

# Community Bible Church

## The Book of Genesis

### Chapter 1

**Introduction to Genesis:** The first five books of the Old Testament are often referred to as the Torah or the Pentateuch. **Genesis** is the first of these five books, and it is generally considered that Moses is the author of the five books of the Pentateuch.

**Genesis** is a foundational book for the rest of the Bible, and this book is quoted or referred to more than two hundred times in the New Testament. The **first section** of **Genesis (chapters 1-11)** focuses on the creation of the world and the human race, as well as the entrance and spread of sin into the new creation. This section culminates with the devastating flood during the time of Noah and is primarily **historical** in nature. Over two thousand years are covered in **Genesis 1-11**.

By contrast, the **second section** of **Genesis (chapters 12-50)** focuses on one man, Abraham, and his offspring, and covers a period of less than three hundred years. This section of the book is primarily **biographical**.

The theology of God's salvation and redemption is woven into the fabric of the narrative of Abraham. Many New Testament themes have their foundation in Genesis, including the nature and fall of man and the origin and nature of sin and evil. The beginning and development of family, civilization, government, and marriage come from Genesis. The basis of salvation and substitutionary atonement arise from this book. The early history and purpose of the nation of Israel is discussed.

The setting of **Genesis** takes place primarily in three geographic regions: **(1) The Fertile Crescent (chapters 1-11) (2) Israel (chapters 12-36) (3) Egypt (chapters 37-50)**. Two simple and memorable outlines of Genesis are as follows:

- I **Primitive History (Genesis 1-11)**
- II **Patriarchal History (Genesis 12-50)**

- I **Four Events: Creation, Fall, Flood, Dispersion into nations (1-11)**
- II **Four People: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (12-50)**

The title of this first book of the Bible is **Genesis** which means **Beginnings**. However, let's remind ourselves that much occurred prior to **Genesis 1:1**. God has always existed from eternity past in all of His glory. God has always existed as three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the Trinity has planned redemption *"before the foundation of the world."*

1. From the **Introduction** above, write a brief outline of **Genesis**. What does the title **Genesis** mean? What four men (patriarchs) are highlighted in **Genesis 12-50**?

2. **Genesis chapter 1** describes the six days of God’s creation of heaven and earth. The following premises underlie the biblical record of creation: **(a)** the creation was thousands, not millions, of years ago **(b)** the creation was “out of nothing” (*ex nihilo*) **(c)** the creation occurred in 24-hour periods called “days” (*Yom* in Hebrew). In **chapter 1**, there is a pattern where God first **forms** (heavens, land, and waters) and then **fills** them with forms of life.

In each passage below, using your own words, write a brief, description of what occurred on each day.

**(a) Day 1 (1:1-5)**

**(b) Day 2 (1:6-8)**

**(c) Day 3 (1:9-13)**

**(d) Day 4 (1:14-19)**

**(e) Day 5 (1:20-23)**

**(f) Day 6 (1:24-25)**

3. From **1:26-27**, what else occurred on the sixth day? What other distinctives of man’s creation did you notice in these verses? What does “*in His image*” and “*have dominion over*” mean?
4. God spoke directly to the man and woman He created (**1:28-30**). What loving and gracious words of instruction were given to the first man and woman?
5. How does **Genesis 1** conclude in **1:31**? What words of summary did Moses add in **2:1**?
6. **Genesis chapter 1** is one of the most beautiful and profound chapters in the Bible. What verse or verses from this chapter were most impactful to you?

