

# Genesis

## The Promised Seed



### Genesis 1:1

#### Scripture

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

As we exit into Genesis from Route 66, let me just say, it all starts with a bang. Do you realize that for millennia, most scientific thinking people believe in a theory called the Steady State theory of the universe. Up until recently, modern science actually believed that the universe was in a steady state, meaning firstly, it is eternal; it had always been here. Secondly, they believed that it was static; it has always been the way it is at this very moment. But recently, science discovered what the Bible has told us all along, that there is a beginning to the universe. Our Bible starts with this declaration, "*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,*" and according to modern science today, our universe is not static. It is not the same as it has always been. As a matter of fact, we know that we live in a universe that is constantly accelerating. It is expanding at a great rate of speed. Does anybody find it amazing that Job talked about how God, by His power, stretched out the heavens and the earth? Does anybody find it odd that Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of the Lord, would also talk about the Lord stretching out the heavens like a curtain? From Moses's point of view, Genesis, chapter 1, will teach us that

the earth starts out uninhabited. But when God finishes creating and actually rests, this earth will be in such a state, the universe will be so finely tuned, that life for the first man and woman, it is Paradise. It's called the Anthropic Principle. Everything in creation ultimately led to man living on this planet; made in His likeness, bearing His image, to live in a male-female relationship.

Now, I ask you to be very cautious when we study the book of Genesis. For see, if we were studying Genesis as a state and just driving through it and trying to cover it in its entirety, you can say there are ten counties; ten sections. These are not arbitrarily imposed by teachers or preachers, but if you just look at the book, Moses naturally breaks it into ten sections, and each section begins with this phrase, "This is the generation of..." The first section actually starts in Genesis 2:4, and it's the beginning of the heaven and the earth and the day in which they were created. This section, this county, if I can say that, actually runs to the end of chapter 4. The second section, or the second county, will begin in Genesis 5:1 and go to 6:8, and this will talk about the generation of Noah. And then starting with chapter 10, we will talk about the sons of Noah, and it will run through chapter 11:9. The next section will be the section that talks about the generation of Shem, one of Noah's sons. That section will end in Genesis 11:26. And then the next section will talk about Terah. It will begin in 11:27 and go to Genesis 25. I'd like for you to put a parenthesis by Terah, because the main character of this section is actually going to be Abraham. Then, the next section of Scripture will be in Genesis 25:12-18, and there we are going to see the generations of Ishmael. Our next section will be Genesis 25:19 through 35:29, and we will talk about the generations of Isaac, and that will run to the 36th chapter of Genesis. There we will pause and look at the generations of Esau. And then, the last portion of the book, Genesis 37 to the conclusion of Genesis 50:26, we will see the generations of Jacob. Again, you need to put a parenthesis, because the majority of that generation will talk about his son Joseph.

The book of Genesis covers more of time than the rest of the 65 books combined. It all started with God, and can I just say, Genesis sets the

tone. Genesis chapter 1 is the most God-centered chapter in the Bible. Thirty-two times in thirty-one verses, God is mentioned by name. Eleven other times, He is mentioned as a pronoun. Route 66 is a book about God.

If you want some direction from this book, if you want to break those counties into north and south, let's divide one section into Genesis 1 through 11, and let's let that be south. Let the north section be Genesis 12 through 50. If you want to be able to give someone a quick overview of the book of Genesis, give them the basics of the south section of Genesis 1 through 11 describing four events:

1. Creation
2. The fall
3. The flood
4. The Tower of Babel

To give just a quick overview of the last part, or north section, of Genesis 12 through 50, these are the names of the four people it centers around:

1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob
4. Joseph

## **Creation and the Fall**

Genesis begins with God creating a place for man to live. He spoke creation into existence. He is the source of creation. The height of creation is God making a being after His own image, to bear His image. God creates mankind in a male/female package, and human kind, in its maleness and femaleness living in a relationship together called marriage, ultimately expresses the image of God. God gave Adam and Eve a choice;

live by My Word. You see, God wanted to rule and reign in their hearts and lives through them being obedient to His Word. He warned them; if you try to do it your way and not My way, there will be a terrible consequence. You'll be separated from Me, and you know what happened. They chose not to live by the principles of the Kingdom of God. They wanted to be their own God; make their own choice. They wanted to discover life on their own, and they did and they lost it all. I don't know about you, but when I rethink that story, I just wonder if they ever looked back to the Garden and said, "Wow, that was the good old days!" I wonder if later they ever recognized how they really had it made under God's rule and reign, what you and I call the Kingdom of God. But through their choice, they brought spiritual death into this world.

When we start the second section of Genesis, the Bible will teach us that yes, Adam had been created in the image of God, but now, as he gives birth to a son, his son is now going to bear his (Adam's) image. We know his first son is going to receive the nature to sin, and unlike Adam upon creation, he will be born alive to a principle of sin and his flesh, and he is going to be dead to God. When you study that second section of Genesis, you will discover that there is a pattern from Adam to Noah. The pattern is that man lived and then fathered a child, and then he lived many years after, and during those other years, he fathered more sons and daughters, and then the Bible expresses the totality his years, and then the Bible says, "...and he died." Many of us skip that section of Scripture, but there is a pattern of man just living, until we come to the seventh man from Adam on Seth's side. Now, if you study the seventh man from Adam on Cain's side, you have Lamech, and whoa, he was bad. So you have an ungodly line and you have a godly line. Why? Because God promised the serpent that because of what you have done in tempting mankind, I'm now going to put enmity between her seed and your seed. Her seed will crush your head, but you will bruise His heel. So Moses begins to write about these two different seed lines, and when you come to the seventh man in the line of Seth, you meet a man by the name of Enoch, and Enoch breaks the pattern. It says he lived, fathered a child, and that child's name was Methuselah. It doesn't say he lived and fathered more sons and daughters, it says, "...and Enoch walked with God." And all of a sudden, in Scripture

according to Moses, the pattern of death broken by a man who walks with God. I do not believe this was by accident. I believe Moses tells us why, but he continues to use his literary genre. You see, later the Bible is going to tell us that Methuselah lived to be 969 years old. Most of us know Methuselah as the man who lived longer than any other man, but I propose to you that we are looking at that wrong. God revealed something to Enoch when his son Methuselah was born and it changed his life so that he didn't just live and father more children. He actually began to walk with God. If you read the rest of this chronologically, Methuselah lives to 187 when he fathers his first child. His first son is going to have a child, which is going to make him a grandfather. His first grandson was Noah. Methuselah was 369 years old when Noah was born. What happened in the 600th year of Noah? The flood comes. If you add 369 and 600, you get 969 years. According to Jude, the last book in the New Testament before we get to the book of Revelations, what did Enoch talk about? He talked about the coming of God in judgment on an ungodly generation. What did God reveal to Enoch? When Methuselah died, the flood would come.

## **The Flood and the Towel of Babel**

The Bible tells us that at the beginning of the flood, the heart of man was continually evil from his youth. Why? Because when Adam and Eve made the choice they made, spiritual death came into the world and man was no longer right with God. He was wrong with God, and by the time of the flood, you can't really tell the godly line from the ungodly line. So God wipes out mankind and He starts again with the three sons of Noah.

But we have a promise that there is going to be a seed line, so therefore the Bible will distinguish one of Noah's sons, Shem, because he's going to be the seed line. From him comes Terah, but Terah also has three sons. How are we going to know who is the seed line? Moses tells us that the promise of the seed is to a man named Abram.

## Abraham and Isaac

Now get this picture: In Genesis 12:1-3, God is going to say to Abram, you're the man. You're the man, and one day you are not just going to be a man, you are going to be a whole nation of people. From you, all the nations of the earth are going to be blessed! Wow, is that a promise, or is that a promise? As time goes on, nothing is happening. Abram and his wife just can't bring forth a child, yet we have a promise. So in Genesis 15, God breaks into his life and reiterates again what He's going to do for him. Abram says, Sure God, I don't even have a son! Right now, if something happened to me, everything I've got goes to my heir, and he is a slave. And God says, look up into the sky and count the stars; that is how many descendants you are going to have. And the Bible says that Abram said, **Aman**, which is our English word, *amen*, 'let it be so.' Let what be so? Let me have as many descendants one day from which all the nations of the earth are going to be blessed. Let it be so, and the moment Abram said aman to the plan of God, the Bible says that God counted him no longer as unrighteous, but right with God! Right here in the very beginnings of the Word of God, with a man named Abram who was a total pagan, we learn God's plan of salvation. God's plan was never for us to work for Him, be obedient to His commands, and thus earn a right relationship with Him. It's not possible. Why? Because man is born into sin. Man is dead to God and alive to sin. So what it takes for salvation is God breaking into a person's life in a way called special revelation. And when God breaks into a person's life through special revelation and that person believes what God says is true of them at that moment, they are made right with God. It is not based on anything the person does, but based totally on what God said is true. Abram is now right with God.

It's amazing though how people that are right with God sometimes don't do right things. Abraham and his wife just couldn't wait for God and they went along with what was cultural and what society was doing, and Ishmael was born; but he is not the promised seed. And even though Sarah can't have a child, she is going to be the one through whom the seed is going to come, and God blesses them and she gives birth to Isaac.

The promised seed of Abraham is going to come through, not Ishmael, but Isaac. Can you imagine being Abraham on that day when God said, take the son you love and go over there to that mountain and sacrifice him to Me as a burnt offering? You get up early in the morning and you take your son, you take the wood, and you take the fire. You even let your son carry the wood and you make an altar. He has already asked you, hey, dad, didn't we forget something? Where is the lamb? And Abraham said, God will provide Himself a lamb for the offering. They get to that place and he binds Isaac on the altar. Isaac, being a young man (not a little baby) who has carried the wood, never fights his father. He lets him bind him to the wood. Abraham draws back his knife to take Isaac's life and when he does, God stops his hand. Can you imagine how quick that knife fell from his hand? And when he looked, God had provided Himself a ram that was stuck in the bushes. And again God reiterates, in you, in your seed, all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

Later, Isaac will marry, and God will tell him, in you, not your brother, all the nations of the earth will be blessed in your seed. And Isaac will give birth to twins, Esau and Jacob. God made a choice of one and rejected the other. Scripture says that God told Jacob, in you all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

## **Jacob and Joseph**

Now, God takes twelve sons of Jacob, and by the time we get toward the end of Genesis, we see God's plan. He is building a nation, but it is really small and they are really vulnerable, they are really weak. Now Joseph, the son Jacob loves, had a dream that he interprets to his family. After the interpretation, the rest of the boys take him out, and he doesn't come back home. He goes from a pit to Potiphar's house, and then from Potiphar's house to prison, then from prison to the palace before the king of Egypt. Why? Because God has a plan. He interprets a dream of seven years of plenty, but it is going to be followed by seven years of famine. Now, in the midst of that famine, his brothers are standing before him because he is the most powerful man in the world, under

Pharaoh. Joseph will eventually reveal himself for who he is. They will bury their father, and now the brothers are scared. Genesis ends with this truth: Joseph is standing before his brothers and says, I am in the place of God. You are right, I can do with you whatever I want to do with you, but just note this, what you meant for evil, God meant for good to save many people today. A man bearing the image of God, carrying out the will of God, interprets all of life from this perspective of what you mean to be evil, my God in His sovereignty has ultimately guaranteed it would turn out to be good, and that good brought about salvation of many, many people!

Have you ever noticed that when you cross Egner's Ferry Bridge, before they actually started construction, they erected a little historical marker reminding us of the land purchase of the Purchase Area? Driving through Land Between the Lakes, every once in a while on those old gravel roads, there will be a historical marker. Have any of you ever stopped and read the markers? Just like LBL, I want to give you some redemptive markers for Genesis:

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

It is in Genesis 1:1; called creation. Genesis 1:27, God created man in His own likeness, in His own image. God created mankind, male and female. Don't miss this creation marker.

**2. The promised seed**

It's revealed in Genesis 3:15, Genesis 22:18, Genesis 26:4 and Genesis 28:14. Please don't miss these redemptive markers.

**3. Justification by faith**

It is in Genesis 15:6 and Abraham believed the Lord and it was counted to him as righteous.

**4. The Lord will provide for Himself a Lamb**

That is in Genesis 22:8.

**5. The sovereignty of God**

This last redemptive marker is in Genesis 50:20.

As we finish Genesis, you have to remember creation. You've got to remember that despite the fall, there was the promise of the seed, and Genesis is going to trace that seed for us. In Galatians 3:16, Paul told the church at Galatia that when God made a promise to Abraham about his seed, he didn't say seeds as many, but one and that seed is Christ. This promise of righteousness by faith is based on God offering Himself on a mountain as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. As He takes this man and makes him a nation, He is sovereign over His people, He is sovereign over His creation, and whatever Satan and the world against us may mean for evil; we can trust that God means that for good!

## **Jesus in Genesis**

As we close Genesis, I hope you see Jesus Christ. In the book of Genesis, He is the Word. John 1:1-3; 14-18, and Colossians is going to clearly teach that in the beginning was the Word and the Word is Jesus. Jesus became a man and dwelt among us, so that we could behold the glory of God who created everything out of nothing through Him.

When you read Genesis 3:15 and understand the fall of man, know that God promised a salvation. He promised salvation, not through works, but He promised salvation through a Messiah. On the cross of Calvary, He crushed the head of Satan and ultimately, at His return, He will put down the final rebellion of Satan once and for all and we will live on a new Heaven and a new earth! Hey, the good old days are not the good old days; the good old days will be the days that are still ahead.

When you read Genesis 15, you see a picture of Jesus when Melchizedek comes out. The next picture we see of Jesus is not only as the Word and the promised seed, but as a kingly priest. Melchizedek met Abraham and Abraham gave tithes to him. When we read the rest of the Old Testament, the law is going to say the king can't be the priest. But Jesus Christ is going to be both a king and a priest. Why? Because He's not going to be a priest after the order of Aaron from the tribe of Levi; He's going to be a priest after the order of Melchizedek. In Hebrews 5:9-10, Jesus Christ is our high priest after the order of Melchizedek, meaning He lives forever to

make intercession for us. Because He lives forever, we are eternally secure in Him because Jesus Christ will never die again!

Then we see Him on a mountain as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. You know this, right? It is believed that the very spot where Abraham offered Isaac is where the Jewish people built the temple. On the mountain of the Lord, He provided Himself as the sacrifice. He is not only the Word, He's not only the promised seed. He's not only King-Priest, He's not only sacrifice, but in Genesis 49, when Jacob blesses his son, he's going to distinguish between those sons which tribe will be the ruling tribe, which tribe will be the reigning tribe, and which tribe will have the kingdom. It is Judah, and He compares Judah to a lion who conquers. I find this amazing!

In the last book of the Bible, there is a scroll that is in the hand of the Father which cannot be opened, because no one is worthy. As Heaven begins to weep, (John in particular) all of a sudden, the lion of the tribe of Judah steps forward. When John turns to see this ferocious lion, he sees a lamb as though it had been slain, and the lion that steps forward is none other than Jesus Christ! He takes that scroll from the Father's hand and He begins to unloose the seal.

Why are you worried about the future if you are in Christ? The future is going to unfold as God has already ordained it, and it has been secured by the blood of Jesus Christ. By His victorious resurrection and His ascension to the Father's right hand side, He is the lion of the tribe of Judah! It's the first book of the Bible. It's a book about God. You've got a choice, your kingdom or His kingdom; your way or His way.