



MICHELANGELO'S FRESCO OF PAINTING OF CREATION / THE SISTINE CHAPEL / ROME / ITALY

# The Book Of **GENESIS**

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## **Some Of The Subjects To Be Studied In The Genesis Series**

1. Creation and the Fall of Man
2. The Fallen World and The Flood
3. From the Flood to Abram (Later Known As Abraham)
4. Abraham and Isaac
5. The Catastrophe at Sodom
6. Jacob and Esau, the Tearing Apart of a Family
7. The Strange, Yet Wonderful, Saga of Jacob
8. Joseph, The Most Christ-Like Man in the Old Testament

These are basic divisions of Genesis, not necessarily the topic for study each progressive Wednesday night. We may spend more time on one subject, yet less time on another.

In this series we will study in some depth the lives of Adam, Eve, Enoch, Noah, Nimrod, Abraham, Lot, Isaac, Rebekah, Rachel, Jacob, Judah, Joseph and others.

A basic working knowledge of the Book of Genesis is essential in understanding the remainder of the Bible. It is in this book that God's first covenants with mankind are established. We will see God's extreme mercy and His extreme wrath - both revealed as mankind rises and falls in obedience and holiness unto the Lord.

Some of the best-known and loved Bible stories of all time are found in Genesis. May the Lord anoint this study to our hearts and may we all be stronger believers because of it.

— *Dan Betzer*

# The Book of Genesis / In The Beginning

## Part One

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

### IN THE BEGINNING - THROUGH THE FALL OF MANKIND

Genesis Chapters 1, 2 and 3

1 Since the Book of Genesis marks the foundation for the entire Word of God, it would be  
2 well for us think through this question: How reliable is the Bible? There are those who  
3 say it is a good book but historically inaccurate, or scientifically inadequate. Others say  
4 they accept “part” of the Book, but not all of it. As a pastor, I have never pulled any  
5 punches on my absolute belief that the Bible is the entire Word of God, that it is accurate  
6 in every way and can be counted on.  
7

8 Our Assemblies of God position on the inerrancy of Scripture is this:

*“We believe the Bible is the Word of God written; it is the revelation of the truths of God conveyed by inspiration through His servants to us. As such, it is infallible and without error.*

*“We refer to the original autographs (that is, the original texts as written by the biblical writers).*

*“We conceive the Bible to be in actuality the very Word of God. The divine Author prompted the original thought in the mind of the writers. He then guided their choice of words to express such thoughts. And He illuminates the mind of the reader of such words in a way that the reader potentially may comprehend the same truth as was originally in the mind of the writer.”*

9  
10 What a book we are now studying! It is a BOOK OF FIRSTS....creation, humankind,  
11 evil, the home, civilization, crime, races, multiplicity of languages and the establishment  
12 of the world’s first cities.

13  
14 It is also a book of charming and challenging BIOGRAPHIES....Adam, Noah, Abraham,  
15 Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and many others.

16  
17 **I divide Genesis into two primary categories:**

18  
19 Chapters 1 - 11: God deals with mankind in general

1 Chapters 12 - 50: God deals with individuals

2  
3 The first eleven chapters concern events from creation to Abraham. The second  
4 section, chapters 12 through 50 have to do with major persons as Abraham, Jacob and  
5 Joseph.

6  
7 It is interesting to find biblical commentators who believe Genesis spans a vast era of  
8 time. J. Vernon McGee observed, "I feel that it is safe to say that the first eleven  
9 chapters of Genesis may cover several hundred thousand years. But the second section  
10 covers about 350 years." (Genesis/McGee/Pg. 2/Zondervan)

### 11 12 13 14 15 16 **Who wrote the book of Genesis?**

17  
18 It is my feeling that the book was "compiled" by Moses, guided by two factors:

- 19 1. The inspiration of the Holy Ghost  
20 2. The writings of Adam, Enoch, Noah, and others of that era, plus his own  
21 observations and inspirations.

### 22 23 **Is the Book of Genesis to be taken as fact? Absolutely!**

24  
25 *"If the Holy Spirit cannot be trusted when He tells of CREATION, how can He be trusted*  
26 *when He tells of SALVATION? If what He says about the EARTH in Genesis 1 can be*  
27 *questioned, then what He says about HEAVEN in Revelation 22 can be questioned. If*  
28 *the Holy Spirit cannot be trusted in Genesis 1, how can He be trusted in John 3:16?"*

29 EXPLORING GENESIS / JOHN PHILLIPS / PAGE 35 / MOODY PRESS

30  
31 Just about everyone, including myself, has a "theory" about the age of the earth. Your  
32 estimate is as valid as mine. But the bottom line to any "theory" is that it all began with  
33 God and will end with God. GOD IS THE PRIME MOVER IN IT ALL.

### 34 35 **Chapter One**

#### 36 37 **Genesis 1:1-2**

38 **In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. [2] And the earth was**  
39 **without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit**  
40 **of God moved upon the face of the waters.**

1 There are four primary theories on the creation-day factor:

2 1) There is the day-age theory that maintains the “days” of creation are not literal 24  
3 hour days but rather epochs or ages or vast periods of time (based on Peter’s words in 2  
4 Peter 3:8: .... one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one  
5 day.)

6 2) The gap-theory postulates a gap of countless ages between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.  
7 In that gap they insert all the ages demanded by geologists, ending with the Glacial Age  
8 said to be described in Gen. 1:2. The rest of this chapter, according to these theorists,  
9 would be the rehabitation of the earth by mankind.

10 3) The revelation-theory teaches that the days in Genesis 1 are not creation days but  
11 rather days of revelation, days in the life of Moses in which the Holy Spirit outlined the  
12 creation to him.

13 4) Creation in its entirety was done in six 24-hour days and the earth basically is about  
14 6-7,000 years old.

15  
16 Whichever consideration you find probable, still the foundation of it all was, is and  
17 always will be GOD!

## 18 CREATION DAY ONE

### 19 Genesis 1:3-5

20  
21 **And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. [4] And God saw the light,**  
22 **that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. [5] And God called**  
23 **the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning**  
24 **were the first day.**  
25

26  
27 Ten times in chapter 1 we read that God said, “....let there be....” And....there was!  
28 The word of God, His proclamation, is always the last word in any discussion. In any  
29 quandary, I need to know, WHAT DID GOD SAY?

## 30 CREATION DAY TWO

### 31 Genesis 1:6,7

32  
33 **And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it**  
34 **divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the**  
35 **waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the**  
36 **firmament: and it was so.**  
37

38  
39 What is “firmament?” The Hebrew definition of the term is “air spaces.” What does  
40 the Scripture refer to with the words “divide the waters from the waters?” It means that

1 God created water above us and water below us.

2  
3 I have either lived in or visited places where copious amounts of rainfall or snowfall have  
4 hit the earth in a day's time. The atmosphere is filled with water. At the same time, on  
5 this planet, we have seas, lakes and rivers. God divided the waters with SPACE  
6 between them.

7  
8 CREATION DAY THREE

9  
10 Genesis 1:9-10

11 **And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one**  
12 **place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. [10] And God called the dry land**  
13 **Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it**  
14 **was good.**

15  
16 Today about 70% of the earth's surface is covered by water. Some scientists conclude  
17 that at one time all the earth was so covered. In these two verses, God begins to prepare  
18 a place for mankind to live and thrive. Evolutionists contend that we humans originally  
19 came from the sea and we "evolved" to where we are now. This whole theory is so  
20 pock-marked with holes that it would take far more faith to believe it than to believe  
21 Genesis 1-3.

22  
23 Genesis 1:11

24 **And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the**  
25 **fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it**  
26 **was so.**

27  
28 God now prepares the earth to be able to sustain human life.

29  
30 Genesis 1:12-13

31 **And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the**  
32 **tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was**  
33 **good. [13] And the evening and the morning were the third day.**

34  
35 CREATION DAY FOUR

36  
37 Genesis 1:14-19

38 **And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day**  
39 **from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:**  
40 **[15] And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the**

1 earth: and it was so. [16] And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule  
2 the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. [17] And God  
3 set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, [18] And to rule  
4 over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God  
5 saw that it was good. [19] And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.  
6

7 I am especially intrigued by this passage in which God causes the sun, moon and stars to  
8 all fall into position. In verse 16, the Word declares, HE MADE THE STARS ALSO.  
9

The Holy Spirit took 15 chapters in the Book of Exodus to discuss the Tabernacle in the Wilderness but only FIVE WORDS to discuss the formation of the heavenly bodies. Why? The stars had to do with CREATION while the Tabernacle had to do with REDEMPTION.

10 Note verse 16 again: “...and God made two great lights; the greater to rule the day and  
11 the lesser light to rule the night.” How did Moses know the sun was bigger than the  
12 moon? His visual observation would have led him to the opposite conclusion.  
13

14 To give us some concept of the size of the universe: The star Antares is a class M mega-  
15 star in the Milky Way. It is so large that it could swallow up 64 million suns the size of  
16 ours. The star Epsilon is so vast that its diameter is 3,000 times that of our sun and its  
17 volume some 27 billion times our sun’s.  
18

## 19 CREATION DAY FIVE

### 20 Genesis 1:20-23

21 **And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that**  
22 **hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.**  
23 **[21] And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which**  
24 **the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after**  
25 **his kind: and God saw that it was good. [22] And God blessed them, saying, Be**  
26 **fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the**  
27 **earth. [23] And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.**  
28  
29  
30

31 Note the variety in size of God’s creatures. The blue whale can grow to a length of 100  
32 feet. But consider the microscopic creatures so small that a teaspoonful of water would  
33 be to them what the Atlantic Ocean is to us. *Half a billion microscopic organisms*  
34 *known as Infusoria can live comfortably in a single drop of water. Some of them live on*  
35 *herbs while others are carnivorous. They possess mouths, teeth, muscles, nerves and*

1 glands. Some species have stomach membranes that are estimated to be only one-fifty-  
2 millionth part of an inch! THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS "BIGNESS" OR  
3 SMALLNESS" TO GOD.

## 4 5 CREATION DAY SIX 6

7 Now we read of the creation of the human race:  
8

### 9 Genesis 1:26-28

10 **And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them**  
11 **have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the**  
12 **cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the**  
13 **earth. [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he**  
14 **him; male and female created he them. [28] And God blessed them, and God said**  
15 **unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and**  
16 **have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every**  
17 **living thing that moveth upon the earth.**

18  
19 While everything else in creation came into being at the spoken WORD of God, the  
20 human race differed in that it was MADE by the Master Designer. Paul wrote in I  
21 Corinthians 3, "You are God's building." God built you. Therefore, I am NOT an  
22 animal nor the descendant of one because I came into existence at a different creative  
23 plateau.  
24

### 25 We are created in God's image. What does that mean?

- 26  
27 1. We were created to have His nature.  
28 2. We have personality that is to be refined by the Holy Spirit.  
29 3. We have moral and spiritual capacity.  
30 4. We have free will.  
31 5. We have emotions.  
32 6. We have intellect.  
33 7. We have conscience.  
34

35 One writer has observed: *Man is in no way related to the beasts. What animal can*  
36 *transmit accumulated achievements from one generation to another? What animal*  
37 *experiences a true sense of guilt when it does wrong or has a developed consciousness*  
38 *of judgment to come? What animal has hope of immortality beyond the grave?*  
39 *What beast can exercise abstract moral judgment or show appreciation of the beauties*  
40 *of nature? When did we ever see a dog admiring a sunset or a horse standing*

1 *breathless before the rugged grandeur of a mountain range? What animal ever*  
2 *learned to read and write, to act with deliberate purpose, and set goals and achieve*  
3 *long-range objectives? What animal ever learned to cook its food, to cut cloth and*  
4 *make clothes or invent elaborate tools? What animal ever enjoyed a hearty laugh?*  
5 *What animal has the gift of speech? Even the most primitive human tribe possesses*  
6 *linguistics of a subtle, complex and eloquent nature. Man stands alone. Physically,*  
7 *he alone of all the creatures on the globe walks upright; mentally, he alone as the*  
8 *ability to communicate in a sophisticated manner; spiritually, he alone has the capacity*  
9 *to show the mind and will of God.*

10  
11 IS IT ANY WONDER THEN THAT SATAN WANTS YOU TO THINK YOU ARE AN  
12 ANIMAL?

## 13 14 Chapter Two

### 15 16 CREATION DAY SEVEN

#### 17 18 Genesis 2:1-3

19 **Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. [2] And on**  
20 **the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the**  
21 **seventh day from all his work which he had made. [3] And God blessed the seventh**  
22 **day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God**  
23 **created and made.**

24  
25 God rested? Was He weary? No. The “rest” does not indicate weariness, but rather a  
26 cessation of further creation.

### 27 28 THE GARDEN OF EDEN

#### 29 30 Genesis 2:8-14

31 **And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man**  
32 **whom he had formed. [9] And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every**  
33 **tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst**  
34 **of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. [10] And a river went out**  
35 **of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four**  
36 **heads. [11] The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land**  
37 **of Havilah, where there is gold; [12] And the gold of that land is good: there is**  
38 **bdellium and the onyx stone. [13] And the name of the second river is Gihon: the**  
39 **same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. [14] And the name of the third**  
40 **river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth**

1 **river is Euphrates.**

2  
3 Where was the Garden of Eden? We don't know. There is, at best, only speculation.  
4 But it must have been a magnificent place, a forerunner, so to speak, of that which God  
5 has prepared in eternity for those who love Him.

## 6 7 EDEN'S STIPULATION

### 8 9 Genesis 2:15-21

10 **And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it**  
11 **and to keep it. [16] And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of**  
12 **the garden thou mayest freely eat: [17] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and**  
13 **evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely**  
14 **die.**

15 **[18] And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will**  
16 **make him an help meet for him. [19] And out of the ground the Lord God formed**  
17 **every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to**  
18 **see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature,**  
19 **that was the name thereof. [20] And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl**  
20 **of the air, and to every beast of the field....**

21  
22 It is important to note that even in Eden man had responsibility. Responsibility is God-  
23 given. Nothing is quite as disgusting as idleness or laziness.

24  
25 One of Adam's responsibilities was to name the animals. That was a massive  
26 undertaking. He was also to be the caretaker for the Garden.

## 27 28 THE CHALLENGE

29  
30 As recorded in verses 16 and 17, Adam was prohibited from eating of the tree of the  
31 knowledge of good and evil. John Phillips has given us a strong reasoning for God's  
32 directive:

33  
34 "Adam was given all things richly to enjoy. One thing and only one was reserved for  
35 God. A choice was placed before Adam, a necessary choice, for Adam could not have  
36 been a moral, accountable being without such power to choose. Without it he would  
37 have been a mere puppet on a string. But God did not make a mechanical man; He made  
38 a moral man. Once the right to decide was invested in Adam, he became a moral being,  
39 but with that right there was always the possibility that his power of choice would be used  
40 amiss. So God set the alternatives before His creation, make the issues clear and plain.

41 EXPLORING GENESIS / PHILLIPS / MOODY PRESS / P 51

## EVE

### Genesis 2:21-25

1  
2  
3  
4 **And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he**  
5 **took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; [22] And the rib, which**  
6 **the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the**  
7 **man. [23] And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she**  
8 **shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. [24] Therefore shall a**  
9 **man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be**  
10 **one flesh. [25] And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not**  
11 **ashamed.**

From Matthew Henry's commentary: "The woman was taken from Adam's side, not from his head to rule over, nor from his feet to be trampled on, but from his side to be equal with him, from under his arm to be protected, from close to his heart to be loved."

12  
13 In pre-marital counseling, I used to tell the prospective groom to read verse 24 carefully:  
14 The man is to leave his father and mother and cling to his wife. There are far too many  
15 "mama's boys" in the world today, instead of "men and husbands to their wives." And  
16 there are too many parents who still want to intrude on the lives of their children and their  
17 spouses. Marriage ends the "little boy" days or the "little girl" days. Some of today's  
18 sociologists stretch those days into the 30's of the children. I have always preferred the  
19 Jewish tradition of bar mitzvah in the early teen years. Parents need to train their  
20 children to be strong and independent. Otherwise, successful marriage for those  
21 children hardly has a chance.

### Chapter Three

#### SIN'S TRAP IS SPRUNG

### Genesis 3:1-13

28 **Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God**  
29 **had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of**  
30 **every tree of the garden?**

31 **[2] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of**  
32 **the garden: [3] But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God**  
33 **hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. [4] And the**  
34 **serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [5] For God doth know that in**  
35 **the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods,**  
36 **knowing good and evil. [6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for**

1 food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise,  
2 she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her;  
3 and he did eat. [7] And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they  
4 were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. [8]  
5 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the  
6 day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God  
7 amongst the trees of the garden. [9] And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said  
8 unto him, Where art thou? [10] And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I  
9 was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. [11] And he said, Who told thee  
10 that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that  
11 thou shouldest not eat? [12] And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be  
12 with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. [13] And the Lord God said unto the  
13 woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent  
14 beguiled me, and I did eat.

15  
16 It is in this chapter that Satan makes his first-known earthly appearance. Once the  
17 luminous leader of the angels in Heaven, Satan had attempted to usurp God's place and  
18 authority. God acted quickly and decisively:

19  
20 Isaiah 14:12-15

21 **How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut**  
22 **down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] For thou hast said in thine**  
23 **heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will**  
24 **sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: [14] I will**  
25 **ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. [15] Yet thou**  
26 **shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.**

27  
28 Satan appeared to Eve and appealed to her vulnerable intellect with 3-fold doubt:

29  
30 1. A challenge to God's Word: "Truly, Eve...has God really said....?"

31 *The sad thing here is that Eve had only second-hand knowledge of God's Word. God*  
32 *had spoken to Adam and not to her. I have often wondered if Adam ever adequately*  
33 *explained to his wife what God demanded?*

34 A question for today's church-going youth: Have you heard God's voice personally?  
35 Or are you only living on God's revelation to your parents?

36  
37 2. A challenge to the accuracy of God's demand: "But did God say, Ye shall not eat of  
38 EVERY tree of the garden?" Satan was questioning the woman, "Eve, how do you  
39 know that the Word is really accurate? Did you hear it? Maybe Adam was mistaken."

40  
41 3. A challenge to the acceptance of God's plan: Yes we read the Word. Yes, we hear

1 the preacher. But do you personally accept it?  
2

3 Now Satan simply lies to Eve: “Go ahead, Eve...eat the forbidden fruit. You shall not  
4 surely die.”

5 God said she would. Satan said she would not. Anyone who follows and/or obeys  
6 Satan is following the prince of lies, the father of prevarication.  
7

8 The whole sequence of collapse was triggered when (verse 6) Eve saw the fruit. It  
9 looked good. Sin always does. Sin is attractive to the vulnerable person.  
10

### 11 ORIGINAL SIN 12

13 Because Adam and Eve sinned, God cast them out of the Garden of Eden. They became  
14 the parents of the human race, a race, BY INHERITANCE, of sinners. We are not  
15 sinners because we sin (a teaching of Judaism), but we sin because we are sinners. We  
16 are born with a sinful nature. The spirit of God is dead in a newborn child. Small  
17 wonder then that Jesus said in John 3, “You must be born again!” Until a person comes  
18 to Christ, repents of sin, confesses Jesus as Lord and Savior, is dead to God. Ephes. 2:1  
19 **And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;**  
20

21  
22 ***Next Wednesday evening, January 13: From Adam to Noah, the Collapse of***  
23 ***Civilization***  
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