

# GENESIS

## A REDEEMER SUMMER SERIES

### Introduction to Genesis

Genesis is about beginnings. It tells us that God created everything that exists. It shows how God is both the Creator and the Ruler of all creation. But it also tells of humanity's tragic fall into sin and death, and God's unfolding plan of redemption through his covenant with Abraham and his descendants.

- **Who wrote it?** *Traditionally both Jews and Christians have understood Moses to be the author.*
- **Who's it written to?** *God's people.*
- **What's it about?** *While it's written to us, it's not primarily about us, but about God... who He is, what He's done, and what He's promised to do.*
- **How should we read it?** *We want to read all of Scripture literarily, not literally. Here's what I mean by that, we want to read it with an understanding of its literary genre. And in Genesis we'll find multiple genres from narrative to poetry to genealogies and more.*

### How is Genesis broken down?

There are main parts:

- **Chapters 1 – 11** = *God calling creation into existence*
- **Chapters 12 – 50** = *God calling His people into a relationship*

Then there are major sections and minor sections within those major sections which all begin with the phrase "these are the generations...". Basically, when you read that phrase, see it as a road sign that's letting you know there's a minor shift or a major shift in the storyline.

- **Major Sections** = *2:4, 6:9, 11:27, 25:19, & 37:2*
- **Minor Sections within Major Sections** = *5:1, 10:1, 11:10, 25:12, & 36:1*

Genesis 1-2 covered the entirety of Creation focusing on Adam and Eve, and chapters 1 - 14 cover roughly 1000 years and shares the testimony of Noah and his family, while also introducing us to Abraham and Sarah where God promised that their family would be blessed by God to be a blessing to the nations. Genesis 14 - 36 covers another roughly 1000 years looking at Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then Genesis 37 - 50 roughly covers 100 years with the life of Joseph.



## Tips for Reading & Studying Genesis

The first step is to read for comprehension. Think back to the days of taking the SAT or ACT where you would read long passages and then answer questions at the end to see how well you understood the material. The goal was to get you to read, not just to complete the task, but to remember details. In the same way, as you read long chunks of Scripture in Genesis, don't just read it to check off a box on your to-do list. Read it to understand what it says. So after you read a few paragraphs, stop and see if you can rephrase the big idea or major parts of what you just read.

The second step is interpretation. Where comprehension is understanding what Scripture says, interpretation asks, "What does this Scripture mean?"

Then the final step is application. This is taking the text, understanding what it says and what it means, and then thinking through how you should respond. A memorable acronym for this is **SPECK**.

**S** – Is there a **SIN** to confess?

**P** – A **PROMISE** to believe?

**E** – An **EXAMPLE** to follow?

**C** – A **COMMAND** to obey?

**K** – Or a **KNOWLEDGE** of God to take to heart?

## READING PLAN

### WEEK 1: Chapters 1 – 11

- How well can you sketch out the major events from these chapters?
- What do you learn about creation before "the fall" in chapter 3?
- What happens to God's good creation once sin enters the world?
- How do we see the effects of sin begin to unfold? What are the major events in chapters 4 – 11 that show creation spiraling further and further from the goodness of chapters 1 and 2?

### WEEK 2: Chapters 12 – 16

- How well can you sketch out the major events from these chapters?
- Who are the main people we meet in these chapters?
- What does God call Abram to do, and what promise does God make to him?
- In what ways did Abram's actions threaten God's plan to make him a great nation?

### WEEK 3: Chapters 17 – 20

- How well can you sketch out the major events from these chapters?
- Who does God give name changes to? Any thoughts to why?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses you see in Abraham, Sarah, and Lot?
- What aspects of God's character have stuck out to you so far as you've been reading through Genesis?

### WEEK 4: Chapters 21 – 27

- How does the birth of Isaac provide hope for God's fulfilling His promise?
- In what way(s) is this hope threatened?
- Why do you think God tested Abraham?
- How would you describe the highs and lows of Abraham and Sarah's lives?
- How does God continue to keep His promise to Abraham through Isaac?
- In what ways do we see deception at play?

### WEEK 5: Chapters 28 – 31

- After reading about Jacob's dream of the ladder, read John 1:51. What stands out to you about this connection?
- How does Jacob get a taste of his own medicine when it comes to deception?
- How many kids that does Jacob have?
- Why does Jacob flee from Laban?

### WEEK 6: Chapters 32 – 36

- What was Esau doing to sooth himself after losing his birthright to Jacob?
- In light of this, how do you think Jacob felt, or what was going through his mind when he heard Esau was coming towards him?
- What do you think it means that Jacob "prevailed" in wrestling with God?
- What happens when Esau and Jacob finally meet face-to-face again?
- How does God bless Jacob in chapter 35? And what does God command him to do?

### WEEK 7: Chapters 37 – 50

- What was Joseph's dream and how did his brothers respond?
- Judah and Tamar is a very disturbing story, so why do you think Matthew 1:3 includes it in the genealogy of Jesus?
- What happens between Joseph and Potiphar's wife?
- How does Joseph's ability to interpret dreams play into his favor with Pharaoh?
- What brings Joseph's brothers to Egypt, and how does he interact with them?
- How do Joseph's brothers respond after he reveals himself to them?
- How does all of Jacob's (also known as Israel) family end up in Egypt?
- In what ways does Jesus fulfill the blessing and promises from Joseph to Judah in chapter 49:8-12?
- What is so significant about Joseph's words in chapter 50:20?