

Bible Beginnings - Genesis

IN this series, we will look briefly at each part and book of the Bible in turn. Every part of the Bible matters. The wonderful links between these sixty-six books become apparent when you read from all sections of God's word, humbly and prayerfully.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible is really one book, whose author is the Lord God. It is God's Guide Book to Life – for all to read. Without it, we shall wander aimlessly through life, to the grave. With it, we can know what God has in store for the earth, and how we can share in His glorious purpose, centred in the Lord Jesus Christ. The twin themes of both Old and New Testaments (see Acts 8:12) are the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ.

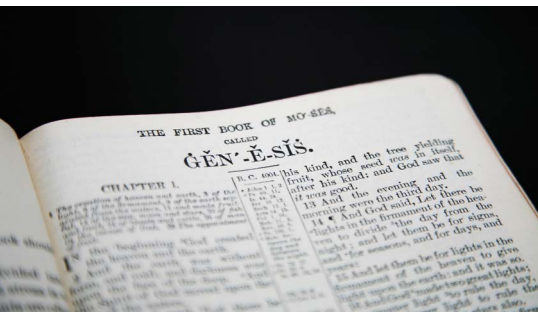
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (1:1).

The opening words of the Bible teach that God is the creator of the universe, which He made with a plan and a purpose.

A Book of Beginnings

- ◆ Beginning of life on earth (chapters 1, 2).
- ◆ The origin of sin and death and the promise of a saviour (chapter 3).
- ◆ The flood: a new beginning with Noah's family, saved in the ark (chapters 6–10).
- ◆ Babel: the origin of different languages and races of mankind (chapter 11).
- ◆ The beginnings of Israel (chapters 12–32).

God called Abraham and his family to leave Ur, in Mesopotamia, to migrate to “a land that I will show you” (12:1) – Canaan, the future land of promise. Lot, his nephew, settled near



The First Book of the Bible

The name “Genesis” means ‘birth’ or ‘beginning’. In this book we learn about very important beginnings in God's plan for the Earth.



Sodom and Gomorrah, and had to be rescued when those evil cities were destroyed.

God's Promises Through Abraham

God promised Abraham:

1. A 'seed' (Jesus Christ) – Isaac was a child of promise in the short term, but the 'seed' promised to Abraham (22:18; Galatians 3:16) was Christ;
2. A nation – God's people, in the first place Israel (Genesis 17:7,8), but extended to all those who are "in Christ" (Galatians 3:29);
3. Inheritance of the promised land of Israel by the faithful;
4. Blessings for all nations – "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).

Abraham's faith was tested when God asked him to kill Isaac. He had the knife poised but he was stopped from sacrificing him.

It was as though his son had come back to him after death (see Hebrews 11:17–19). The promises were repeated to Isaac (Genesis 26:3) and to Jacob (28:13), whose name was changed to Israel.

Jacob had twelve sons, heads of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jacob's sons sold Joseph into Egypt as a slave, but he was promoted to be Pharaoh's prime minister! Jacob and his family joined Joseph in Egypt, but Jacob (47:30) and Joseph (50:24–25) both asked to be buried in the Promised Land – Canaan.

Norman Owen

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Interesting links...

...with other parts of the Bible:

- ◆ Genesis 2:7 – see 1 Corinthians 15:45.
- ◆ Genesis 2:24 – see Matthew 19:4,5.
- ◆ Genesis 13:15 – see Galatians 3:16–29.
- ◆ Genesis 15:7 – see Acts 7:5.



People Mentioned in Genesis

