

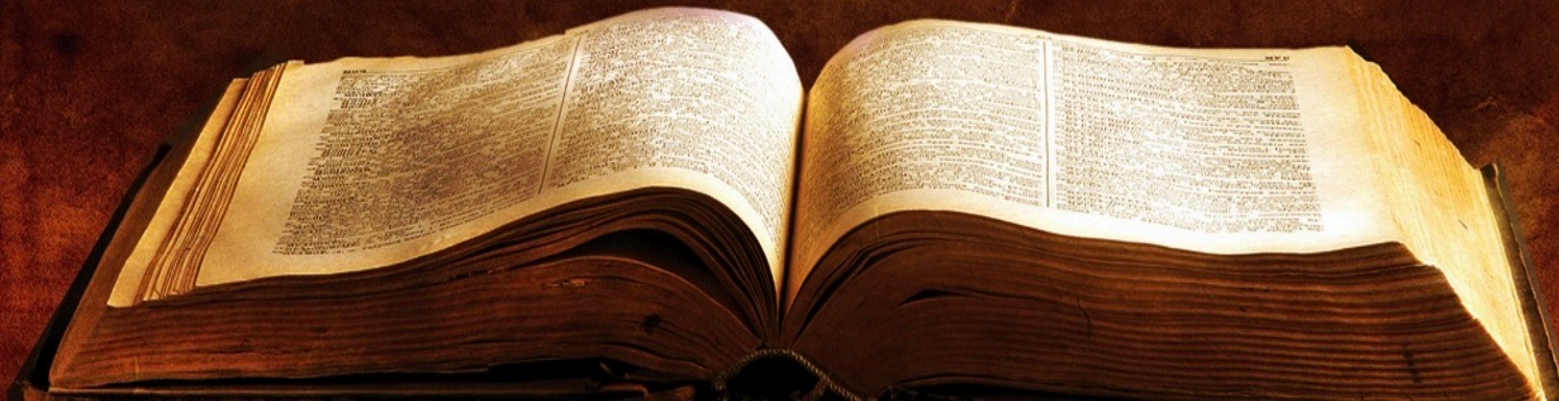
Greater Memphis Community Bible Study

GENESIS

Chapters 1 -11

A STUDY IN THE THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

CHAPTER 1A



Introduction to the Course

Title: The English title “Genesis” (Hebrew *bereshith*) is derived from Jerome’s Vulgate.


Date: 1445 B.C.

Authorship: Moses (also Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

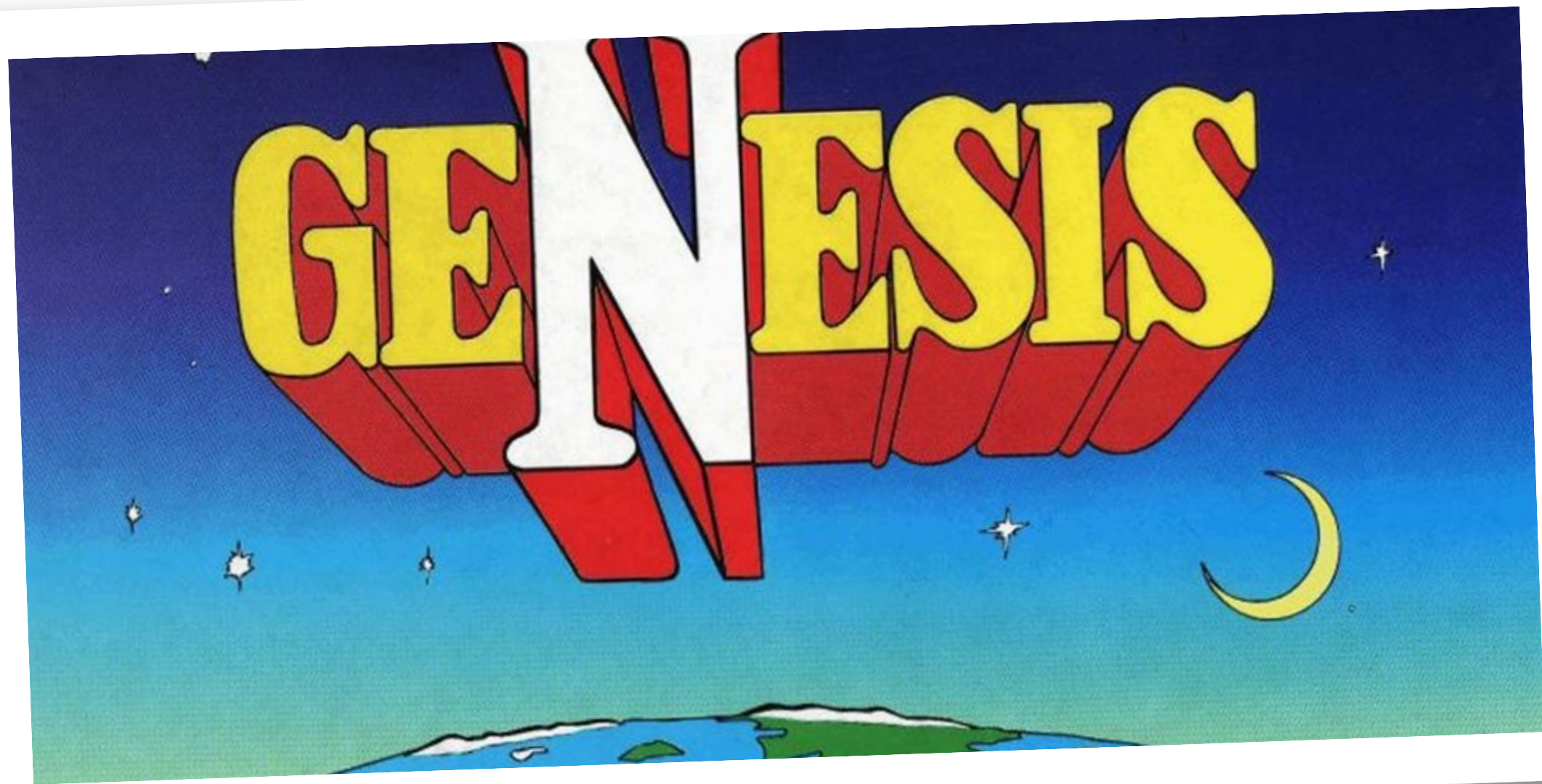
- How can Moses author Genesis when he wasn’t alive?

Recipients: The first audience were the Israelites Moses led through the wilderness.

GENESIS

	Creation	Fall	Flood	Nations		Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
	CHAPTERS 1–2	CHAPTERS 3–5	CHAPTERS 6–9	CHAPTERS 10–11		CHAPTERS 12–25	CHAPTERS 26–27	CHAPTERS 28–36	CHAPTERS 37–50
Beginnings	Beginning of the human race					Beginning of the chosen race			
Result	Confusion and scattering					Bondage in Egypt			
History	Primeval history					Patriarchal history			
Chronology	Over 2,000 years					Approximately 300 years			
Emphasis	Four major events					Four important people			
Key Words and Phrases	“In the beginning” (1:1) “Generations” (5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 37:2)								
Theme	God promises to redeem and bless His people.								
Key Verses	3:15; 12:3								
Christ in Genesis	Pictured in the seed of the woman (3:15); Melchizedek, the high priest (14:18); the humiliation and exaltation of Joseph (chapters 37–50)								

GENESIS









Introduction to the Course

Themes: The theme of Genesis is creation, sin, and re-creation. God made the world very good, then cursed it and destroyed it in the flood because of man's disobedience.

The new world after the flood was also spoiled by human sin (chapter 11). God chose Abraham for a special purpose. Through his family, all nations would be blessed (chapter 12:1-3). God's purpose will eventually be fulfilled through Abraham's descendants (chapter 49).

Introduction to the Course

Outline

Primeval History

God's creation and ordering of heaven and earth

Earth's first people

Adam's descendants

Noah's descendants

The descendants of Noah's sons

Shem's descendants

Patriarchal History

Terah's descendants

Isaac's descendants

Jacob's descendants

1:1–11:26

1:1–2:3

2:4–4:26

5:1–6:8

6:9–9:29

10:1–11:9

11:10–26

11:27–50:26

11:27–25:18

25:19–37:1

37:2–50:26



Introduction to the Course

Introduction to the Course

Moses

- His name means “Drawn forth. Taken out of the water.”
- The story of Moses constitutes about one-seventh of the whole Bible
- Moses was born in Egypt
- His parents were Amram & Jochebed
- The story of Moses is about two-thirds as large as the New Testament.
- Was the youngest of three children.
- Had one brother, Aaron, and a sister, Miriam
- Was the grandson of Kohath.
- Moses was 40 years old when he slew the Egyptian.
- Moses was 80 years old when he was called to lead Israel out of Egypt.

Introduction to the Course

Moses

- Was the great grandson of Levi.
- Was educated in the palace of Pharaoh
- Married Zipporah, daughter of Jethro
- Had two sons- Gershom and Eliezer
- Moses was the only man in the Bible to have God as his undertaker. Deuteronomy 34:6
- Lived a total of 120 years (1526-1406 B.C.) - Deuteronomy 34:17
- Spent 1st forty years in Egypt (1526-1486 B.C.)- Acts 7:22-23
- Spent 2nd forty years in the land of Midian- Deuteronomy 34:5-7
- (1486-1446 B.C.) - Exodus 2:15

Introduction to the Course

Moses

- “So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.
- Spent the final forty years leading the children of Israel through the wilderness (1446-1406 B.C.) - Deuteronomy 8:2
- Wrote five books of the Bible plus the 90th Psalm

Chapter 1

Verse 1- *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

God- (Lord)- *Elohim*. *Yahweh* (LORD- God's covenant name with Israel) is not used until 2:4. The Old Testament has three names for God: *El*, *Eloah*, and *Elohim* (most common 2750 times).

created- (*bara*)- A singular verb with a plural noun speaks to the triune nature of God (*Elohim*). It is used The New Testament speaks of Christ's role in creation (John 1:1-3; Col 1:15-17; Heb 1:2) and Gen. 1:2 speaks of the Holy Spirit. This word is used for creating something out of nothing, and sometimes for creating something from existing matter, like David's heart (Ps. 51:10) and the creation of Adam and Eve.

Chapter 1

Verse 2- *And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

earth- This is the planet before God made it habitable for us. It stands in distinction to “the heavens, and later, He will take six days to create it- Three to make it habitable, and three to fill it.

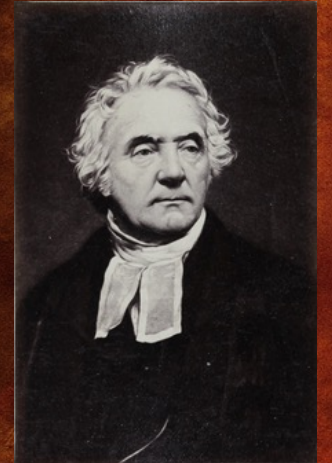
formless and desolate emptiness- In Hebrew, this is a rhyming couplet: *tōhû wābōhû* (only used elsewhere in Jer. 4:23) which is an example of a farrago, a mixture or jumble of something. In this case, it means empty nothingness.

Chapter 1

Verse 2- *And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

The Gap Theory- (Popularized by Thomas Chalmers in the 19th century) Supposes that there's a long time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. The world that existed during this time (gap) was destroyed and God re-created in the six days described in Genesis. This theory lacks biblical support and puts death before sin when Scripture describes death as the consequence for sin. It usually is adopted by "theistic evolutionists" to harmonize the theory of evolution and/or an old earth.

darkness was over the surface of the deep- This describes the act of God's creation on Day 1.



Thomas Chalmers
Scottish minister, Professor of Theology
1780 - 1847

Chapter 1

Verse 3- *Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.*

God said- Repeated ten times in the creation narrative.

“Let there be light”;- Day One of creation- heavens, earth, and light. This is the the first act of creation and God will not create the sun until three days later (vv. 15-16), so this source of light indicates the presence of God, just as we saw in our Revelation study. At the end of time, he will destroy the sun and His own glory will once again illuminate the new heaven and earth as it does here at the beginning of creation.



Chapter 1

Verse 4- *God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.*

the light was good- God is not only the Creator but the Judge of His creation. The division of light and darkness is the first of three divisions in God's creative work:

- 1:4 Division of light and dark
- 1:6 Division of the waters from the waters
- 1:9 Division of waters and heavens

Day 1



Light
and
earth

Day 2



Separate
waters
above
and
below

Day 3



Dry land
and plants

Day 4



Sun, moon,
planets,
and stars

Day 5



Flying
and sea
creatures

Day 6



Land
animals
and man

6 Days of Creation