



## DAYS 1-42: Genesis

### THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

The importance of the Book of Genesis can hardly be overestimated: it is quoted from or referred to about two hundred times in the New Testament. The first eleven chapters introduce us to the origin of many things, including the universe, man, sin, marriage, languages, nations, and the first promise of redemption. From chapter twelve onwards we learn about the origin of the nation of Israel through which the promised Saviour would come into the world.

Above all else the Bible is God's revelation of Himself. In Genesis we read of the God who brought time, space and all created things into being by His own wisdom and power.

The teaching that because sin results in death, God can only be approached through the death of a substitute, begins in Genesis. Children are able to understand that sin's consequences had been explained to Adam before his disobedience. We can explain the sacrificial death of an animal in terms of both the seriousness of sin and the grace of God in providing a way for sin to be covered until the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to die in the sinner's place.

Genesis not only lays the foundation of all the great truths of the Bible, it also explains why the world is as it is today.





## Day 1: IN THE BEGINNING

Every year our birthday reminds us that there was a day when we were born and our lives began. God is very different: He is eternal. This means that God has no beginning and no end. He is the One who is always there and who never changes. The earth and the sky and all that we see around us had a beginning. We read about this in the first chapter of the Bible.

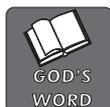
There were no men or women there to see God making the earth and the sky. But God Himself helped the writer of the Book of Genesis to tell us about this.

The first verse in the Bible says that God created the heavens and the earth. We would call the heavens 'space' and of course the earth is the world in which we live. God also made the light and called it 'day'. He called the darkness 'night'. This was the first day.

When we make something we use things that are already there. When God created the heavens and the earth He did not have things to use: they were created by His own power. On the second day, God made the sky and He made the air we breathe.



*We call the space around the earth - atmosphere. It protects the earth, so that it does not become too hot. Some Bibles use the word 'firmament' in verses 6-8. This is an old word which means 'expanse' or 'space'.*



### Genesis chapter 1 verses 1-8.



The Bible is a very special Book.

The Bible was written by men who lived at different times and in different places. God made sure that the words that these men wrote are true.



**What were the first words spoken by God that are in the verses you read today?**





## Day 2: PLANTS AND STARS

When God first made the earth, it was covered with water. On the third day, God caused the water to form seas, so that dry land appeared. Look at the soil in a garden or field. It does not look interesting, and yet God made the soil so that plants would have all they needed to grow. It was on the third day that God made plants. He made trees and grass and other plants. Each plant had its own seeds so that more plants would grow. Seeds always grow into a plant like the one they have come from.



*If you want to grow grass, you plant grass seed. Sunflowers grow from sunflower seeds and acorns can take root in the soil so that more oak trees appear. This is the way that God made the plants, so that as some plants die down, more are always growing.*



In daytime we have light and warmth from the sun.

Have you been out when it is dark and seen the stars and the moon? There are many, many stars, more than we can count. The Bible tells us that God made them and set them in space. God placed the sun and moon in just the right place so there would be more light in the day, and less at night. He made the sun, moon and stars on the fourth day.



### Genesis chapter 1 verses 9-19.

When God spoke, things happened in a way that we cannot understand. God is much greater than us. He is very wise. God made our wonderful world. He is so powerful: He was able to create all He had planned.



**On what day did the dry land appear?  
What else did God make on that day?**





## Day 3: FISH AND BIRDS

Have you ever visited an aquarium and seen all the different kinds of fish and sea creatures? The Bible tells us that God made these on the fifth day.



*Most fish live and breathe under water. They lay eggs there and the babies grow to look like the parent fish. Whales are different. They come to the surface to breathe and their babies are born underwater. God made tiny fish, brightly coloured fish; dolphins and sharks. He made soft-bodied creatures with shells and the tiny plankton that whales eat.*

When you see a ship on the water you can be sure that someone designed it. Someone planned the way it should be made. Fish swim so easily and can live in the water. That is what God designed them to do.

As well as sea creatures, God also created birds on the fifth day. God made the little birds that we see in the garden. He also made larger birds like herons, flamingos and eagles. How is it that birds fly around without any trouble at all? It is because God designed them to fly. Birds have bones that are very light, and strong muscles to move their wings. They also have feathers which are made in such a way that they do not get ruffled when the wind blows.



### **Genesis chapter 1 verses 20-23.**



Baby birds hatch from eggs that the mother bird lays. They become like the parent bird. God made birds like this. What a wonderful God He is.



**How many times do we read that God saw that what He had made was good? (Genesis chapter 1 verses 4-23).**

