

APOLOGETICS

DEFENDING THE

BIBLE



QUESTIONS

- ▶ Is the entire Bible authoritative? Or only parts of it?
- ▶ Is the Bible historically and scientifically accurate?

GENESIS: FACT OR FICTION?

- ▶ Is this fact or fiction? History or myth?
- ▶ Does it matter what we believe? If so, why?
- ▶ Did God use an evolutionary process?
- ▶ Can you be a Christian and believe in evolution?
- ▶ If we don't believe in Genesis, it undermines our belief in the rest of Scripture.



GENESIS

PART I

PARADISE LOST

GOD MADE EVERYTHING, AND IT WAS GOOD

IN THEATERS
NOVEMBER 13

GENESISMOVIE.COM

KEY POINTS

- ▶ If God is who he says he is, then he never makes mistakes
- ▶ If the Bible is the Word of God, then it must be truthful, even when it comes to history and science.
- ▶ If the God of the Bible is who He says He is, then not only is He capable of accurately telling us about the early universe, the earth, and man, but He is capable of having the details truthfully recorded and transmitted through successive generations.
- ▶ The very character of God requires Genesis to be true.

THEOLOGICAL TRIAGE

“In every generation, the church is commanded to “contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.” That is no easy task, and it is complicated by the multiple attacks upon Christian truth that mark our contemporary age. Assaults upon the Christian faith are no longer directed only at isolated doctrines. The entire structure of Christian truth is now under attack by those who would subvert Christianity’s theological integrity.

Today’s Christian faces the daunting task of strategizing which Christian doctrines and theological issues are to be given highest priority in terms of our contemporary context. This applies both to the public defense of Christianity in face of the secular challenge and the internal responsibility of dealing with doctrinal disagreements. Neither is an easy task, but theological seriousness and maturity demand that we consider doctrinal issues in terms of their relative importance. God’s truth is to be defended at every point and in every detail, but responsible Christians must determine which issues deserve first-rank attention in a time of theological crisis.”

– Dr. Albert Mohler

THEOLOGICAL TRIAGE

▶ First Level

- Core beliefs that we must agree on
- Ex. Trinity, Full Deity/Full Humanity of Jesus, Authority of Scripture, Death, Burial & Resurrection of Jesus

▶ Second Level

- Disagreement create boundaries.
- Ex. Denominations

▶ Third Level

- Minor disagreement, but still in close fellowship, even within same congregation

THEOLOGICAL TRIAGE

“Christians may find themselves in disagreement over any number of issues related to the interpretation of difficult texts or the understanding of matters of common disagreement. Nevertheless, standing together on issues of more urgent importance, believers are able to accept one another without compromise when third-order issues are in question. A structure of theological triage does not imply that Christians may take any biblical truth with less than full seriousness. We are charged to embrace and to teach the comprehensive truthfulness of the Christian faith as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. There are no insignificant doctrines revealed in the Bible, but there is an essential foundation of truth that undergirds the entire system of biblical truth.”

– Dr. Albert Mohler

THEOLOGICAL TRIAGE

- ▶ Problems usually arise when:
 - Liberals treat Level 1 issues as Level 3 issues
 - Conservatives / Fundamentalists treat Level 3 issues as Level 1 issues.
- ▶ Result: Christians are often wrongly and harmfully divided.

JESUS regarded Genesis as History

REFERENCE	NEW TESTAMENT	GENESIS
“from the beginning, when God created the world”	Mark 13:19	Genesis 1:1
“at the beginning of creation God made them Male and Female”	Mark 10:6	Genesis 1:26–27
“a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife”	Mark 10:7; Matthew 19:4–5	Genesis 2:24
The devil is a liar “from the beginning”	John 8:44	Genesis 3
“from the blood of righteous Abel”	Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51	Genesis 4:8
“in the days of Noah”	Matthew 24:37–39; Luke 17:26–32	Genesis 6–8
“all who draw the sword will die by the sword”	Matthew 26:52	Genesis 9:6
Sodom and Gomorrah	Matthew 11:23–24	Genesis 19
Genealogy of Jesus	Luke 3:23–38	Genesis 1:27
Prophecy about Jesus’ victory over Satan	Revelation 20	Genesis 3:15

The entire Bible depends on Genesis

- ▶ Over 200 quotations or direct references to Genesis in the NT.
- ▶ Over 100 reference the first 11 chapters.
- ▶ 63 reference the first 3 chapters
- ▶ All books of the New Testament except Philemon, 2 John, and 3 John contain allusions or direct references to Genesis.
- ▶ Of the 50 chapters in Genesis, only 7 are not quoted or cited in the New Testament (chapters 20, 24, 34, 36, 40, 43, 44).
- ▶ 14 of the references are from the "Flood chapters" (6–8)
- ▶ 58 references are related to Abraham.
- ▶ 25 of the references were directly from Christ Himself (from chapters 1–7, 9, 17–19, 28, and 31)

The entire Bible depends on Genesis

- ▶ The OT and NT authors believed these events to be historical and verifiable facts, not myths.
- ▶ Without Genesis, and specifically the first 11 chapters, we would have no foundation or true understanding for the origins of life, the universe, the earth, humanity, gender, marriage, evil, the sinfulness of man, and most importantly the promise of a Savior and victory in Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Unless the events of the first chapters of Genesis are true history, the Apostle Paul's explanation of the Gospel in Romans 5 and of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 have no meaning.