

2019 Through the Bible Reading: Bible Study Support

The Book of Genesis	
<p>Background of Genesis (Who, what, why)</p>	<p>The book of “Beginnings” or “Origins.” The first phrase in the Hebrew text of Genesis 1:1 is <i>bereshith</i> (in <i>the</i> beginning), which is also the Hebrew title of the book (books in ancient times customarily were named after their first word or two). The English title, Genesis, is Greek in origin and comes from the word <i>geneseos</i>, which appears in the pre-Christian Greek translation (Septuagint) of Genesis 2:4; 5:1. Depending on its context, the word can mean “birth,” “genealogy,” or “history of origin.” In both its Hebrew and Greek forms, then, the traditional title of Genesis appropriately describes its contents, since it is primarily a book of beginnings. Genesis instructs us on the origins of humanity, sin, redemption, and the promises and blessings of God’s covenant with the people of faith. Historically, Jews and Christians alike have held that Moses was the author/compiler of the first five books of the Old Testament. These five books, known also as the <i>Pentateuch</i> (meaning “five-volumes book”), were referred to in Jewish tradition as the five fifths of the law (of Moses). God affirms Moses as His inspired author in Exodus 17:14; 24:4, Numbers 33:1-2 and Deuteronomy 31:9-11. The New Testament also affirms Moses as the author of Genesis: Matthew 19:8; John 5:45-47; 7:19; Acts 3:22; Romans 10:5. The book of Genesis is foundational to the understanding of the rest of the Bible. Its message is rich and complex, and listing its main elements gives a succinct outline of the Biblical message as a whole. It is supremely a book that speaks about the relationship that God desires with people. God’s plan for the reconciliation of humanity is established through the covenant of faith beginning with Abraham in Genesis 12 and 15. The seed of the Gospel is declared shortly after the fall of humanity in Genesis 3:15. As you read through the book of Genesis in the next two weeks, pray about your relationship with God by faith. If you have a question about your position with God be sure to visit: https://www.sdrock.com/knowgod/</p>
<p>Interesting Facts in Genesis and the Bible</p>	<p>Two men in the Bible never died, they were Enoch (in Genesis) and Elijah (in 2 Kings). Note: (Enoch was Methuselah’s father. Methuselah is the oldest human to have lived) “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” (Genesis 5:24) “And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.” (2 Kings 2:11)</p> <p>Bible Facts – The Books of the Bible The Old Testament has 17 Historical, 5 Poetical, and 17 Prophetic books in it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The 17 Historical Books are:</u> Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. • <u>The 5 Poetical Books are:</u> Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon, • <u>The 17 Prophetic Books are:</u> Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

	<p>The New Testament has Four Gospels, Acts, twenty-one Epistles, and the book of Revelation in it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The 4 Gospels are:</u> Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, • <u>The 21 Epistles are:</u> Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. <p><u>Bible Facts – Miscellaneous Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bible contains 1189 chapters. • The Old Testament has 929 chapters and the New Testament has 260 chapters. • The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119; and the shortest is Psalm 117. • The longest verse is Esther 8:9, and the shortest is John 11:35. <p>The Bible was written:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over a 1500 year span (from 1400 B.C to A.D. 100) • over 40 generations • over 40 authors from many walks of life (i.e. - kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in different places (i.e. - wilderness, dungeon, palaces) ○ at different times (i.e. - war, peace) ○ in different moods (i.e. - heights of joy, depths of despair) ○ on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe) ○ in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek)
<p>Reasonable Defense for the faith in Genesis</p>	<p>Why should we read the book of Genesis today?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Genesis to Understand the World's Origins. The first three chapters of Genesis tell us how the world came to be, show us the fundamental problem with the world, and give us a glimpse of the grace that is to come in Jesus Christ. The rest of Scripture takes the Bible's opening chapters seriously and use them to more explicitly teach doctrines that Genesis introduces. 2. Read Genesis to Develop a Higher View of God. Genesis shows us the character and power of God. We see who he is, what he can do, and how he relates to the people he made. Understanding who he has revealed himself to be will help us gain a better understanding of who we are and how we are to live in this world. 3. Read Genesis to Gain a Deeper Faith in God's Promises. Genesis gives us more than just a deeper understanding of biblical doctrines. It also shows us how to walk by faith in the promises of God. Everywhere we look in Genesis, we see God making promises and keeping them. Even in the judgments after the fall, God made a promise to crush the head of Satan, which he ultimately fulfilled in the cross of Jesus Christ.

	<p>4. Read Genesis to Build a Framework for Reading the Rest of the Bible. Each book of the Bible carries a distinctive message and reflects the experiences and vocabulary of its author. Yet, when we look at the whole Bible, we can see the grand author weaving together his revelation to point us to the consummation of all things in Jesus Christ. Genesis sets the stage for the rest of the Bible. In fact, we will find it difficult to understand the Bible’s overarching message without grappling with the themes we find in Genesis. (Source: https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/why-should-you-read-the-book-of-genesis-in-the-bible.html)</p>
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His <i>own</i> image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:26-27 NKJV)</p>
<p>Practical Application to memory verse</p>	<p>People were originally created in the image and likeness of God. And this likeness is clearly seen in Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 11:3). This week, connect with several people who look different from you and declare to them that they are special and that God has a plan for them. Look for the image of God in others and bring encouragement by speaking words of encouragement, life and love.</p>
<p>Life Application from Biblical Themes in Genesis</p>	<p>As you read through the book of Genesis in the next two weeks, pray about your relationship with God by faith. If you have a question about your position with God be sure to visit: https://www.sdrock.com/knowgod/ If you would like to grow your faith, just text the word “saved” to 52525 and you will receive additional resources. And to help another person to begin their journey with God, text the word “share” to 52525 and follow the prompts.</p>