

# PANORAMA OF THE BIBLE      Lesson 2

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## *GENESIS* *RUIN THROUGH SIN*

Genesis comes from a Greek word meaning beginning or generation, thus Genesis is a book of beginning generations. Some people outline the Genesis by the ten generations revealed in it.

Ten Generations:

Heaven/Earth (2:4)	Adam (5:1)
Noah (6:9)	Sons of Noah (10:1)
Shem (11:10)	Terah (11:27)
Ishmael (25:12)	Isaac (25:19)
Esau (36:1)10	Jacob (37:2)

Many have tried to cast doubt upon Mosaic authorship of the first five books of the Bible; however, they do this against centuries of tradition which support Moses as the author. Numerous Biblical references state clearly that Moses is the author of the entire Pentateuch and Jesus quoted Moses as the author of the first five books of the Bible (Mark 12:26 and others). These facts should remove all doubt regarding the true authorship of Genesis.

Genesis is part of the Law or Pentateuch. The word Pentateuch comes from two Greek words that mean "five volumes". The first five books of the Old Testament make up The Pentateuch.

Genesis presents the beginnings:

- First day
- First animals
- First man
- First marriage
- First sin
- First murder
- First death, etc.

Most of these "firsts" occur in the initial eleven chapters. These chapters have come under heavy attack by liberal theologians who claim that they are mythological rather than factual. Actually, basic Christian doctrine about God, creation, sin, judgment, fellowship

with God, and others are all presented within these chapters of Genesis. These chapters may not be a scientific account of creation and the development of life; however, they are a factual account. In other words, God does not tell us in Genesis the scientific formula by which He performed creation - He tells us the truth about creation!

Among all the first things which appear in Genesis, the first sin is most important. Genesis reveals how our world became a place of sadness, sorrow and suffering. In Genesis, we see man's RUIN THROUGH SIN. However, we also see much more, such as God's promise to crush the one who tempted our first parents and wrought such havoc upon this planet.

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## OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS

### I. Four Important Incidents Chapters 1 - 11

A. Creation	1 - 2
1. The Creator	1:1
2. The Chronology	1:2
3. The Creation	1:1-25
4. The Crowning Work	1:26 - 2:25
B. Fall of Man	3 - 5
1. Temptation	3:1-5
2. Tragedy	3:6-19
3. Triumph	3:9, 15, 20-24
4. Tree (Family Tree)	4:1 - 5:32
C. Flood	6 - 10
1. Cause of it	6:1-7
2. Consideration of it	6:8 - 8:19
3. Covenant following it	8:20 - 10:32
D. Tower of Babel	11
1. Corrupt Government	11:1-2
2. Corrupt Religion	11:3-4
3. Corrected by the Lord	11:5-9

### II. Four Important Individuals Chapters 12 - 50

A. Abraham	12 - 20
1. Call	12:1



take something and make something better from it), but creation (the ability to make something from nothing).

God is not explained, but abruptly mentioned. From the beginning, we see that a relationship with God is to be based on faith! (Hebrews 11:6.)

## 2. The Chronology 1:1-2

Many believe that a gap exists between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. This gap theory developed after the theory of evolution appeared in the 1800's as a way for Christians to reconcile evolution and Biblical creation. There is no reason to believe a gap of time exists at this point. In fact, the Hebrew construction of these sentences precludes that possibility.

## 3. The Creation 1:1-25

God created all things in six days. Some people are adamant in believing that God created all things in six 24-hour days, while others claim that the six days in the text represent six eras covering thousands of years. One may hold either view without denying the faith; however, the context means that God made all things in six 24-hour days.

## 4. The Crowning Work 1:26 - 2:25

God created everything in the universe, including everything upon the earth. His crowning work in creation is humanity. Man was made in God's image. What does this mean? Man has a moral nature, free will, self-consciousness, and eternal existence. Man failed in his moral nature by rebelling against God's will. He used his self-consciousness to try to make himself the end of all things - he tried to make himself God. Like the woman in the television commercial, man has fallen and cannot get up - not by himself. Man separated himself from God through sin and will live eternally apart from God, unless he accepts God's remedy for his condition, which is salvation through Jesus Christ! If he accepts God's salvation, he will live forever with God!

God is the owner of the earth, but He has made man the manager. We have a responsibility to answer to the Owner for the way we manage His world! This certainly includes the way we treat each other, which begins in the home, for initially that was all that existed - one couple forming the first and only home! Adam and Eve were to treat each other, the environment, and above all, God with proper respect, which meant they were, as we are, to honor and obey Him in all things!

## **Fall of Man Chapters 3 - 5**

### 1. Temptation 3:1-5

Satan deceived Eve by calling into question the Word of God, which is one of his foremost methods of attack against God and God's people. He knows that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, so he hinders faith by casting doubt upon the Word of God.

## 2. Tragedy 3:6-19

Adam and Eve listened to Satan rather than God. This caused four tragedies on the earth: SHAME, SORROW, SWEAT, and a CEMETERY.

## 3. Triumph 3:9, 15, 20-24

God sought Adam and, thus, took the first step toward restoring the broken relationship that Adam's sin had caused. He promised enmity between the descendants of Satan's seed and "the seed of the woman." A woman does not have a "seed," thus there is a prophecy here regarding the Virgin Birth of our Lord. God declared that the virgin-born One will be bruised but He will crush the head of His enemy. This became a reality at Calvary and will ultimately be fulfilled when Christ returns for His Church.

Verses 20-24 reveal the necessity of a blood-covering for the sinners, Adam and Eve. The leaves of man's own works cannot make him acceptable in God's sight. Only the shedding of blood, and the covering in the garment that God provides, can suffice!

## 4. Tree (Family Tree) 4:1 - 5:32

When Cain murdered Abel, God gave another seed to Adam in a child named Seth. Thus, two branches of the family tree existed. Cain represented the branch called the daughters of men while Seth represented the Sons of God. (6:2.)

We can see that from the beginning two groups of people would occupy the earth. The sons of God are those who have turned to the Lord for forgiveness and redemption. The daughters of men represent all men and women who reject God's plan of salvation. Though Christian doctrine had not begun at the time of these events, nonetheless the basic outline of human culture was set forth for us to see.

## **Flood Chapters 6 - 10**

### 1. Cause of It 6:1-7

The godly descendants of Seth began to marry the ungodly offspring of Cain. The results were appalling. A believer does not often change an unbeliever after marriage. This is the first occurrence in the Bible of the principle that believers are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

Marriage among the two branches of the tree produced a wicked and godless society. The world became so wicked that God took action against it by way of judgment.

### 2. Consideration of It 6:8 - 8:19

The flood is historical, but it is also typological. It is a picture of salvation. It also points to the way society will be just before the rapture (See Luke 17:26.) We have already seen faith as the way to have a relationship with God. That principle is reinforced as Noah's

faith leads to the saving of his life and his family from the wrath of God. (See Hebrews 11:7.)

### 3. Covenant Following the Flood 8:20 - 10:32

This is called the Noahic Covenant, in which God promised to never again destroy the world by water. The rainbow has its origin in this covenant and promise. It was an unconditional covenant with Noah and his descendants. These chapters include a description of Noah's sons and their genealogies.

## **Tower Of Babel Chapter 11**

### 1. Corrupt Government 11:1-2

In Genesis 3, we saw the individual try to circumvent God by becoming a god. In Genesis 11, we see man trying to bypass God through government. When the Tower of Babel was being constructed, the people were all speaking one language throughout the earth. In pride and rebellion they sought to make a name for themselves.

### 2. Corrupt Religion 11:3-4

The people sought to establish a false religion based upon human understanding, human standards and human pride. Many are still seeking a religion based upon Human Wisdom, Human Works, and Human Worthiness. That is NO WAY to come to God. There is only ONE WAY to come to Him. (John 14:1-6.)

### 3. Correction by the Lord 11:5-9

God confused their language and scattered them upon the earth. The word babel means confusion. The languages of the earth, and thus the people of the earth, would not be united again until the Spirit of God came at Pentecost. When God sent His Spirit at Pentecost, people from all over the world understood each other's language without an earthly interpreter. (Acts 2:1-11.)

Man is not brought to unity through political, social, or moral means. He can only find unity with God and his fellow human family by becoming a part of the family of God through Jesus Christ. The unity one discovers in the family of God is not only glorious but eternal, because God's family will live with Him and with each other in perfect unity forever in Heaven.

## **Four Important Individuals**

### **Genesis 12 - 50**

#### **Abraham Chapters 12 - 25**

### 1. Call 12:1

God called Abram to leave his home and travel to an unnamed destination. Abraham obeyed and departed from Haran with his entire family although he did not know the final destination of his journey.

Later, God changed the names of Abram and his wife, Sarai, to Abraham and Sarah. This resulted in the breathing sound-used in speaking God's name being included in their names. To say the name Yahweh, one must make an outward breathing sound. Abraham and Sarah literally had the breath of God in their names. This was a sign of the Spirit of God upon them. Today the Spirit of God indwells all those who have come to God by faith in Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 11:8-17.)

## 2. Covenant 12:2-3; 17:1-6

These verses contain the Abrahamic Covenant. Note seven promises in 12:2-3.

“I will make you a great nation”  
“I will bless you”  
“I will make your name great”  
“You shall be a blessing”  
“I will bless them that bless you”  
“And curse him that curses you”

## 3. Confirmations 13:14-18; 15:1-21; 17:1-8; Etc.

The Lord confirmed His Covenant with Abraham. God is so good that He continues to tell us things we need to hear again and again. A wife loves to hear her husband say he loves her at least once a day. In fact, once an hour is not too much. This requires that the husband think of this love relationship according to the need of his wife. He does not need to say that he loves his wife - he knows it is true. She needs to hear it as a confirmation and comfort! God tells us many comforting things repeatedly in the Bible, not because He needs to say them, but He knows we need to hear them!!!

## 4. Child Out of God's Will 16

God had promised to make Abraham a great nation. Abraham was anxious about this promise being fulfilled since he and his wife had no children and were getting older every day. In chapter 16, we see Abraham trying to help God by having a child with his handmaiden, Hagar. Sarah, his wife, was in complete agreement with this scheme. Of course it ended in disaster, because it was not God's way and will. A son named Ishmael was born to Hagar, but soon Sarah became jealous and Abraham lived in agony as the two women carried on a psychological war within the home.

Abraham's step outside God's will is still affecting the world today. Ishmael is the father of the Arabs, while Isaac, who was later born to Abraham and Sarah, is the forbearer of the Jews. The descendants of the two half-brothers are still fighting this very day. Abraham brought sorrow and bitterness into his home and trouble into the whole world.

when he got out of God's will! Many in our world foolishly believe that personal sin is no one's business, claiming it only affects those who commit the sin. This Bible text reveals that personal sin can have an horrible and extensive effect upon the world and everyone in it.

#### 5. Circumcision 17

In chapter 17, God establishes the covenant of circumcision with Abraham and his descendants. This was an appropriate symbol of the covenant God established. It reminded every male that his descendants were to keep God's covenant. What was the covenant? It involved the seven things mentioned previously, as well as Abraham's faith. Remember, Abraham's justification came by faith, not by works. His works were simply an outward sign of his inward faith. It is in this chapter that the names of Abram and Sarai were changed to Abraham and Sarah.

#### 6. Child of Promise 17:15-22; 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Abraham was 100 years old, and his wife was 99, when Isaac was born. The provision of this son was not to be mistaken as a natural event. God wanted to be sure that Abraham and Sarah knew the child was a miracle. Note Sarah's laughter and the fact that Isaac's name means laughter. God does have a sense of humor!

#### 7. Cities Destroyed 19:1 - 20:18

God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because sexual deviant activity and violent sin had overtaken them. Lot and his family had settled in Sodom after Lot had chosen the land in an agreement with Abraham (see chapter 13). Before the destruction of the cities, Abraham pleaded for God to spare them; but, due to their lack of righteousness and their sinful defiant attitude God went forward with the judgment.

Angels visited the city to rescue Lot and his family. Lot and his daughters escaped, but Lot's wife looked back against God's orders and became a pillar of salt. Lot's daughters got their father drunk and each became pregnant by him. Each daughter had a son from the incestuous relationship with their father. One son was the father of the Moabites and the other was the father of the Ammonites.

### **Isaac Chapters 21 - 26**

(Note an overlap in passages with some of those on Abraham)

#### 1. The Beloved Son 21

#### 2. The Beautiful Sacrifice 22

Here is a beautiful foreshadowing of Christ's sacrifice for our sins at Calvary. Abraham's obedience to God is tested here, but the picture of substitution is just as important. Note the similarities between Abraham's son and God's Son – the Lord Jesus Christ.



Abraham's son was his one and only son  
God's Son was His one and only Son

Abraham's son was to go up a mountain to die  
God's Son was to go up a mountain to die

Abraham's son shows no resistance to his father  
God's Son showed no resistance to His Father

Abraham's son was placed on an altar to die  
God's Son was placed on the cross (altar) to die

Abraham's son was saved by a substitute!  
God's Son WAS THE SUBSTITUTE FOR SIN!!!

(The death of Sarah - 23)

### 3. The Bride Sought 24

Abraham wanted to be sure that Isaac did not get a wife from among the Canaanites. He sent a servant back to his homeland to find a wife for Isaac. The servant found Rebekah and she agreed to come back with him to become the wife of Isaac.

Many students of the Bible see a symbolism between the servant sent to find a wife for Isaac and our being sent as God's servants into this lost world to find a bride for Christ. Note that the servant showed Rebekah a sample of the riches of Isaac and she followed to meet her Groom. As witnesses, we are to show the lost world the riches of Christ so that those who have faith can come to the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ!

(The death of Abraham, 25:1-11)

### 4. The Brothers Struggle 25:12-34

God gave Isaac and Rebekah twin sons, Jacob and Esau. He revealed that Jacob would be the son in the lineage of the Messiah. Isaac, however, favored Esau, revealing that one can have a revelation from God on a matter and still fail to act accordingly. People do this when God speaks to them through the preached word and they fail to make proper commitment or to act in obedience to His will. They do this when they know God's will on a matter but do not obey - This always brings disappointment.

### 5. The Blessing Stated 26:1-6

God shared with Isaac concerning the Abrahamic Covenant. We see the blessing of having a godly father and family - which is one great blessing to possess in this life!

## 6. The Burden Seen 26:7-11

Isaac committed the same sin that his father committed, stating that his wife was his sister. It is interesting to note that Isaac had the blessing of his father (as seen in 26:1-6) but he also had the burden of his father. As parents, we must be careful to pass on to our children more in the way of godly blessings and less in the way of godless burdens!

Isaac showed great wisdom in the way he handled himself with Abimelech. Managing adversity in a way that honors the Lord and bring blessings upon oneself requires great wisdom. Of course, even the wisest men can have children who do irresponsible things. Esau took wives as recorded in 26:34-35. Polygamy may have been legal in those days, but it could also be called lethal. Just because something is legal in the land does not mean it is legal in the eyes of the Lord! We can apply this to legalized gambling, abortion, homosexual marriage, etc. The courts of America are not the final authority in these matters. Even the potentates and presidents of this world must one day stand before the King of Kings; and, the judges of this world must one day stand before the Great Judge of the living and the dead! Misery came upon Isaac and Rebekah because their son practiced polygamy and took wives from among the pagans.

## **Jacob Chapters 27 - 36**

### 1. The Corruption of Jacob 27:1 - 28:9

Here is the story of Rebekah plotting to get the blessing of Isaac for her son, Jacob. Lies and deceit were a part of the scheme. Jacob gains the blessing, but brings fear and hardship to his life.

Esau wanted the blessing of his father, but he did not have the heart for it! He loved the world. He wept when he found that the blessing had been given to his brother. His tears are like those of someone caught in sin. Many cry when caught because they want to continue living in rebellion without facing any penalty. Due to a plot by Esau to kill his brother, Jacob fled to Haran to live with his mother's brother. Esau's heart is revealed clearly in 28:1-9. When Esau heard that Jacob had been blessed of his father and told not to marry a Canaanite woman, he immediately married additional Canaanite women as an act of rebellion.

### 2. The Conversion of Jacob 28:10-22

At a place on the way to Haran, Jacob stopped for the night. Here he dealt with his loneliness and fear by turning to God in a new way. God heard him and responded by showing him a stairway or ladder leading to heaven, upon which angels were ascending and descending. The next morning Jacob dedicated the place with a new name-Bethel, which means House of God. Any place is a holy place when God is there - even a lonely hill far away from home and family.

### 3. The Covenant with Jacob 28:12-15

Read the Covenant given to Jacob at Bethel. This is the Messianic blessing - God promises to bless all the nations of the world through Jacob.

#### 4. The Change in Jacob 29, 31-33

The deceiver is deceived. 'Somebody done hoo-dooed the hoodoo man!' Jacob learned the hard way what it is like to be on the short end of manipulation. He worked seven years for beautiful Rachel, only to be wed to Leah. He had to work seven more years for Rachel. In the midst of it all, Jacob was maturing and growing in the Lord. By the time he left Haran, he was a rich man. God had blessed the patience and persistence of Jacob. On the way home, Jacob stopped at Bethel where he had a deeper experience with God. In 32:28 his name is changed to Israel. Thus, we have Israel and the twelve tribes.

#### 5. The Children of Jacob

Reuben	29:31-32	Gad	30:9-11
Simeon	29:33	Asher	30:12-13
Levi	29:34	Issachar	30:14-18
Judah	29:35	Zebulon	30:19-20
Dan	30:1-6	Joseph	30:22-24
Naphtali	30:7-8	Benjamin	35:16-18

#### **Joseph Chapters 37 - 50**

You will note that Joseph is a type of Christ in the Old Testament.

Our survey of Genesis will not permit us to go into any detail on the life of Joseph. However, we must take note of the typology between Joseph and Jesus. Below is a list of similarities between them:

1. He is a Son 37:1-11
2. He is Sold 37:12-36
3. He is a Sufferer 39 - 40
4. He is Sovereign 41
5. He is the Savior 42 - 50

As we close our study of this book, note some important elements:

Genesis concludes with three funerals.

Genesis began with creation and life, but it ends with death.

It began in a garden but ends in a cemetery.

This is because sin entered the world. This earth is one great orbiting cemetery, dotted with graves on every side. That is what sin has done.

Genesis ends with Joseph being the savior of the world. This happened because of God's provision. Joseph's life speaks symbolically of the Savior who is God's provision for all who will come to Jesus by faith! The choice is one of death or deliverance. The choice is a cemetery (the second death and separation from God in hell) or a Savior (eternal life and union with God forever in heaven). May you who study these pages know without a doubt that Jesus is YOUR personal Lord and Savior!