

GENESIS 1-11

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Creation to Babel: History begins, sin starts
and a Savior is promised

INTRODUCTION

- God made a perfect universe from nothing. But people spoiled it because they thought they knew better than God, and disobeyed him. However, God didn't stop loving people. Moses wrote the book of Genesis (which means, 'beginning'), shortly before the *Israelites* entered the *promised land* after escaping from Egypt.
- Genesis was probably written some time between 1446 and 1406 BC.

OVERVIEW

1. "In the beginning, God made everything: day and night; sea and sky; land, plants and trees; sun, moon and stars; fish, birds and animals. Finally he made Adam and Eve to live in a wonderful place called the Garden of Eden. God saw that everything he had made was very good, and then he rested."
2. "God said to Adam and Eve that they could eat from any tree except one, but *Satan*, in the form of a snake, said if they ate that one fruit they would be like God."
3. "That sounded good, and the fruit looked tasty, so Eve ate it and then Adam."
4. "Because Adam and Eve did not obey God he had to send them away from the Garden. They could not now live forever. Disobeying God meant they would have pain and one day die. *Satan* would hurt people, but God promised that one day a man would be born who would beat *Satan*."
5. "Many years later when there were lots of people, God saw that everyone wanted to do bad things all the time. This made God sad because he hates *sin*. He decided to start again with one man, Noah, and his family, who still loved God and were trying to obey him."

6. “He told Noah to build a huge boat called an ark for himself and his family, and for two of every kind of animal and seven of certain special animals. When God flooded the earth all of the other animals and people died. Afterwards, God used a rainbow as a symbol to promise he would never do that again.”
7. “Much later, lots of people got together and tried to build a city that would make them look great. They thought they had a better plan than God and didn’t want to spread over the earth as he told them to. So, God made everyone speak different languages. Then they had to go to different places.”

LEARNING FROM GENESIS 1–11

1. God made everything perfect. It is only because of *sin* that there is anything bad in the world (See overview paragraphs 1–2).
Bible references: Genesis 3:15-19; Haggai 1:9-10; Romans 5:12.
Questions: What are some of the lovely things that God has made? What are some of the bad things that are in the world because of *sin*?
2. God hates *sin* and will not put up with it forever (See overview paragraphs 4–6).
Bible references: Genesis 6:5-7; Proverbs 6:16-19; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.
Questions: What bad things do you want to do? How do you feel about them? Do you sometimes try to do things your way instead of God’s way?
3. God defeated the *Devil* – as he promised – through Jesus dying on the *cross* and coming to life again. He still hurts people, but because of what Jesus has done we can have our sins forgiven and not be punished (See overview paragraph 4).
Bible references: Genesis 3:15; 1 John 3:8.
Question: Have you asked God to forgive your *sin*?

Salvation Thread

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel” (Genesis 3:15).

This is the first time in the Bible that God talks about Jesus coming. *Satan* hates all people and wants to mess up God’s work, including Jesus’ mission to save us. He thought he had won when evil men killed Jesus, but Jesus had the victory because

he rose from the dead. Genesis gives us the bad news about *sin* and death, but it also gives us the good news of God making a way for people to be saved.

“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous” (Romans 5:19).

The *apostle* Paul compares Adam (the disobedient man) with Jesus (the perfectly obedient man). Adam’s *sin* means that all have sinned. Jesus’ obedience, which includes his death, means that many people are saved.

Key Verse: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” (Genesis 1:1, 31a).





*God told Abraham
to sacrifice Isaac and
Abraham trusted God
enough to obey.*

