

Genesis

By James West

Background Information:

We believe that Genesis was written by Moses around 1446-1406 B.C. The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. That is, it shows for example, that everything began with the creative work of God, and that everything was perfect. It shows that right from the start, God's purpose for man was to fellowship with him. It shows us the beginning of marriage, the beginning of sin, the beginning of sacrifice, the beginning of God's judgments, the beginning of the nations and languages, the beginning of God's salvation plan, the beginning of Satan's war against God, the beginnings of faith, the beginnings of Israel, the beginning of the Messianic line.

If we link Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 together, we see that there is a parallel between God and light, and between this world and darkness. While God is light, and is calling us into fellowship with Himself, the world is in darkness, and for the most part is disinclined to come to the light. As the inhabitants of the world trod onwards, deeper and deeper into the darkness, God sent forth patriarchs, men called of God, who shone as lights in the darkness. Even in germ form, we see the prophecy of the coming Seed who would rout the king of darkness, and at the right time in the distant future, He would come on the scene.

We learn that God is a good God, that He gives good things, and that he punishes evil. At the same time, we learn that from the beginning, He was willing to restore man to relationship with Himself, and had a plan devised to bring it about—that is, through the Seed of the woman, His only begotten Son.

First we see God calling out to Adam in the cool of the day in the garden. Then we see God pleading with Cain to keep him from sin. His heart goes out to Seth, who seems to be a faithful patriarch to turn his children to the knowledge of the one true God. From among his descendants, we see beloved Enoch, called into a wonderful walk with God, and used of him to deliver a fiery message of warning and coming judgement recorded for us in Jude. Then righteous Noah was sent as a comfort to the faithful, and as a preserver of life to a remnant. From Noah's son Shem, we find Abram, called out of the darkness and idolatry of Ur, called to bear light around the land of Canaan, and to raise and teach a godly seed after him. This light even shines into Egypt—into the very throne room of the Pharaoh. What battles of faith he has to endure, but God has sent Him forth to be the pioneer of faith, for all the children of faith. Isaac shines as a dim and distant picture of the only begotten Son of God, sacrificed for the sins of the world. The king of the Philistines notices that God is with both Abraham and his son. Then came Jacob, a feeble and flickering light indeed, but by God's grace he prevailed, becoming the Israel, the father of a great nation, not to mention his becoming a patriarch to the Pharaoh, when his own son Joseph is sent ahead by God to preserve life. Thus, God calls all men to himself, and He sets his people up as lights to point the way to Himself.

Pictures, parallels, and lessons of salvation in Genesis:

*Only 2 of these needed for quiz:

1. God calls Adam (3:9)—God calls the sinner
2. Abel's sacrifice accepted (4:4)—Only a blood sacrifice will avail
3. The ark—Salvation in Christ (1 Peter 3:20-21)
4. The Lord shut Noah in to the ark. (7:16)—Eternal security
5. Abram believed God. (15:6)--Justification by faith alone
6. Abraham offered up Isaac (22)--The Father sent the Son to be the sacrifice for the sins of the world

Message and Outline of the book:

The message of Genesis: ***Mankind has sinned against a good God. God addresses the problem by judging sin, and by calling men to the salvation that He provides.*** (*worth double points)

1. **Mankind sins against God's goodness**
 - a. **Creation**
 - i. God as creator and light (1:3)
 - ii. **Mankind as the pinnacle of creation (1:26-27)**
 - b. **The fall**
 - i. **The sin (3:6)**
 - ii. **God's concerned call (3:9)**
 - iii. **The ensuing battle prophesied (3:15)**
 - iv. **The curse pronounced (3:16-19)**
 - v. **Provision foreshadowed (3:21)**
 - vi. **Seth: The appointed seed (4:25, 26)**
 - vii. **Enoch: The man who walked with God (5:24)**
 - c. **The flood**
 - i. **The world's corruption (6:12)**
 - ii. **The flood is sent (7:11)**
 - iii. **Noah: The righteous man by whom God brings deliverance (7:1)**
 - d. **The tower of Babel (11:6-8)**
 - i. **None of their imaginations restrained from them**
 - ii. **God scatters them**
2. **Blessing prophesied through a promised Seed**
 - a. **Abram**
 - i. **Called out (12:1-3)**
 - ii. **Justified by faith (15:5-6)**
 - iii. **Isaac is the promised seed (17:19)**
 - b. **Isaac**

- i. **A picture of the only Begotten Son of God, offered up, and resurrected (22:2, 12)**
 - ii. **The blessing reiterated (26:3-5)**
 - c. **Jacob**
 - i. **The struggle of a nation in the womb (25:22-23)**
 - ii. **The blessing reiterated (28:13-14)**
 - iii. **A picture of deceit. (Hos 12)**
 - iv. **A picture of humble beginnings**
 - v. **A picture of humility prevailing with God (32:28)**
 - vi. **A picture of a sinner saved by the grace of God**
 - d. **Judah**
 - i. **An utter failure morally (ch. 38)**
 - ii. **Through him the Messianic line is traced (Matt 1:3)**
 - e. **Joseph (ch's. 37, 39-50)**
 - i. **A complete picture of Christ, although not his ancestor**
 - ii. **Sinned against by his brethren**
 - iii. **Judging them for their evil deeds**
 - iv. **Sent by God to save their lives, and the lives of the world**

Application of the book:

We need to recognise the goodness of God, and identify our inward sinfulness and bent to corruption. We also need to acknowledge that the state of this cursed world is a direct result of sin, and displays God's displeasure toward sin, which in turn points to a coming and eternal judgement. We need to see, however, that God, in His goodness, has always drawn men, calling them to repentance, and that He has revealed the only way of deliverance, which is through the knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ.

Outline of chapters:

1. Creation (1-2)
2. The fall (3)
3. Cain, Abel, and Seth (4)
4. Genealogy from Adam to Noah (5)
 - a. Enoch (5:21-24)
5. Noah and the flood (6-8)
6. God's covenant with Noah, and Noah's sin (9)
7. Genealogies of Noah's sons (10)
8. Tower of Babel, and genealogy from Shem to Abram (11)
9. Abram
 - a. God calls him to an unknown land, and he experiences trouble with Sarai in Egypt (12)

- b. Abram makes peace with Lot, and is promised the land (13)
- c. Abram rescues Lot, and encounters Melchizedek (14)
- d. God covenants with Abram by sacrifice (15)
- e. Abram sins with Hagar (16)
- f. God reiterates His covenant to Abram, and institutes circumcision (17)
- g. The Lord promises a child to Sarah. Abraham pleads for Sodom and Gomorrah (18)
- h. Lot barely escapes from Sodom (19)
- i. Abraham and Sarah experience trouble in the land of Gerar (20)
- j. Isaac is born, Ishmael is cast out, and Abimelech makes a covenant with Abraham (21)
- k. Abraham offers up Isaac (22)
- l. Sarah dies and is buried (23)

10. Isaac

- a. Abraham sends Eleazar, and procures a wife for Isaac (24)
- b. Abraham remarries and dies; Ishmael's sons; Rebekah bears twins; Esau sells his birthright (25)
- c. Isaac and Rebekah experience trouble in Gerar; Abimelech makes a covenant with Isaac. (26)

11. Jacob

- a. Jacob steals Esau's blessing (27)
- b. Jacob leaves home and dreams of the ladder reaching to Heaven (28)
- c. Jacob joins Laban, and is deceived by him; Jacob marries two wives (29)
- d. Jacob's wives compete in child-bearing; Jacob gains much of Laban's stock (30)
- e. Jacob flees with his family, and Laban pursues; They make a covenant (31)
- f. Jacob prepares to meet Esau, and prevails with the angel (32)
- g. The two brothers are reconciled (33)
- h. Dinah is defiled, and Jacob's sons commit outrage (34)
- i. Jacob returns to Bethel with his family; Rachel dies; Isaac dies (35)
- j. Esau's descendants (36)

12. Joseph

- a. Joseph's dreams; His brothers sell him, and he is enslaved in Egypt (37)
- b. Judah's failure; He is God's chosen line despite this (38)
- c. Joseph serves Potiphar faithfully, then is accused in his innocence; Joseph serves faithfully in prison (39)
- d. Joseph interprets dreams in prison, but is forgotten (40)
- e. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams, and is made second to Pharaoh (41)
- f. Joseph's brethren come to buy grain, and are sifted by him (42-44)
- g. Joseph is reconciled to his brethren; He brings them to Egypt (45-47)
- h. Jacob blesses his family, and dies (48-49)
- i. Jacob mourned for, and buried in Canaan; Joseph dies (50)



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