

Cowboy Church Bow - Women's Bible Study

Week 2- Genesis Introduction

Genesis was written by Moses and is a historical book. He provides evidences of this history by detailing a chronological succession of events. He validates this story in time and space (2:10-14), tracing genealogies (5:1-32) and giving evidence of various sorts that validate the books history (citing time in 5:1, place in 11:9). Jesus confirms the historicity of this book by reference in Matthew 19:8, Luke 24:27, John 5:46-47. Peter said so in Acts 3:22 and various other passages refer to it writings.

The book of Genesis is a primary source for several basic doctrines (*a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, political party, or other group*) of the Bible. The book focuses on God in two areas: 1. He is the Creator of the universe, and 2. He is the one who initiates covenant with His people. God's covenant with Abraham is the basic plot of the Scripture: to accomplish His plan for the nations of the world through His people Israel, the descendants of Abraham. The climax of the text is in the words of worldwide importance: "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen 12:3). This promise was realized in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Seed of Abraham, through whom peoples of all nations and families may enter into the joy of knowing the God of Abraham.

Chapters 1-11 lay the foundation upon which the whole Bible is built and center on four key events.

1. Creation: God is the sovereign Creator of matter energy, space, and time. Humankind is the pinnacle of the Creation.
2. Fall: Creation is followed by corruption. In the first sin humankind is separated from God (Adam from God), and in the second sin, human is separated from human (Cain from Abel). In spite of the devastating curse of the Fall, God promises hope of redemption through the seed of the woman (3:15).
3. Flood: As humankind multiplies, sin also multiplies until God is compelled to destroy humanity with the exception of Noah, and his family.
4. Nations: Genesis teaches the unity of the human race: we are all children of Adam through Noah, but because of rebellion at the Tower of Babel, God fragments the single culture and language of the post-Flood world and scatter people over the face of the earth.

Main Characters of Genesis

Abraham – the calling of Abraham, the three covenant promises (land, descendants, blessing), are the foundation of God's program of bringing salvation upon the earth.

Isaac – God establishes His covenant with Isaac as the spiritual link with Abraham.

Jacob – God transforms this man from selfishness to servanthood and changes his name to Israel, the father of the twelve tribes.

Joseph – Jacob's favorite son suffers at the hand of his brothers and becomes a slave in Egypt. After his rise to rulership of Egypt, he delivers his family from famine and brings them out of Canaan to Goshen.

Genesis ends with impending bondage and with the death of Joseph. There is great need for redemption that is to follow in the Book of Exodus.

Week 2 – Assignment

Read Genesis chapter 2 (5 times if at all possible) and answer the following questions:

1. **Explore the concept of “rest”**, (read Matthew 11:28-30; Exodus 20:8-11, 31:13; Isaiah 58:13-14; Hebrews 4:9-11; revelation 14:13, refer to any other related passages you know or find)

In Genesis 2:1-3 what did God rest from?

How do you enter God’s Rest, and is it something you do or earn?

What do you think God is trying to accomplish by having you rest?

2. **Besides “rest” what other themes do you see in the text of Genesis 2?**

3. **Why do you think God gave Adam the command in verse 17** (read also Deuteronomy 30:11-20; James 1:12-18)?

4. **Why do you think God formed the woman from Adam and said they become one flesh?** (read also Ephesians 5:21-33)