

Book Summary - Genesis

Theme of Genesis:

This is the book of the beginnings of creation, man, and it also displays Yahweh's faithfulness to the Abrahamic covenant.

Chapter Summaries:

Chapter 1 - This is the account of how Yahweh created the heavens and the earth. It displays how Yahweh created every aspect of the creation on specific days. On the seventh day, He rested from His labor.

Chapter 2 - God creates man in His own image. God created Adam from dust and appointed him as His viceroy to rule and subdue the earth. God also created Eve from Adam's rib to be a suitable helper from Adam. Adam and Eve were innocent at this point.

Chapter 3 - This is the account of the fall of mankind into sin. God punishes Adam, Eve and Satan for their rebellion and drives them out of Eden. God also promises that Satan would be crushed by the Seed of the woman.

Chapter 4 - Cain commits the first murder of his brother Abel. We see how technology, art, and agriculture rise to prominence through Cain's descendents. We also see the first instance of polygamy in Lamech.

Chapter 5 - This chapter lines out the genealogy of Adam up to Noah. We also see an example of walking with Yahweh in Enoch, who was taken up to heaven prior to death.

Chapter 6 - This chapter shows how sin corrupts everything it touches. From the sons of God who interbred with human women to men whose thoughts were only evil. God commissions Noah to build an ark in preparation for the Flood.

Chapter 7 - After the completion of the ark, Yahweh floods the whole earth in judgement of man's sin. The flood covered the highest mountains and blotted out all life save the 8 that were on the ark.

Chapter 8 - After the appointed time, the flood waters subsided and the ark rested on Mt. Ararat. God establishes the Noahic Covenant and promises never to flood the earth again. He establishes the rainbow as the sign of the Noahic Covenant.

Chapter 9 - Noah blesses his sons, however he curses his grandson Canaan after Ham's sin. Canaan's descendents will serve the descendents of his uncles.

Chapter 10 - This chapter details the table of nations. The descendants of the sons of Noah disperse over the earth and establish nations.

Chapter 11 - This is the account of the tower of Babel. Man disobeys the command to disperse over the earth and build a tower reaching to heaven. Therefore, God confuses the languages of the earth in order to disperse man over the earth.

Chapter 12 - God calls Abram to leave from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to a land that He will show him. Abram also does not trust God while in Egypt to protect Sarai from Pharaoh and lies to Pharaoh.

Chapter 13 - Abram and Lot separate in the Land Yahweh showed them. Lot took the Jordan valley, and Abram took the land of Canaan. God promises that Abram's descendents would possess the land that he could see, and then Abram builds an altar to the Lord.

Chapter 14 - The kings of Mesopotamia go to battle against the kings of the Jordan valley. The cities of the plain and Lot were taken captive. Therefore, Abram goes and rescues Lot. We are also introduced to Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of God Most High.

Chapter 15 - God establishes the Abrahamic Covenant with Abram. God promises Abram land, seed and blessing. This chapter also establishes that faith has always been the prerequisite of salvation (i.e. "And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:6))

Chapter 16 - Despite God promising Abram a son, Sarai gives her maidservant Hagar to Abram to give them an heir. We see that man is still sinful and disobedient. Hagar's son Ishmael is also promised a multitude of offspring because he is Abram's son.

Chapter 17 - God establishes circumcision as the sign of His covenant with Abram and his family. God also changes Abram's name to Abraham. Abraham immediately circumcised all the men in his family and in his service.

Chapter 18 - The Angel of the Lord and two other angels visit Abraham and Sarah, and promise Sarah will have a son, to which Sarah laughs. The angels tell Abraham that Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed for their wickedness. Abraham attempts to intercede for Sodom and Gomorrah.

Chapter 19 - In the midst of horrid wickedness, God rescues Lot from judgement. God rains down fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot's wife disobeys, looks back at the cities, and is turned into a pillar of salt.

Chapter 20 - Abraham again attempts to save face and lies to Abimelech by telling him that Sarah is his sister. Abimelech gives livestock and servants to Abraham. Abraham prays on behalf of Abimelech's sickness for attempting to take Sarah.

Chapter 21 - As God had promised, Isaac is born to Abraham and Sarah. God looks after Hagar and Ishmael. Abraham and Abimelech establish a covenant at Beersheba.

Chapter 22 - Yahweh tests Abraham's faith and asks him to sacrifice Isaac. We see that Abraham had so much faith that even if Isaac was slain, God would either raise him or provide another heir to the Abrahamic covenant. We see God provide the sacrificial lamb in place of Isaac.

Chapter 23 - Sarah dies at the age of 127 years old. Ephron the Hittite sells a field to Abraham where he buries Sarah.

Chapter 24 - Abraham sends his servant to the land of his fathers to find a wife for Isaac. God guides Abraham's servant to Rebekah, the daughter of Abraham's brother. With Laban's permission, Rebekah became Isaac's wife.

Chapter 25 - This is the account of the death of Abraham and his descendents. We also see the birth of Jacob and Esau to Isaac and Rebekah. In this, we see that Jacob's descendents would rule over the descendents of Esau. Esau also sells his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup.

Chapter 26 - We see Isaac fall into the same sin of his father and lie about his wife's identity. Yahweh also passes the promises made to Abraham to Isaac. We see Esau take a Hittite wife.

Chapter 27 - Rebekah and Jacob come up with a ploy to rob Esau of his father's blessing. Jacob impersonates Esau, cooks food, and wears Esau's clothes. Isaac blesses Jacob and Esau is told he will serve his brother.

Chapter 28 - In order to escape his brother's fury, Rebekah sends Jacob to Laban. Little does she know that the consequence of sin would lead to her never seeing Jacob again. God gives Jacob a dream at Bethel and Jacob sets up a pillar of remembrance.

Chapter 29 - Jacob pledges servitude for Laban's daughter Rachel's hand in marriage. Jacob gets tricked and is given Leah, the elder sister in marriage. Jacob serves another seven years and marries Rachel, however Rachel was barren while Leah bore children.

Chapter 30 - Rachel gives Jacob her servant Bilhah to give Rachel children after the birth of Leah's sons. Leah also gave her servant Zilpah to Jacob and he had kids with her. Jacob leaves Laban's house with his family, and God provides Jacob with the best of the livestock and possessions.

Chapter 31 - Jacob flees from Laban after Rachel steals the household gods. Laban searches the possessions looking for the household gods. After finding nothing, Jacob and Laban come to an agreement and they depart.

Chapter 32 - Esau hears of Jacob's return to the land, and he departs with armed men to meet Jacob. Jacob positions his family so that they are far from danger. Jacob wrestles with God, God dislocates Jacob's hip, and God changes Jacob's name to Israel.

Chapter 33 - Jacob is reunited with Esau and attempts to make things right with him. To his surprise, Esau embraces his brother and holds no offense against him. Jacob settled in Shechem and built an altar to the Lord there.

Chapter 34 - Dinah, the daughter of Leah is raped by Shechem the son of Hamor. In their anger, Simeon and Levi come up with a ploy to have the men of Shechem circumcised. In their weakened state, Simeon and Levi slaughter the entire city.

Chapter 35 - Yahweh again reaffirms the Abrahamic Covenant with Jacob and renames him Israel. Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin, and Isaac dies and is buried by his two sons.

Chapter 36 - The descendants of Esau are listed in this chapter. We see from Esau come nations such as the Amalekites, who attacked Israel during the Exodus.

Chapter 37 - Joseph, the son of Rachel and Jacob, dreams of his brothers and his family bowing down to him. Because of this, Joseph's brothers hate him and attempt to kill him. Reuben, the eldest of Jacob's sons, attempts to rescue him from death, but Joseph is sold into slavery by Judah before Reuben can do so. Yahweh blesses and establishes Joseph in Egypt.

Chapter 38 - Judah, Leah's fourth son, marries Canaanite women and has sons with them. After the death of the first two sons, Tamar waits for the youngest son to come of age. Tamar dresses as a prostitute and Judah ends up sleeping with her. Her life is preserved, and from her comes Perez, an ancestor of David and Jesus Christ.

Chapter 39 - In contrast to Judah's sexual immorality, we see Joseph's fortitude and trust in Yahweh when faced with sexual temptation. Potiphar's wife falsely accuses Joseph of rape and Joseph is imprisoned. God again prospers Joseph in prison and he becomes the head warden of the prison.

Chapter 40 - Joseph interprets the dreams of two prisoners in his care. The head cupbearer and the head baker of Pharaoh. Both interpretations come true, the cupbearer is freed and reestablished, and the head baker is hung.'

Chapter 41 - Pharaoh has a dream and Joseph interprets this dream. Joseph tells Pharaoh of the coming years of prosperity and the coming years of famine. In order to prepare for the famine, Joseph suggests Pharaoh save a fifth of the food in order to keep people fed.

Chapter 42 - The famine had reached the land of Canaan. Jacob sends his sons minus Benjamin to Egypt in order to buy food. Joseph accuses his brothers of being spies, and sends his brothers back to bring Benjamin to see if they're truthful. He keeps Simeon in Egypt.

Chapter 43 - Joseph's brothers return to Egypt with Benjamin with them. Joseph serves them food and sends them back to Canaan with food and provisions. He places his personal cup in Benjamin's bag to see if his brothers have really changed.

Chapter 44 - After pursuing the brothers for "stealing" the cup of Joseph, we see Joseph test his brothers. Judah, the fourth son of Leah steps up and offers himself in place of Benjamin. When given the opportunity to do to Benjamin what they did to Joseph, the brothers protected Benjamin.

Chapter 45 - Joseph reveals his true identity to his brothers and forgives them. He explains that God brought him to Egypt in order to save lives from the famine, including his brothers. Pharaoh commands Joseph's brothers to move with their family to the land of Goshen in Egypt.

Chapter 46 - Joseph's family leaves the land with God's blessing. Seventy of Jacob's household moved from Canaan to Egypt. There, Jacob and Joseph were reunited.

Chapter 47 - Jacob's family settles in the land of Goshen because of their background as shepherds. Goshen was lush and great for raising sheep. Jacob makes Joseph promise that he will bury him in the land of Canaan, not Egypt.

Chapter 48 - Jacob blesses Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh. We again see that the younger (Ephraim) receives a greater blessing than the older. The promises of the Abrahamic covenant are given to Ephraim and Manasseh.

Chapter 49 - Jacob blesses each of his sons. Simeon and Levi are promised to be scattered due to their slaughter of Shechem, and Reuben is cursed for lying with Jacob's concubine. The scepter is promised to the line of Judah.

Chapter 50 - Jacob dies in this chapter. Joseph's brothers think that he will repay their evil towards him, however he forgives. The story ends with Joseph's death and his burial in Egypt.