

What You Will Learn in the Book of Genesis

A Comprehensive Study with Dr. John Neyman – SonRise Community Church

Overview

The Book of Genesis is the foundational book of the Bible. It is the seedbed of all major doctrines and the opening revelation of God's eternal plan. In this study, we will explore Genesis as **both theological framework and practical guide**—understanding creation, humanity, sin, redemption, and God's covenantal faithfulness.

Genesis teaches us where we came from, what went wrong, what God is doing about it, and where history is headed.

This is not a mere academic pursuit—it is a transformative journey through the origins of **God's glory, human responsibility, divine judgment, and redemptive grace**. Genesis is pastoral, prophetic, personal, and powerful.

Main Objectives

Students will:

1. **Grasp the theological foundations of the Christian faith** rooted in Genesis.
 2. **Trace the origin of all things:** creation, sin, judgment, nations, languages, covenant, and redemption.
 3. **Understand the patriarchs**—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph—and their roles in God's unfolding covenant.
 4. **See how Genesis lays the groundwork for every other book in the Bible.**
 5. **Apply lessons from Genesis to real-life situations**, including identity, marriage, family, obedience, faith, and suffering.
 6. **Learn biblical counseling principles** that emerge from human failures and God's grace.
 7. **Recognize Christ in Genesis**—the Promised Seed, the Ark, the Ram, the Ladder, the Beloved Son betrayed, and more.
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Structure of the Course

Genesis will be taught in **two main divisions**:

I. Primeval History (Chapters 1–11)

Focus: God's Universal Dealings with Humanity

Topics and Lessons:

1. **Creation: The Sovereign God and the Order of the Universe**
 - God's power, purpose, and design (Genesis 1–2)
 - Image of God in mankind—dignity and duty
 - Marriage and gender roles established by God
 2. **The Fall: Sin, Death, and the Promise of Redemption**
 - Genesis 3: The root of all brokenness
 - Satan's deception, human rebellion, God's judgment
 - The first Gospel (Genesis 3:15)
 3. **Cain and Abel: Worship, Jealousy, and God's Mercy**
 - Right and wrong worship
 - Heart issues and God's warning before sin (Genesis 4:6–7)
 - Counseling insight: early signs of anger and bitterness
 4. **The Flood: Judgment and Salvation**
 - Universal depravity (Genesis 6:5)
 - Noah's obedience and the ark as a type of Christ
 - God's covenant with Noah—stability and promise
 5. **Tower of Babel: Human Pride and Divine Humbling**
 - Rebellion through self-exaltation
 - Origin of nations and languages
 - God's sovereign control of history
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II. Patriarchal History (Chapters 12–50)

Focus: God's Covenant with His Chosen People

Topics and Lessons:

6. **Abraham: The Father of Faith**
 - The call of Abram (Genesis 12)
 - Justification by faith (Genesis 15:6)
 - Covenant, testing, and intercession
 - Counseling insight: Trusting God amid waiting and testing
7. **Isaac: The Promised Son**
 - Typology of Christ in the offering of Isaac (Genesis 22)
 - God's providence in Isaac's marriage
 - Continuation of covenant promises
8. **Jacob: The Struggler Who Became Israel**
 - God's dealings with a deceiver
 - Wrestling with God (Genesis 32)
 - Transformation through suffering and grace

- Counseling insight: Identity crisis and divine confrontation
 - 9. **Joseph: Providence in Pain**
 - Family dysfunction and betrayal
 - God's sovereign hand in suffering (Genesis 50:20)
 - Forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration
 - Counseling applications: trauma, abandonment, and healing
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Doctrines and Themes Explored

- The doctrine of God (Elohim and Yahweh)
 - The Imago Dei (man in the image of God)
 - Original sin and depravity
 - Covenant theology
 - Election and promise
 - Typology and foreshadowing of Christ
 - Divine providence
 - Human responsibility and accountability
 - Gender, marriage, and family roles
 - Origins of nations and God's plan of redemption
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Counseling and Life Application Principles

- **Identity and Purpose** – Knowing who you are based on Genesis 1–2, not culture.
 - **Consequences of Sin** – Understanding guilt, shame, blame, and alienation (Genesis 3).
 - **Grace Before Judgment** – God's mercy shown before and after discipline.
 - **The Importance of Right Worship** – Cain's rejection shows motives matter (Genesis 4).
 - **God's Sovereignty in Suffering** – Joseph's story is a model for responding to betrayal, injustice, and long-term trauma.
 - **Family Dynamics** – Jacob's favoritism, sibling rivalry, parental neglect—Genesis does not sanitize real problems.
 - **The Power of Forgiveness** – Joseph forgives and restores, mirroring the heart of God.
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Christ in Genesis

Jesus said, “Moses wrote about Me” (John 5:46).

- The Seed of the Woman (3:15)
- The Ark of Salvation (ch. 6–8)

- The Offering of Isaac (ch. 22)
 - The Ladder from Heaven (28:12; cf. John 1:51)
 - The Beloved Son Rejected and Raised (Joseph)
 - Melchizedek – Priest and King (ch. 14)
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Learning Methodology

- Verse-by-verse exposition
 - Hebrew word studies where necessary
 - Doctrinal integration
 - Historical context and archaeological insights
 - Pastoral application for today's world
 - Time for questions and group engagement
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Conclusion

The study of Genesis is not just about “how it all began”—it’s about **why it began** and **where it’s going**. By the end of this course, participants will:

- Know the God of Genesis as personal, sovereign, and faithful.
- See themselves in the story—fallen, called, redeemed, and blessed.
- Be equipped to handle real-life counseling issues with truth and compassion.
- Recognize the Gospel not as a New Testament novelty but as an eternal plan revealed from the beginning.

“In the beginning, God...” (Genesis 1:1)

If that is true, then everything else in life must be built upon it.