tormenting you has something to do with early Genesis.

Again, a goal in this study is to assure that Genesis is trustworthy to you. Here are some of the more difficult questions with which Christians are often presented, along with answers and Optional Further Reading.

GENESIS QUESTIONS

- 1. Is it wrong for Christians to claim a belief in evolution?** Most people do not understand the basics of evolution well enough to know that this question is misguided, and certain subcomponents of the evolutionary process are believed by Christians and non-Christians alike.

Everyone believes in the clearly demonstrated evolution within species, called microevolution. For example, life has evolved from just a handful of breeds of wolflike dogs to over 350 breeds in less than 300 years. That is microevolution on a fast track.

Conversely, macroevolution would be what is needed to find creatures evolving from amoebas and other primitive life forms outside of or preceding their species. Macro lacks as much evidence today as it did in the mid-1800s when Darwin first proposed mankind deriving itself from apes. No qualitative evidence exists for one species creating life within another. So the single question about evolution yields two very distinct answers.

Optional Further Reading: Giertych, M. Creationism, evolution: nothing has been proved. *Nature* 444, 265 (2006). <https://www.nature.com/articles/444265d>

- 2. What makes Darwinism anti-biblical?** Evolution has always been problematic, and not just due to unresolved problems with the fossil record. The Bible asserts that man fell (from a heavenly nature). Evolution asserts that man rose (from more organic life forms).

In other words, evolution eliminates the Fall of Man. Without the Fall, Jesus' death on the cross for sins is superfluous.

Some try to put together a hybrid theory of “man rose, and then he fell” to dodge the untoward behavior from skeptics. However, such implies a God who would be more angry at a woman for a deception than her “ancestors,” who threw bones at each other and dragged women around by the hair. The further that alleged solution is followed, the more it becomes nonsensical.

Optional Further Reading: Bryan, William Jennings, *Institute for Creation Research (ICR)*, Mr. Bryan on Evolution; <https://www.icr.org/article/mr-bryan-evolution>

- 3. Can't we just believe both in evolution and Adam and Eve?** We do understand the allure of this option. Nobody likes to be mocked or even scorned by the alleged scientific geniuses of our times. However, we believe in a fallen world, and it only naturally follows that some of the biggest institutions under that Fall would likely stumble into some serious mistakes, including the scientific community. We should view science as dynamic and constantly changing.

Optional Further Reading: Hodge, Bodie. Can an Evolutionist Be a Creationist? *Answers In Genesis*, <https://answersingenesis.org/theistic-evolution/can-evolutionist-be-creationist/>

- 4. How could there be a universal flood if the dates of the Great Pyramids in Egypt predate it?** Some have noted correctly that if the Great Pyramids predated a universal flood, there would be evidence of water damage, and there is none. The first Egyptians noted are in the Table of Nations, when Genesis 10:6 records a grandson of Noah's with the name Egypt. If this ancestor triggered the Egyptian civilization, then the dates currently given by skeptics for the Great Pyramids are too early.

Optional Further Reading: Hodge, Bodie. *Answers in Genesis*, Were the Pyramids Built before the Flood? <https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/ancient-egypt/were-the-pyramids-built-before-the-flood/>

- 5. How could a flood have covered the entire earth?** It sounds too incredible. Nearly every ancient culture had a story about a universal flood. Most ancient cultures were not great recordkeepers, as were the ancestors of Noah through Moses. Genesis chapters 5, 10 and 11 are genealogies, plenteous with data which surrounds the story of the Flood.

The chapters' unique precision speaks loudly of scribes trying their very best to relay information to future generations, foreseeing that we may not even gauge seasons and years in the same way. Hundreds of Creation scientists around the globe believe in a universal flood and that the fossil record and excavation data support this.

Optional Further Reading: Was Noah's Flood global or local? *Got Questions*, <https://www.gotquestions.org/global-flood.html>

Creation scientists and other specialists of interest, *Creation.com*, <https://creation.com/creation-scientists> (a list of scientists by name and credentials who believe the biblical record is reliable)

¹ <https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/ancient-egypt/were-the-pyramids-built-before-the-flood/>

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Pick a few of the questions from yesterday's and today's introductions that you have either been asked about or think you might be exposed to in the future. Write out the answers in your own words once you feel you understand the material. This will help the material stay in your heart and can bring you peace in the face of confounding discussions.



Genesis 1-3: Creation through the Fall

READ GENESIS 1-3

Genesis 1-3 takes us from the creation of life through the Fall of Man. With each lesson up until the end of Week 4, we will herein begin with six or seven Short-Answer Questions to help you capture some important facts. There will also be two or three Application Questions that cover the bigger picture.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to chapter 1, verse 2, what was hovering over the waters?
_____.
- 02 According to chapter 1, when God made the plants and animals, He made them according to their _____. (1:11)
- 03 According to chapter 1, verses 26-27, unlike the animals and plants, humans were made in the image of _____.
- 04 What tree did God tell the man not to eat from? (2:17) _____.
- 05 True/False: The serpent wanted the woman to doubt God's integrity. (3:2-4)
- 06 God made Adam and Eve garments of what? (3:21) _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Genesis 1, written over 3,000 years ago, mentions God creating life forms “after their kind,” referring to different types of animals and plants. What might this tell us about God providing “warnings” in His Word about snares people could get caught in thousands of years later? What is the “snare” in this case?

- 02** Genesis 1:26 begins a beautiful passage about man differentiating from all God’s other creatures, having been made in His image. Mankind is truly the most remarkable than God’s creations. For example, man can create orchestrations, design bridges and tall buildings and make ships. What else shows a huge gap between Man’s abilities and those of an animal?

- 03** So many questions have arisen from these three chapters that people have wondered why God didn’t spread it out to 1,000 pages and include more detail. Why do you think we were given a simple version of events? (If it helps, think about things you would not tell your children and the reasons why.)

Optional Further Reading: Hodge, Bodie. Answers in Genesis, Satan, the Fall, and a Look at Good and Evil: *Answers in Genesis*, <https://answersingenesis.org/angels-and-demons/satan/satan-fall-good-and-evil/>



Genesis 4-6: Preceding the Great Flood

READ GENESIS 4-6. You will also need your **GENESIS TIMELINE** today.

You'll find some golden ideas in today's readings...covering everything from the first sin to the start of life after the Fall of Man.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** Whose offering did the Lord look at favorably? (4:4) _____
- 02** True/False: According to God, if we choose to do what's wrong, we will only get worse. (4:7)
- 03** True/False: People lived a lot longer in the days of Genesis.
- 04** Who in Adam's line never died? (5:24) _____.
- 05** The "men of renown" were the children of the daughters of men and who? (6:4)

- 06** In chapter 6, verse 5, it says that in the days of Noah, the thoughts of the human heart were continuously what all the time? _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Genesis 4, Cain's offering was rejected by the Lord and he was angry. In response, the Lord warned him that sin was lying at his door. Have you ever been corrected? How did you receive it? What do you think Cain's example shows us about receiving righteous correction?

- 02** Genesis 5 is more valuable than most people realize. Use the timeline here to give you a beautiful outlay—the 10 generations between Adam and Noah, then the 10 generations between Noah and Father Abraham. What insight does this timeline provide for us that may be more valuable than stories presented by other cultures about a universal flood?

- 03** When the Lord commanded Noah to build an ark in verse 14-16 of chapter 6, He commanded him to make it himself. Noah wasn't to contract it out and was given specific instructions regarding how it would be built and preserved. What are some other things that we must do ourselves spiritually? It may help to think about things we cannot rely on others for.



Genesis 7-9: The Great Flood

READ GENESIS 7-9. You will need your **TIMELINE of the **GREAT FLOOD****

Are you afraid of or intrigued by the idea of an impending Apocalypse in our near future? So were all these people in preflood Genesis! Rumors of the impending Flood had likely gone out up to 100 years before its arrival. You'll be able to relate to them.

Are you among those who think Noah was on the ark for 40 days? Take some time today and write weeks and months that you read in the text. Make your own little timeline of chapters 7-9 (dip back into chapter 6 for a totally complete record) and you'll be raising the question, "Where do these rumors COME from?"

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** How old was Noah when the flood started? (7:6) _____.
- 02** According to chapter 7, verse 5, despite the crazy things God was telling him, it says that Noah _____ what the Lord commanded him.
- 03** How long did the floodwaters flood the earth? (7:24) _____.
- 04** According to chapter 8, verse 4, the ark finally came to rest on the mountains of _____.
- 05** How many people resided on the ark? (8:16) _____.
- 06** Who did Noah curse? (9:25) _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 Two “myths” about the Great Flood are below, and the truths were in the passages you read today:

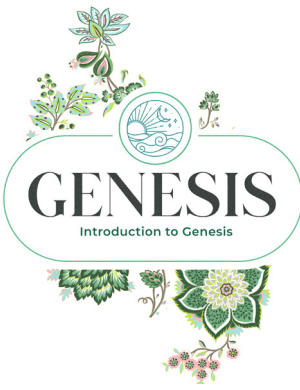
Myth #1: Noah and his family were on the ark 40 days and nights. Using your Timeline of the Great Flood, how long was the family on the ark?

Myth #2: Noah had to run around with traps and capture all these animals. How did it actually happen? The answer is in 7:9. How does it help your faith to eliminate myths that make the story sound unbelievable?

Optional Further Reading: *Answers in Genesis, Flood Legends.* <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/flood-legends/>. This link actually leads to a plethora of Flood legends and related articles. Pick your choice based on your personal curiosity.

02 Many people may be able to better relate to Noah after spending time quarantining during the COVID-19 pandemic. How do you think Noah’s family was able to survive for a year with only each other to talk to (knowing there wouldn’t be other company on the other side)? Do you think things got tense between them? Or do you think they were well-behaved? What virtues does their circumstance help you want to develop?

03 In chapter 8 verse 20-22, we learn that the first thing Noah does when he leaves the ark is build an altar and make a sacrifice to the Lord. The Lord responds by making a covenant with Noah to never flood the earth again. How are our lives similarly blessed by the lives of righteous acts of godly people?



FROM DAY 3

1. The Spirit of God
2. Kind
3. God
4. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil
5. True
6. Skin

APPLICATION HELP

In Genesis 1 you will find the term “after its kind” or “after his kind” 10 times in the KJV or NIV. For centuries people might have been puzzled over why God allowed for so much. They couldn’t see the theory of evolution coming, but God could. The theory of evolution promotes the opposite of Genesis—that life forms evolved “after one kind,” not “after their own kind,” and that macroevolution has happened millions of times. While there is no reliable evidence of species hopping species in procreation (aka macroevolution), this is the dilemma most students today are faced with.

Another gift man has that animals don’t is self-awareness. We spend a great deal of time raising questions like “what’s the mean of life?” and “what am I supposed to do with my life?” Some people think their pets deliberate such things, but they are likely unrealistic.

FROM DAY 4

1. Abel
2. True
3. True
4. Enoch
5. The sons of God
6. Evil

APPLICATION HELP

The importance of the numbers in the genealogies of Genesis 5, 10 and 11 are explained on the Timeline. If you haven’t looked at it yet, do so to get this paragraph highlighting the importance of the birth year, parenthood year, and death year.

FROM DAY 5

1. 600
2. Did
3. 150 days
4. Ararat
5. 8
6. Canaan

APPLICATION HELP

If you highlighted verses that show the passage of time from Genesis 7 through 9 and/or looked at your Timeline of the Great Flood, you would have understood that Noah was on the ark for around a year. Hence, it took over 10 months for the water to recede. This is interesting for a number of reasons. Perhaps most importantly, with local floods the waters recede after a few days. Here, it takes 10 months. What might that tell us about the range of the flood—local or universal?



GENESIS

Genesis 10-23



WEEK 2

Genesis 10-11: Table of Nations and the Tower of Babel

READ GENESIS 10-11: use the map, **TABLE OF NATIONS & DESCENDANTS TO ABRAHAM**, as well as your **GENESIS TIMELINE** as study aids.

Sometimes diamonds first look like coal. We've already talked a bit about not skipping a genealogy—not without understanding the big picture and what it tells you about how life actually developed. Beyond the intriguing story of the Tower of Babel, we have lists that could appear like a foreign language or an endless list of hard-to-pronounce names. Today's lesson helps with that bigger picture and with believing more confidently in Genesis history.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** According to Genesis 10, verse 6, who were the sons of Ham?
_____, _____, _____, _____.
- 02** According to chapter 11, verse 1, at one time the whole earth had one
_____.
- 03** The people didn't want to be _____ over the face of the earth, even though God told Noah and his sons to multiply and fill the earth. (11:4)
- 04** What was the city named, after God confused their language? (11:9)
_____.
- 05** True/False: Shem's descendants eventually lead to Abram. (11:26)
- 06** Where did Abram and his family settle instead of going on to Canaan? (11:31) _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Genesis 10, we see the descendants of Noah's sons, who fathered nations that became problematic in later years when Joshua, the Judges and King David had to fight to win the country of Israel some 1,000 years later. Why do you think God called Abraham to relocate from Ur to Canaan? How does God also similarly call us today?

Recommended Bible Verses: Look up the following scriptures and see the circumstances of the countries that spark from the Table of Nations: Genesis 10:9-10 and 2 Kings 24:1 (Babylon), Genesis 10:2 and Revelation 20:8 (Magog), Genesis 10:15 and Joshua 9:1 (Hittites).

- 02** Per Genesis 11, be aware that ruins have been located outside of Baghdad that some archaeologists believe could be the Tower of Babel. What elements of this brief account in Genesis 11 make it sound like a myth? Does the physical evidence of a tower make the Bible account more believable or detract from it? Why or why not?

Optional Further Reading: The Shiloh Excavations, The Associates for Bible Research, Bible Archeology, Is there evidence for the Tower of Babel? <https://biblearchaeology.org/research/patriarchal-era/2695-is-there-archaeological-evidence-for-the-tower-of-babel>

- 03** The account of the Tower of Babel in verse 1-9 contains a warning about pride and worldliness. God had already provided the way for them to reach heaven. In what ways were the people missing this? And how can we ensure we don't make the same mistake?



Genesis 12-14: Abraham's Calling; Lot's Rescue, Melchizedek

READ GENESIS 12-14

Congratulations! You have completed the Antediluvian Period of Genesis, quite challenging in its need of defenses from God's people. Moving forward, Genesis 12-50 will read more like other history books of the Bible in its tradition and tales. God narrows the focus from the Big Picture view of the world and focuses in on the family of Father Abraham and how history unfolds for the nation of Israel.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 How old was Abram when he left Haran? (12:4) _____
- 02 Which two people did Abram take with him when he left his homeland? (12:5)
_____, _____
- 03 True/False: Abram told Sarai to lie because he was afraid of the Egyptians. (12:12)
- 04 True/False: Lot chose the Plain of the Jordan because it was beautiful and well-watered. (13:10)
- 05 Even though the Plain of the Jordan was pleasing to the eye, the people of Sodom were _____. (13:13)
- 06 According to chapter 14, verse 18, Melchizedek was a _____ of God Most High.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Even though God had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants, Abraham dwelt in a tent. Tents are usually homes to those that are passing through and not putting down permanent roots. What can we learn about this from Abraham, a man who was VERY wealthy by ancient standards?

Recommended Bible Verses: Hebrews 11:8-10, Matthew 6:19-20, Matthew 6:31-33

- 02** When Lot and Abraham experienced discord, Abraham separated himself from Lot and gave him first choice of land. What does Abraham's example teach us about the importance of maintaining peace? What can we do ourselves to become peacemakers among our friends and family members?

Recommended Bible Verses: Matthew 5:23-24, Colossians 3:13



Genesis 15-17: Hagar & Ishmael, a New Name, Isaac Promised

READ GENESIS 15-17

These chapters do NOT show Abraham and Sarah at their finest. What they couldn't foresee is how deviating from God's plan for them personally caused a whole lot of problems for others...and still does! They populated a major portion of the world in that decision. We should consider how many people we might be helping/hurting when making decisions in our own lives.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** In chapter 15, verse 1, God tells Abram that He is Abram's _____ and great _____.
- 02** According to chapter 15, verse 6, Abram was counted as righteous because he _____ the Lord.
- 03** In chapter 15, God reassured Abram that what He said would come true by making a _____ with him. (15:18)
- 04** Sarai thought she needed to take God's promise into her own hands, so she gave her slave _____ to Abram to be his wife so she could have children through her. (16:3)
- 05** The angel of the Lord told Hagar to name her son _____ which means, 'the Lord hears.' (16:11)
- 06** In chapter 17, God changed Abram's name to _____, which means 'father of many.' (17:5)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Chapter 16, Abraham and Sarah became impatient with the promise given them earlier of a numerous posterity and concoct a way to fulfill this promise themselves. How did this show a lapse in their faith and God's timing? How can we keep from making mistakes like this in our spiritual journeys?

Recommended Bible Verses on TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN: Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 29:11

- 02** Chapter 17 covers circumcision, a sign of God's covenant with Abraham. Subsequently, all the men with Abraham were circumcised. The pain of circumcision for an adult lasts about three days, barring no infections. The answer is subjective, but why do you think God would require something so painful? Why not ask for strands of hair or one's ear lobe. What does this teach us about the importance of covenant living?

Recommended Bible Verses on the purpose of CIRCUMCISION: Galatians 5:2-3



Genesis 18-20: Abraham Sees God; Sodom & Gomorrah, Lot

READ GENESIS 18-20

Today we'll read about the famed fall of Sodom and Gomorrah, plus one of the most heinous Bible scandals—Lot's daughters raping their father.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 How many men appeared at Abraham's tent according to verse 18:2? _____
- 02 True/False: Sarah laughed at the thought of having children in her old age. (18:12)
- 03 True/False: Lot's sons-in-law didn't take Lot seriously when he warned them of God's coming judgment. (19:14)
- 04 When Lot hesitated to leave, chapter 19 verse 16 says that the angels grabbed his hand and led him and his family out because the Lord was _____.
- 05 By coming to Abimelech in a dream, God was keeping him from _____ against Him. (20:6)
- 06 According to chapter 20, verse 7, Abraham was a _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Chapter 18, we finally see the beginning of the fulfilment of God's promise given to Abraham and Sarah for their posterity. However, the circumstances seemed impossible considering their age and situation. What does this teach us about God's promises? How has the Lord kept His promises in your life or the lives of the people you know?

Optional Further Reading: Daniel 6:22-23, John 14:26-27

- 02** Review Genesis 19:26-26. Lot's family lived in Sodom, a very wicked city, and they were warned by angels to flee. What can we learn from this story, especially in regard to escaping evil? Why was it important for Lot's family to not look back?

- 03** Beginning with verse 30, Lot's daughters had offspring from incest that became the fathers of the nations of Moab and Ammon. While some people allege that "the God of the Old Testament was mean and violent," note that these nations were allowed to exist another 1,500 years. What other examples can you give of God's mercy when faced with short-sighted human actions?

Recommended Bible Verses on EXAMPLES OF GOD'S MERCY: Luke 20:9-19

Recommended Bible Verses on THE FUTURE OF THE MOABITES AND THE AMMONITES
(nations that sprung from Lot's daughters): [Judges 10:6-7](#), [1 Kings 11:1-4](#)



Genesis 21-23: Isaac born; Hagar leaves; Sacrificing Isaac; Death of Sarah

READ GENESIS 21-23

When we humans attempt to solve our own huge problems and clean up our own huge messes, we often find there is nobody capable of such cleanup but God Himself! That is the lesson for today as we watch these well-intending Genesis characters dig themselves in deeper and deeper.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? (21:5) _____
- 02 True/False: God was testing Abraham when He told him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. (22:1)
- 03 According to chapter 22, verse 2, God told Abraham to take his son to the region of _____.
- 04 In chapter 22, verse 8, Abraham tells Isaac that God will provide a _____ for the burnt offering.
- 05 According to chapter 23, verse 19, Abraham buried Sarah in a cave in the field of _____.
- 06 From whom did Abraham buy the field where he buried Sarah? (23:10-17)
_____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** The difficulties in these chapters help us see some of the emotions and challenges Abraham's family experienced. How do these problems parallel families today, especially those living with blended families? How can God's help in this chapter inspire us to have faith for life in our own families?

- 02** Chapter 22 is where we find Abraham told to sacrifice Isaac, his long awaited son and the literal fulfillment of God's promise to him. How does this story compare to the Savior's sacrifice? How can we use Abraham's faith as an example for our own lives?

Recommended Bible Verses on GOD'S HATRED OF HUMAN SACRIFICE:

Deuteronomy 18:9-12, Exodus 20:22-26

- 03** The death of Sarah is exceedingly sad for Abraham, not just because of their adventures but because of the length of years they were together. Where is Abraham's faith at the time of her funeral? Has it shrunk in the face of this tragic loss? What can we learn from it?



FROM DAY 1

1. Cush, Egypt, Put, Canaan
2. Language
3. Scattered
4. Babel
5. True
6. Haran

APPLICATION HELP

1. Some Christians enjoy guessing which line might be theirs of the three sons of Noah. Study the mapMAP if this interests you. Japheth's family went mostly north; Shem's family went mostly west, and Ham's family went mostly south. Hence, if you came from Europe and believe there is no Jewish ancestry, you could be descendent of Japheth. If you came from Africa under the same circumstances, you could be a child of Ham. Shem carried the line of Christ, so it included the nation of Israel.
2. Per the Tower of Babel, God confusing languages is one of those story elements that sounds mythical, as if God used some sort of magic wand. One theologian, however, has suggested that God may have allowed an epidemic that strikes the language center. Think about why, as a culture, we find this type of explanation more plausible.
3. After the Fall of Man, God had promised a Savior to Mankind (see Genesis 3:15). That promise is expounded later in scripture and we have many subsequent prophets who testified of a Messiah. Jesus himself taught this in John 14:6. By denying this truth and focusing their own efforts for salvation, the people of Babel were especially prideful.

FROM DAY 2

1. 75
2. Sarai, Lot
3. True
4. True
5. Wicked
6. Priest

APPLICATION HELP

1. We are like tent dwellers too, here on earth. We can live here temporarily, with the hope of a permanent dwelling place in heaven. We may focus too much on wealth here and building mansions here on earth, and miss out on what heaven has to offer us.
2. From Genesis 13, we learn Abraham gave the first choices to Lot...If you go take the left, then I will go right. If you go the right, then I will go left. It didn't matter to Abraham if Lot would choose right or left, because he knew he could trust in the Lord. He had learned that God would provide for his needs and would ensure he and his family prospered in whatever land they had.

FROM DAY 3

1. Shield, reward
2. Believed
3. Covenant
4. Hagar
5. Ishmael
6. Abraham

APPLICATION HELP

1. One virtue lacking for Sarah was patience. But she also was doing something a little harder to explain, though we all suffer from it at times: We try either to shrink God's abilities (to the point where we can understand them) or stretch our minds to His (which usually results in a breaking point and we become frustrated). Without becoming anti-intellectual, it is part of our growth as Christians to learn to be content with what God knows and understands, even though we don't.
2. Circumcision is a symbol of life under the law, where successful living was painful, difficult, and even downright impossible. After the Day of Pentecost, we entered the Age of Grace, whereupon Jesus' words were activated: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." While we can still suffer much, we have a better understanding of the assurance of salvation.



FROM DAY 4

1. Three
2. True
3. True
4. Merciful
5. Sinning
6. Prophet

APPLICATION HELP

1. Lot's and his daughters' children of incest became the nations of Moab and Ammon around 2,000 BC. They were among the nations Joshua's army had to brutally fight 650 years later. Over 1,000 years later, it was Solomon's wives from these very nations and several others that turned Solomon to idolatry. God continued to rain good on these people in spite of their sins until they were destroyed by Babylon in 582 BC. People who accuse God of being rigid in the Old Testament are often dismissing the abominable acts of the people.

FROM DAY 5

1. 100
2. True
3. Moriah
4. Lamb
5. Machpelah
6. The Hittites

APPLICATION HELP

1. Per chapter 22 and Abraham's willingness to step out and sacrifice human blood: Note that the surrounding cultures at that time practiced human sacrifice regularly. Many would sacrifice adults, children and babies to allegedly bring about prosperity and fertility. Genesis 22 is where our God drew the line and implied, "If there will be any human sacrifices, it will be MY flesh, and not that of my people." This is another ideal of God's lovingkindness and mercy in the face of much violence and fallen ideas.



GENESIS

Genesis 25-39



WEEK 3

Genesis 24-25: Rebekah: Abraham's Death, Esau/Jacob, Birthright Sold

READ GENESIS 24-25

Today we get the privilege of watching a humble servant trying to find God's will at every turn so that we can apply his diligence to our own spiritual maturity. We also are introduced to Jacob, who eventually will become Israel and the father of the nation.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to chapter 24, verse 3, Abraham tells his servant that he does not want his son Isaac to take a wife from among the _____.
- 02 Who was the woman who came and met Abraham's servant at the well? (24:15) _____.
- 03 Rebekah was the daughter of _____ (24:24).
- 04 Who was Rebekah's brother? (24:29) _____.
- 05 How old was Abraham when he died? (25:7) _____.
- 06 Rebekah had twins and named the older one _____ and the younger one _____. (25:25-26)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Abraham's servant showed faith in chapter 24 as he relied on God's guidance. Rebecca showed kindness to Abraham's servant as a sign of God's favor. What does this teach us about the importance of faith and kindness? Why do you think God wants us to treat others well?

Further Reading on KINDNESS: Mark 12:29-31, Galatians 5:22

- 02** In Genesis 25, we find Jacob stealing Esau's birthright without God interfering to uphold the traditional rights of the oldest. What flaws of character do you see in Esau? How might we be tempted to exchange God's blessings for things that are less valuable?

Recommended Bible verses on WALKING OUT OUR FAITH: Hebrews 11, James 2:14-26



Genesis 27-28: Jacob/Esau, Jacob's Ladder

READ GENESIS 27-28

Jacob's Ladder is not only famous for being the place where Jacob's mind opened to the things of heaven, but also because it represents what may be considered a "portal" by physicists and apologists.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to chapter 27, verses 1-4, who did Isaac intend to bless before he died?
_____.
- 02 True/False: Esau intended to kill Jacob after their father's death. (27:41)
- 03 Who did Rebekah tell Jacob to flee to according to chapter 27, verse 43? _____
- 04 True/False: Isaac did not want Jacob to marry a Canaanite woman. (28:1)
- 05 Isaac told Jacob to take for himself a wife from the daughters of _____, his mother's brother. (28:2)
- 06 According to chapter 28, verse 19, Jacob names the place where the Lord appeared to him _____, which means "House of God."

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Chapter 27 features sibling rivalry at its finest. But it also shows Rebekah having clear vision of what a future should be like with her rightful son at the helm of a developing nation. How do we deal with the unfairness of situations involving rigid expectations (i.e. the eldest gets the better job) rather than qualifications?

- 02** In Genesis 28:12, we see the beginning of the vision of Jacob's Ladder. In Jacob's dream, he had a vision and was able to see great things. Today, we likely don't receive vision and dreams, but the Lord has blessed us with the Holy Spirit. What power does the Holy Spirit hold? How do we recognize it today?

Optional Further Reading on the HOLY SPIRIT: John 14:16, Acts 2:4, Acts 7:55



Genesis 29-31: Leah/Rachel, Problems with their Father-in-Law

READ GENESIS 29-31

Have you had someone in your life who took your kindness as weakness or your honesty as stupidity? Here, Jacob goes through trials and tribulations with a father-in-law who was very welcoming at first. But the farther he goes with Jacob, the more advantage he takes. Find the threads to weave from Jacob's life into your own.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob ask to marry as payment? (29:18)

- 02 How many years did Jacob agree to work for Laban so he could marry Rachel according to chapter 29, verse 18? ____
- 03 When Rachel finally conceived, she had a son and named him _____. (30:24)
- 04 True/False: Even though Laban cheated Jacob many times, God never allowed him to harm Jacob. (31:7)
- 05 How many days had passed before Laban found out about Jacob leaving? (31:22)

- 06 Laban did not harm Jacob because God had warned him in a _____ not to. (31:29)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Genesis 29 illustrates the trickery of Laban, even though Jacob had kept his promise and worked for seven years. Jacob then worked another seven years to obtain Rachel as his wife. What does this story teach us about the importance of being honest and long-suffering, even when others practice deceit?

- 02** Some Christians feel that if you are walking fully with the Lord you won't have challenges with your spouse, children, parents or neighbors. Look at the complexity of the wrongdoings that unfold in chapter 31. Look at verses 10-13, which contain God's comfort. How can we apply Jacob's comfort to our own lives?

Recommended Bible Verses on GOD'S PROTECTION IN TIMES OF TROUBLE:

Psalm 3, Psalm 138:7, Romans 8:31



Genesis 32-34: Jacob Becomes Israel and Dinah's Rape

READ GENESIS 32-34

Have you ever seen Christians show off their prowess over something? It's a really bad witness! See for the first time in the Bible when men could have found a more stoic and well-thought-out means to restore the dignity of their favorite sister. Their type of behavior is what, as maturing Christians, we are trying to outgrow.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** Jacob started his journey with just a staff, but because of God's grace, he grew into ____ camps! (32:10)
- 02** The man who came and wrestled with Jacob blessed him and changed his name to _____ which means "Struggles with God." (32:28)
- 03** What did Jacob name the place where he wrestled with God? (32:30) _____
- 04** According to the order Jacob put his family in, who do you think he favored most? (33:2) _____ and _____.
- 05** In chapter 33, verse 10, Jacob tells Esau that seeing him is like seeing the face of _____.
- 06** According to chapter 34, verse 25, which two of Jacob's sons took revenge for the rape of Dinah? _____ and _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Genesis 32:22-32 features Jacob wrestling with a man. Here, Jacob shows remarkable persistence. What was it he wanted? How can we use his persistence as an example in our own lives?

- 02** Genesis 33 shows Esau with a very humble attitude. Many of us would like to have a very special purpose for the Lord like Jacob did; however, we are simply not chosen for jobs of grandeur or stature. What in Esau's outlook can we use to help us be content with what we have as callings from God?

Recommended Bible verses on BEING CONTENT WITH GOD'S CALLINGS:

Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:6-8, Proverbs 16:8



Genesis 37-39: Joseph & His Brothers throw Joseph in Jail

READ GENESIS 37-39

Have you ever been falsely accused of a horrible act? Have you ever been sexually maligned at work and then feared for your job? Here's a chance to relate to some more of life's unfairness!

We did skip Genesis 35 & 36, you are not mistaken. These are great chapters, which you can read as optional further reading, but the critical life lessons are covered in other stories. Today we are introducing Joseph, representing the fourth and final generation covered in the Book of Genesis. The fears stated above play out in the life of this young man, chosen by God.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Which son did Israel love the most? (37:3) _____
- 02 Which brother tried to rescue Joseph from the others? (37:21) _____
- 03 According to chapter 37, verse 27, who did the brothers sell Joseph to?

- 04 Who did the Midianites sell Joseph to? (37:36) _____
- 05 According to chapter 38, verse 6, who became Judah's daughter-in-law?

- 06 How did the midwife differentiate between the twins? (38:28) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Chapters 37 and 39 are a compelling tale of a man who was favored by the Lord, yet experienced many challenges, including slavery, wrongful allegations, and a prison sentence. Yet within another few years, Joseph would be governor of Egypt. What does Joseph's story teach us about hardships that even faithful people experience? How does Joseph's example teach us to endure our own trials?

- 02** Chapter 38 bore wicked tales of people using their sexuality to gain power. Judah holds the line to Christ (see Recommended Bible Verses). What he did was extremely hypocritical. Yet he is the only one of these men who appears to be sorry for his actions. Think of a time in your life, or loved one's life, when God allowed the consequences of actions to play out to teach a lesson. What could have been done differently to avoid those consequences?

Recommended Bible Verses on JUDAH CARRYING THE LINE TO CHRIST:

Matthew 1:2-3, Revelation 5:5, Genesis 49:8-12

Optional Further Reading: J.P.A., A Chorus of Echoes, Wordpress, Judah and Tamar Genesis 38:1-30 (In Historical and Cultural Context) <https://achorusofehoes.wordpress.com/2010/07/28/judah-and-tamar-genesis-381-30-in-historical-and-cultural-context/>



FROM DAY 1

1. Canaanites
2. Rebekah
3. Bethuel
4. Laban
5. 175
6. Esau, Jacob

APPLICATION HELP

1. This is the first time we see Jacob in somewhat of a stealth mode to obtain his older brother's birthright. Already there appears a lack of heart in Esau for the essentials of our faith. We will soon see the end of the matter, when Jacob actually obtains the birthright from his father, Isaac. It is important to see Esau clearly at this point so that Jacob and his mother appear justified and not greedy in the upcoming chapters.

FROM DAY 2

1. Esau
2. True
3. Laban
4. True
5. Laban
6. Bethel

APPLICATION HELP

1. Time and time again in Bible history, God has reached past the oldest child to give the position of honor to a younger. These include Seth v. Cain, Isaac v. Ishmael, Esau v. Jacob, Joseph v. his 10 older brothers, Moses v. Aaron, David v. his seven older brothers, and Solomon v. at least four older brothers. It is a recurring theme of God's that He looks first at the heart, not at circumstances such as birth order.

Some skeptics love to trumpet the idea that Rebekah and Jacob got away with a deceit in chapter 27 (and thereby allege that our God is corrupt or isn't against corruption). The setting is that seedling Israel is about to sprout, and we are speaking here of the first head of a very important nation, not just the head of a large family. Political hotbeds have arisen all over the planet, and we may even know of a situation to do with our own country where someone in power seemed so ill-equipped that it was a constant source of stress. This was not God's intention in choosing Jacob.

2. There are many places in the Bible where angels or God Himself appeared visually:
 - a. Mount Horeb, where Moses saw the burning bush (Exodus 3)
 - b. East of the Jordan near Tishbe, where the prophet Elijah was taken up
 - c. Mount Tabor, where the Transfiguration presented Moses and Elijah to Jesus and three disciples
 - d. The Garden of Eden

The Holy Spirit is considered a way to receive the wisdom God bestows on us, and also strength, vision, love, commitment and hope. Jesus promised the disciples the Holy Spirit when He left (see John 14:16) and with it they were able to perform many miracles.

FROM DAY 3

1. Rachel
2. Seven
3. Joseph
4. True
5. Three
6. Dream

APPLICATION HELP

Laban has become an antagonist in a typical family drama, featuring people wanting power. The New Covenant with Christ tells us that "the first will be last, and the last, first." While the bickering and stealth are reflective of what we see in many families today, it should be a Christian ideal to see how many times we can put up with being "last" so that when we inherit from Christ, we can be a bit closer to "first."



FROM DAY 4

1. Two
2. Israel
3. Peniel
4. Rachel, Joseph
5. God
6. Simeon, Levi

APPLICATION HELP

The bad side of Esau's attitude is clear here as well, the part that had God pointing to Jacob as the best head of the new nation. Esau is kind and certainly not greedy in declining his brother's gifts. But he also lacks vision, his focus still being on what will serve him personally and not the nation of children coming down the road. Esau had a sweet short-term vision, but no real long-term vision.

FROM DAY 5

1. Joseph
2. Reuben
3. The Ishmaelites
4. Potiphar
5. Tamar
6. A scarlet thread

APPLICATION HELP

The inclusion of chapter 38 almost appears to be an afterthought, as it interrupts the story of Joseph and his adventures. It's as if recordkeepers decided, "To not include these incidents would be a cover-up. They need to be out in the open." Remember, the Bible is a record. It isn't a novel or a memoir where God's emotions and people's motives are at the center of the text. In recordkeeping, we are often left without those pieces.

Bible accounts are for recording what happened, often without much of a why.

It's important to not do what too many skeptics do—to fill in those whys from the lens of 21st century students with birth control, sexual protection, and the resulting women's rights at their elbows. See Optional Further Reading above for a cultural outlay of these situations.



GENESIS

Genesis 40-50



WEEK 4

Genesis 40-42: Joseph Interprets Dreams, Made Governor, Meets Brothers

READ GENESIS 40-42

Have you sought work by using the gifts you believe God gave you? While nothing creates a perfect workforce situation, many Christians attest to having found rewarding careers by focusing on their talents rather than the possessions they would like to amass. Joseph used his gift of interpreting dreams, a gift some might have been ashamed of or made uncomfortable by. Watch what happens when God is in charge of even a very unlucky person's life.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 How many years had passed before Pharaoh's dream? (41:1) _____
- 02 According to Joseph in chapter 41, verse 16, it was not he who could interpret the dream, but who? _____
- 03 According to chapter 41, verses 25- 27, the number 7 in Pharaoh's dreams represents 7 what? _____
- 04 Joseph had two sons named _____ and _____. (41:51-52)
- 05 According to chapter 42, verse 4, which brother stayed behind in Canaan? _____
- 06 Which brother did Joseph keep behind in prison? (42:24) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In Chapter 40, the cupbearer forgot about Joseph after Joseph had treated him honorably. Often when we act on God's behalf, it seems to go unnoticed. Think of a time when you felt like you were doing something as a witness for our faith but nobody seemed to notice. How were you able to still feel good in your heart about the deed?

Recommended Bible Verses on GIVING IN SECRET: Matthew 6:1-4, Hebrews 6:10

- 02** Look at Genesis 42:36 and how Jacob presents his grief. Yet very little of what Jacob is grieving is actually true, as within a few chapters Jacob is restored to his two sons. Reflect on a time when grief or sadness may caused you to be short-sighted. How were you overcome this and recognize the God's hand in your life?



Genesis 43-45: Joseph Stirs the Pot, Reveals His Identity

READ GENESIS 43-45

Have you ever been so upset by an event in your life that you found yourself actually creating drama that didn't need to be there? Might we call it acting out? Today we see Joseph so emotional at the sight of his brothers that he doesn't quite know what to do. But God does! While it looks like we can greatly manipulate situations, we can also make sure God is in charge to create the best endings.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to the steward in chapter 43, verse 23, it was _____ who gifted the brothers with the silver.
- 02 When Joseph saw Benjamin, he went away by himself to _____ because he was very moved. (43:30)
- 03 Whose bag did Joseph order his silver cup to be put into? (44:12) _____
- 04 Which brother pleaded with Joseph to let him take Benjamin's place? (44:18, 33) _____
- 05 God sent Joseph ahead of his brothers to save their lives by a great _____. (45:7)
- 06 In chapter 45, verse 8, Joseph says that it was not his brothers that sent him to Egypt, but _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Review Judah's behavior in chapter 43:8-10 and starting at 44:18. This is a far cry from his behavior in 37:26-27, where he was at the center of the scheme to sell his own flesh and blood to slave traders. How might Judah's experiences given him such a change of heart? Reflect on something in your past for which you were sorry and went to lengths to make amends. How has the situation worked out?

- 02** Genesis 45:1-15 shares an amazing story of reconciliation between Joseph and his brothers. After all that happened, Joseph was able to forgive his brothers. What did Joseph do or say to let them know that they had been forgiven? What does this teach us about forgiving those that offend us?

Recommended Bible Verses on GOD USING TRAGEDY FOR GOOD: Romans 8:28, 1 Peter 5:6-7



Genesis 46-47: Settling in Goshen; the Famine Hits Egypt

READ GENESIS 46-47

In these chapters, we see people having to relocate. This family knows they are going to a place where people will find them socially unacceptable due to their occupations as shepherds. This could be a very stressful relation, something most of us can relate to and perhaps take away enough wisdom to see the blessings among the stress.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Where did Jacob stop on his journey to make sacrifices to God? (46:1) _____
- 02 How many descendants came with Jacob to Egypt, not counting Joseph and his sons? (46:26) _____
- 03 What region did Jacob and his descendants settle in when they got to Egypt? (46:33-34) _____
- 04 True/False: Goshen was the best part of the land of Egypt (47:6)
- 05 How old was Jacob when he came to Egypt? (47:9) _____
- 06 How long did Jacob live in Egypt before his death? (47:28) _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 Jacob received a vision at night in chapter 46, telling him to go to Egypt. Many Christians have a common testimony of receiving answers to prayer while asleep, such as a dream or in that relaxed state just before one drops off. Have you had an experience where you prayed for an answer and woke up with it the next morning or a few mornings later? What happened?

02 In Chapter 46, we have again some “boring” genealogy lines. Before dismissing them completely, pause and reflect on how the record keeping of the Israelites helps give credibility to the Bible. Why might including these genealogies be especially useful, especially in regard to the inheritance of future generations?

03 Chapter 47 shows how Joseph seemed to have the attitude that “everything is an opportunity,” which is also how he survived a kidnapping and unfair jail sentence prior to this famine. Think of a life event or natural disaster which you fear could come your way. How might Joseph help us to see those events as opportunities instead of nightmares?

Recommended Bible Verses on EVERYTHING ENDING WELL FOR GOD’S CHILDREN: Philippians 1:6, Galatians 6:9



Genesis 48-50: Ephraim/Manasseh, Deaths of Jacob/Joseph

READ GENESIS 48-50

Do you come from a big family? How about a family with lots of problems? Today, we'll get the big picture of a family that had problems probably beyond what we've dealt with, and bigger than most!

Here we get to meet the children of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, which may sound like names heard often to those who read their Bibles regularly. All 12 sons of Jacob are about to become the founders of the 12 tribes of Israel. Yet Joseph agreed to split his tribal name between these two sons. Hence, they became tribes of Israel, which is why we often see 13 names associated with them.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to chapter 48, verse 7, Jacob buried Rachel in _____.
- 02 On whose head did Jacob place his right hand of blessing? (48:14) _____.
- 03 Which son will the scepter not depart from? (49:10) _____.
- 04 Where does Jacob order his sons to bury him according to chapter 49, verse 30?
_____.
- 05 What did Joseph do when his brothers asked him for forgiveness? (50:17)
_____.
- 06 In chapter 50, verse 20, Joseph tells his brothers that what they meant for evil, God meant for _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 These days, it's not acceptable to say things to our children that sound like put-downs or insults. In chapter 49, Jacob makes many honest, albeit negative comments to his children. What can we learn from this to help us in our parenting journeys?

02 In Genesis 50:20, Joseph repeats his famous words that what his brothers intended for evil, God used for good. What are some other examples of happening this in the Bible? And how might that thought be especially comforting to us in time of our own trials?

Recommended Bible Verses on GOD TURNING BAD SITUATIONS INTO GOOD

ONES: 2 Samuel 12:-25



The Most Popular and Relevant Verses in Genesis Today

Looking at the most popular verses of any Bible book we study can tell us not only a lot about ourselves, but about how our culture relates to God.

The verses below may relate to your life in a way that you want to remember them. They also can tell you what we are struggling with as a culture. Are people looking these verses up to try to defend or solve problems with their faith? Are they central to a problem in today's culture? Or are they simply speaking to you personally? Write out any thoughts in the reflections below.

#1 Rank in Genesis: 1:1

Total Bible Rank: 7

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

Reflection: _____

#2 Rank in Genesis: 1:26

Total Bible Rank: 16

"Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"

Reflection: _____

#3 Rank in Genesis: 3:15

Total Bible Rank: 86

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Reflection: _____

#4 Rank in Genesis: 3:1

Total Bible Rank: 110

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?"

Reflection: _____

#5 Rank in Genesis: 12:1

Bible Rank: 125

"The LORD had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.'"

Reflection: _____

#6 Rank in Genesis 2:7

Total Bible Rank: 128

"Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

Reflection: _____

#7 Rank in Genesis: 6:5

Bible Rank: 565

"The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time."

Reflection: _____

#8 Rank in Genesis: 3:16

Bible Rank: 493

"To the woman he said, 'I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.'"

Reflection: _____

#9 Rank in Genesis: 6:9

Bible Rank: 695

"This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God."

Reflection: _____

#10 Rank in Genesis: 17:1

Bible Rank: 850

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.'"

Reflection: _____

Reflect here on your study of Genesis as a whole. What parts will stay with you the most and why? What applies to your past or future? Who was your favorite character and why? What would you like to share with others that might help them?

Reflection: _____



FROM DAY 1

1. 2
2. God
3. Years
4. Manasseh, Ephraim
5. Benjamin
6. Simeon

APPLICATION HELP

Per chapter 42, we are getting into the thick of the setup for the Book of Exodus. While this family's shuffle into Egypt takes place some 350 years before Moses came onto the scene, we will find the family, at the top of Exodus, having been in Egypt for hundreds of years. With these chapters, we're being told how the Jews got to Egypt in the first place.

FROM DAY 2

1. God
2. Weep
3. Benjamin
4. Judah
5. Deliverance
6. God

APPLICATION HELP

It is mysterious that Judah, who thought up this kidnapping plot, is also the brother among the 12 who would carry the line to Christ. God's chosen often made egregious mistakes, and Judah is no exception. We can take from this a hope for ourselves. As God did not reject Judah among His noteworthy men and women, He will have the same mercy and kindness toward us.

FROM DAY 3

1. Beersheba
2. 66
3. Goshen
4. True
5. 130
6. 17

APPLICATION HELP

As the Chronicles also show, all the serious players—from the beginning of Genesis up until Christ—were meticulously recorded, here and in multiple places, using methodology far superior to surrounding cultures. This is part of Israel's credibility in recordkeeping and part of the reason we can trust Jewish accounts to help us point to Christ as Messiah.

FROM DAY 4

1. Bethlehem
2. Ephraim
3. Judah
4. The cave at Machpelah
5. He wept
6. Good

APPLICATION HELP

As for one nuance between Jacob and us as parents, Jacob is a prophet and is actually prophesying in some of his statements in chapter 49. But we can see that honesty, however cringeworthy the topic, was a big part of parenting in that culture. It can help us to realize that how Jacob spoke to his 12 sons is similar to how God may speak to us at judgment. Let's not be fooled by our parents or our own parenting styles to believe that we will not receive the honest truth from God one day as part of His love for all, including those we hurt.

There are actually many examples in the Bible of people doing cringeworthy things and God creating lemonade from those lemons. Of course, all this culminates in the death of Christ. Jesus was killed by a pack of deceived, conniving, conceited and violent evildoers. God did not tempt them or put any ideas into their heads.

But as promised, He turned a brutal murder of His only Son into a plan for saving souls, when He could have let us all fall into darkness for eternity. When skeptics call "the God of the Old Testament cruel and violent," they are not seeing acts like Joseph's here that foreshadow the sacrifice of Christ.



Congratulations on finishing this study of Genesis! If you don't want to lose any momentum and find you are enjoying Bible history as much as we do, we suggest moving on with one final [Optional Recommended Reading passage](#): Exodus 1:1-14.

Most people know about the Exodus. But the question is almost constantly raised from the start, "What were all these Hebrews doing in Egypt in the first place??"

You can now answer that question, along with many others, and can hear the next set of exciting Bible adventures calling your name!