

# GENESIS

Genesis is fundamental to the understanding of the rest of the Bible. It is supremely a book of relationships, highlighting those between God and nature, God and man, and man and man. It is thoroughly monotheistic, taking for granted that there is only one God worthy of the name and opposing the ideas that there are many gods, that there is no god at all, or that everything is divine. It teaches God's sovereignty over all and introduces us to the way God initiates and makes covenants with his chosen people, pledging his love and faithfulness to them. It establishes sacrifice as the substitution of life for life. It gives us the first hint of God's provision for redemption from the forces of evil and contains the oldest and most profound definition of faith.

**seed line**  
 story of the Messiah  
 God's plan of salvation  
 God's desire for relationship  
 God's love for man

**adam & eve**  
 cain abel **seth**

**noah**  
 Japheth Ham Shem

**abram**

ishmael **isaac**

esau **jacob** <sup>Israel</sup>  
 (Gen 32:28)

**12 tribes**  
 -Reuben-  
 Simeon  
 Levi  
**Judah**  
 Issachar  
 Zebulun  
 Gad  
 Asher  
 Dan  
 Naphtali  
 (Joseph) { Ephraim  
 Benjamin } Manasseh

**man**  
**creation**  
 fruitful, increase, fill  
 subdue, rule  
 trample - verb of strong force

**sin**  
**fall separation**  
 adam & eve  
 cain & abel

*sin across the world*  
 noah  
 tower of babel

**faith**  
**pride/disobedience**  
**covenant**  
**promise**  
 abraham  
 Not a Jew  
 Wife was barren  
 God calls Him  
 Obedient  
 God calls Abram to leave the centre of civilisation (fertile crescent) to move to a "promised land"

God beginning to show what he is like. Revealing his character, as well as what it means to follow him. With Abraham so much of what God is teaching him is about promise, faithfulness of God, and Abraham's trust and faith in God's promise.

Abraham at this point has no real understanding of what God is like.

**\* Examine:**  
**See how God reveals different aspects of his character to Abraham through the experiences he goes through.**

As you read Genesis you can see Abraham's understanding and relationship with God develop.

**binding agreement**  
**obedience**

**joseph**  
 Genesis 37-50  
 not directly associated with the seed line, or the story of Jesus. But becomes the tool by which the Israelites arrive in Egypt.

**EGYPT**  
 Egypt is fascinating, in that it provided a perfect place for God to fulfil the promise to Abraham to multiply his descendants. The Egyptians were notoriously clean, and wouldn't have anything to do with the Israelites. Because of that there would be no interbreeding, and no absorption of Egyptian customs into the growing Israelite culture. God kept his people holy, even before they knew what holiness was.

**GOD**  
**creator**  
 blessing  
 blessings for man  
**compassion**  
 in his judgement  
 there is mercy

Genesis 1:28  
 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 9:1-3  
 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth."

**initiator**  
**blesor**  
 Genesis 12:1-3  
 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 15  
 Covenant pact - made in a similar vein to Canaanite rituals at the time - cutting an animal in half, symbolised what would happen if someone broke the covenant.

Genesis 22  
 foreshadowing?

**caring for his people**