

Bible Study Guide: Genesis

Subtitle: *The Beginning of God's Story – And Ours*

The Bible: Big Picture

- **66 Books Total**
 - 39 Old Testament
 - 27 New Testament
- **Written Over 1,500 Years**
 - By 35–40 different authors
- **One Unified Story — All Pointing to Jesus**

Languages of the Bible

- Old Testament: *Hebrew & Aramaic*
- New Testament: *Greek & Aramaic*
 - 🗨️ *Note: Ancient words carried different meanings. Understanding the cultural and historical context matters!*

Bible Timeline Tip

- Bible events and books often **overlap**
 - Example: Reading *Kings* alongside the *Prophets* gives fuller context.

Four Key Questions (Context Tools)

1. Who wrote it?
2. Who was it written to?
3. When was it written?
4. Why was it written?

Genesis Overview

- **Author:** Traditionally Moses
- **Audience:** The Nation of Israel (after being freed from slavery in Egypt)
- **Date:** ~1440–1200 BC
- **Purpose:** To answer: *Where did we come from, and why are we here?*

Four Main Movements in Genesis

1. Creation — *How it all began*

Genesis 1–2

- *Genesis 1:1* — "In the beginning, God created..."
- God creates from nothing — with design, order, and purpose.
- *Genesis 1:26* — "Let us make man in our image..."
 - **Image** = Representative of God
 - You were made to reflect God and rule on His behalf
- *Genesis 2:15–17* — Will we trust God's wisdom or define good and evil ourselves?

2. Corruption — *Where it went wrong*

Genesis 3–4

- *Genesis 3* — Sin enters through Adam and Eve's disobedience
 - Humanity is separated from God
 - But God promises a Rescuer (*Genesis 3:15*) — the **First Gospel**
- *Genesis 4:1–7* — Sin isn't passive; it wants to rule you
 - "Sin is crouching at the door... but you must rule over it."

3. Covenant — *How God plans to fix it*

Genesis 12–50

- *Genesis 12:1–3* — God's call to Abraham:
 - "I will make you a great nation... all families of the earth will be blessed."
- *Genesis 17:4–5* — Abraham becomes the "father of many nations"
- *Genesis 22:18* — The promise continues: through Abraham's **offspring** all nations will be blessed
- The promise passes down:
 - **Abraham → Isaac → Jacob (Israel) → 12 sons = 12 tribes of Israel**
 *Bonus:* Matthew 1 starts with Abraham's genealogy — connecting Jesus directly to this promise.

4. Captivity — *How Israel ended up in Egypt*

Genesis 37–50

- Joseph is betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery
- Rises to power in Egypt → Saves his family during a famine
- *Genesis 50:24–25* — Joseph: “God will surely visit you...”
 - He believed in God’s faithfulness beyond his lifetime
- *Genesis 15:13–16* — God foretells Israel’s 400 years in Egypt
 - But also promises their deliverance (which begins in **Exodus**)

Major Themes Recap

Theme	Description	Key Scripture
Creation	God creates with purpose	Genesis 1:1–2, 1:26
Corruption	Sin disrupts God’s design	Genesis 3, 4:1–7
Covenant	God’s promise to redeem through a family	Genesis 12:1–3, 17:4–5, 22:18
Captivity	Israel’s journey into Egypt	Genesis 50:22–26, 15:13–16

Closing Thought

Genesis isn’t just about beginnings — it’s about **God’s plan, our identity, and the promise of redemption.**

Every chapter sets the stage for Jesus — the One who would crush the serpent’s head (Genesis 3:15), restore our image, and lead us out of sin and into new life.

Stay anchored in the Word. Don’t just read Genesis — let it shape your understanding of who God is and who you are in His story.