

# **BOOK OF GENESIS**



***The Beginning for The Beginning***

Torah

Hebrew: “Law, Instruction”

Pentateuch

Greek: “Five-Part Book”

Genesis

Traces the origins of God's people from creation to Egypt

Exodus

Relates God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt and establishing His covenant

Leviticus

Sets forth the Laws of worship

Numbers

Relates the wilderness wanderings

Deuteronomy

Gives the Law to a new generation with special emphasis to those entering the land

# Authorship of Genesis

- Moses was qualified to write the book of Genesis.
- The Style of Genesis reflects an Egyptian influence.
- The unity of the book of Genesis reflects a single author.

# Genesis

- Hebrew:
  - tyviareB. (BeReshyth)
  - “In the Beginning”
- Greek:
  - Γενεσις
  - “Beginnings”

# Outline

Summary	Contents	Location
<i>In the beginning God created...</i>	Creation	1:1 - 2:3
<i>The Heaven and the Earth</i>	Creation	2:4 - 4:26
<i>Adam's Line</i>	Genealogy: Seth to Noah	5:1 - 6:8
<i>Noah</i>	Flood & Covenant	6:9 - 9:29
<i>Shem, Ham &amp; Japheth</i>	Table of Nations & Babel	10:1 - 11:9
<i>Shem</i>	Genealogy: Shem to Abraham	11:10-26
<i>Terah</i>	Story of Abraham	11:27 - 25:11
<i>Abraham's Son Ishmael</i>	Genealogy of Ishmael	25:12-18
<i>Abraham's Son Isaac</i>	Transition of blessing from Isaac to Jacob	25:19 - 35:29
<i>Esau</i>	Genealogy of Esau	36:1-43
<i>Jacob</i>	Joseph & Israel in Egypt	37:1 - 50:26

# Race to Family

Genesis 1-11	Genesis 12-50
<p>Events Predominant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Creation</li><li>– Fall</li><li>– Flood</li><li>– Tower of Babel</li></ul>	<p>People Predominant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Abraham</li><li>– Isaac</li><li>– Jacob</li><li>– Joseph</li></ul>
Race as a whole	Family of Abraham
Over 2,000 years	250 years

# Beginning to Ending

Genesis	Revelation
Creation of the heavens and earth.	A new heaven and a new earth.
The Tree of Life in the Garden.	The Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem.
A river runs through the Garden.	A river runs through the New Jerusalem.
The first marriage: Adam and Eve.	The last marriage: The last Adam to the church.
The beginning of the career of Satan.	The end of Satan's career: The Lake of Fire.
Death enters.	Death is destroyed.
Man lost privileges because of sin.	Man regains privileges because of Christ's payment for sin.
Beginning of sorrow, pain and death.	Christ wipes away all tears.
The first murder.	No more death.
The beginning of Babylon.	Babylon destroyed.



# Genesis 1:1-2



***Creation or Evolution?***

# Genesis 1:1-2 (NRSV)

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1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

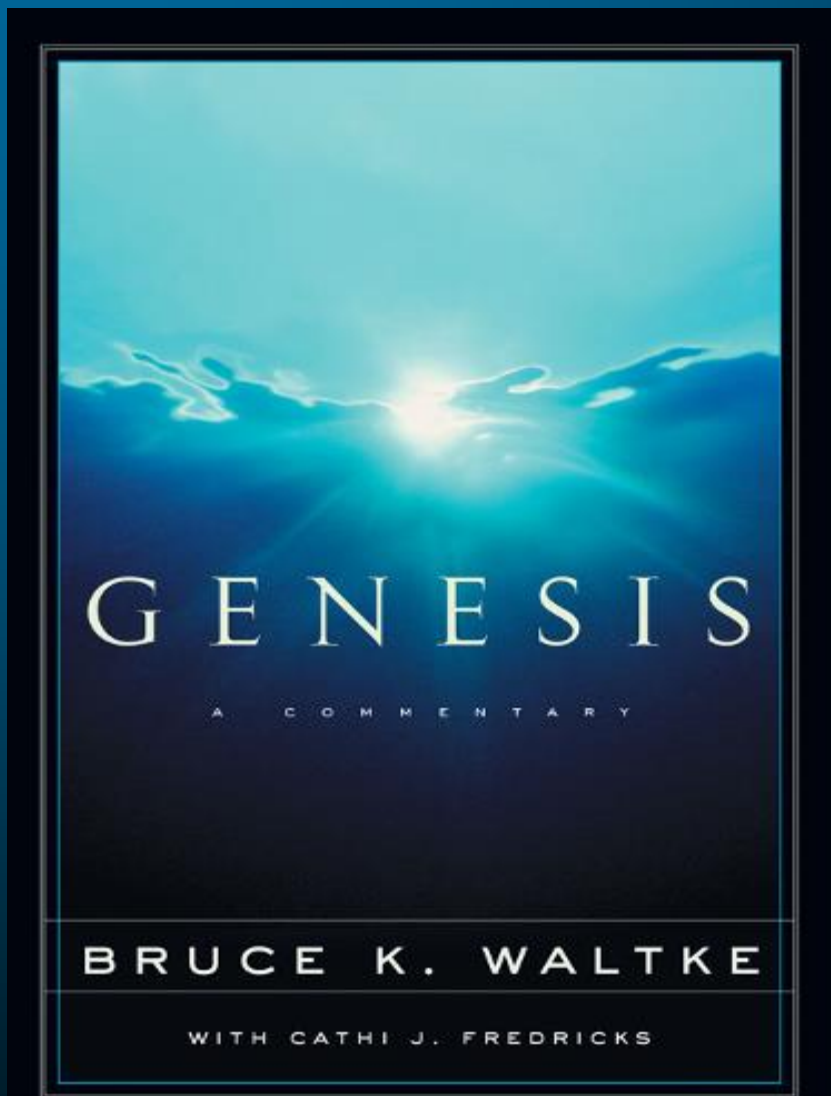
# Genesis 1:1

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- Teaches the:
  - Existence of One God.
  - Pre-existence of God.
  - Personhood of God.
- 2 Ways of Understanding Creation:
  - An initial act of creation.
  - A summary statement of the entire chapter.

# Creation vs. Evolution

- Creationism:
  - Young Earth.
  - Old Earth: Gap Theory, Day-Age, Progressive.
  - Geocentric.
- Intelligent Design.
- Evolution:
  - Darwinian (Natural Selection).
  - Modern Synthesis (Big Bang, Forward).
  - Further Synthesis (Continuous).
- Theistic Evolution:
  - “We find that as science expands human understanding of the natural world, our understanding of the mysteries of God's creation and word are enhanced.” (UMC Book of Discipline Paragraph 160.F)



*“There is general revelation in creation, as well as the special revelation of Scripture, is also the voice of God. We live in a “universe,” and all truth speaks with one voice.”*

# Genesis 1:3-31



**Six Days**

# Unformed

Day 1: Light

Day 2: Water & sky  
divided

Day 3: Dry land &  
vegetation

# Unfilled

Day 4: Sun, Moon,  
Stars.

Day 5: Fish & Birds  
to fill water & sky

Day 6: Land animals  
& man

Day 7: Sabbath Rest

## Genesis 1:3-5 (NRSV)

<sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.





## Genesis 1:6-8 (NRSV)

<sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.



## Genesis 1:9-10 (NRSV)

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.



## Genesis 1:14-19 (NRSV)

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.



## Genesis 1:20-23 (NRSV)

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.



# Genesis 1:24-27 (NRSV)

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

# Genesis 1:24-27 (NRSV)



<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

## Created Kingdoms

## Created Kings

Day 1: Light &  
Darkness

Day 4: Light-bearers  
to rule day & night

Day 2: Division of  
waters into sky &  
sea

Day 5: Birds to rule  
the sky and fish to  
rule the sea

Day 3: Dry land &  
vegetation

Day 6: Land animals  
& man as ruler

## Creator King

Day 7: The King takes His Rest

# Genesis 1

# The Israelite Experience

Man is created in the image of God

Only the Pharaoh was thought to be in the image of God

Man is told to rule over the earth

Only the Pharaoh had the right of rulership

Man is placed into a beautiful garden

Israelites are tempted to return to the meats of Egypt, but Canaan is the new promised Eden.



# Lessons from Genesis 1

- There is only one God and that is the God who created us.
- The God who created us is a very big God.
- God is personally involved in His creation.
- The purpose of the Genesis account is not merely to have us view the creation, but that we might see the Creator who created the creation.

# Genesis 2



## Creation & Temple

## Genesis 1-2

And God saw all that He had made and it was very good (1:31)

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. (2:1)

## Exodus 39-40

And Moses saw they had done the work just as the LORD had commanded (39:43)

Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was completed (39:32)

## Genesis 1-2

## Exodus 39-40

God finished His work  
which He had done,  
(2:2)

Thus Moses finished  
the work.(40:33)

Then God blessed the  
seventh day... (2:3)

So Moses blessed  
them (39:43)

...and sanctified it (2:3)

You shall... sanctify the  
altar (40:10)

# Genesis 2:1-3 (NRSV)

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

<sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

# The Sabbath

- Given as a memorial to the work of God in creation.
- Served as a memorial of God's redemption.
- The Sabbath was designed to be a shadow of things to come and not as an end unto itself.
- Serves as a day of rest, recharge, and fellowship with God.

## Genesis 1

The heavens and the earth are created in six days.

Man's creation is climactic

Panorama of creation as a whole

Centers on God creating the heavens and the earth

## Genesis 2

Creation of the man and woman (no time element mentioned).

Man's creation mentioned first

Detailed focus on one aspect of creation

Man & woman as the completion of God's creation

# Genesis 2:4-6 (NRSV)

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<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup> when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; <sup>6</sup> but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground





# Genesis 2:7 (NRSV)

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<sup>7</sup> then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

And when He had said this, He  
breathed on them and said to them,  
“Receive the Holy Spirit.”  
(John 20:22).

# Genesis 2:8 (NRSV)

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<sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

The word *edenu* in Akkadian means “garden” or “paradise.”

# Genesis 2:9 (NRSV)

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<sup>9</sup> Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



# Genesis 2:10 (NRSV)

<sup>10</sup> A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.

- Pishon (around the whole land of Havilah)
- Gihon (around the whole land of Cush)
- Tigris (east of Assyria)
- Euphrates

# Genesis 2:11-15 (NRSV)

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<sup>11</sup> The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; <sup>12</sup> and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup> The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup> The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and

## **Genesis 2:16-17 (NRSV)-**

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”



# Genesis 2:18-20 (NRSV)

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<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." <sup>19</sup> So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his

# Genesis 2:21-22 (NRSV)

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<sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.





Verse 18	Verses 19-20	Verses 21-22
It is not good that man should be alone	Creation and naming of the animals	Creation of the woman
The need for a companion for the man	The inadequacy of the animals for this companionship	The providing of the woman as a companion for the man

# Genesis 2:23-25 (NRSV)

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<sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken.”

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man leaves his father and his  
mother and clings to his wife, and they  
become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his  
wife were both naked, and were not  
ashamed.