



Introduction to
GENESIS

STORIES IN GENESIS

God Creates the Heavens and the Earth	Genesis 1–2
Adam and Eve and the Fall into Sin.....	Genesis 2–3
God Promises a Savior	Genesis 3
God Saves Noah from the Flood.....	Genesis 6–9
Tower of Babel.....	Genesis 11
Abraham and Sarah.....	Genesis 12–25
Jacob and Esau.....	Genesis 25–36
Joseph and His Brothers.....	Genesis 37–50

AUTHOR As with every book of the Bible, God is really the author. But God the Holy Spirit used human writers to record his words. Moses was the man inspired by God to write Genesis.

DATE Thousands of years before time was carefully recorded, creation and the flood occurred. Events before the time of Abraham (2166 B.C.) cannot be dated.

PLACES Genesis 1–11 happens in Ur, modern-day Iraq. Much of the next part of Genesis (12–36) takes place in the land called Canaan, also known as the Promised Land. It is known today as Israel and Palestine. Other locations mentioned in the rest of Genesis include Egypt and Mount Moriah, which might be located in the modern city of Jerusalem.

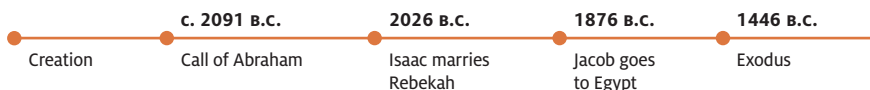
PEOPLE There are many important people mentioned in Genesis. We meet Adam and

Eve, Noah and his family, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, and Joseph and his brothers, including Judah.

GOD'S LOVE God created people to be his friends and the universe to be a wonderful home for us. Even before he made people, he knew that we would fall into sin and that it would cost his Son's life to save us. But he made us anyway and gave the promise of the Savior to the very first people.

GOD'S SPECIAL MESSAGES Genesis tells how everything began. God created everything; he continues to rule over all he has made. Because our first parents brought sin into the world, every human since then desperately needs God's forgiveness.

God created the universe and people. The people sinned, and God punished them with a great flood. God spoke to Abraham and gave him and his family special promises.





GENESIS

The Creation of the World

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

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

⁶And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and

the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that

DAYS OF CREATION

<i>On Day</i>	<i>God Made</i>	<i>It Says So In</i>	<i>And God</i>
One	Light; Day and Night	Genesis 1:3–5	Saw that the light was good.
Two	Heaven	Genesis 1:6–8	Called the expanse Heaven.
Three	Earth and Seas; Plants	Genesis 1:9–10; Genesis 1:11–13	Saw that it was good. Saw that it was good.
Four	Sun, Moon, and Stars	Genesis 1:14–19	Saw that it was good.
Five	Sea Creatures and Birds	Genesis 1:20–23	Saw that it was good.
Six	Earth Creatures; Man and Woman	Genesis 1:24–25; Genesis 1:26–31	Saw that it was good. Saw that all he made was very good.
Seven	God Rested	Genesis 2:1–3	Blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man¹ in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And 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 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens 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. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

The Creation of Man and Woman

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD² God made the earth and the heavens.

¹ The Hebrew word used here for *man* includes both men and women (see 1:27) and refers to the entire human race (see Preface) ² The word *LORD*, when spelled with small capital letters, translates the Hebrew word for God's personal name, *Yahweh* (see Preface)

FOLLOWING JESUS Genesis 1:1–31

That's One Big Science Fair Project!

Do you enjoy doing science fair projects? They are a lot of work. They require lots of time and creativity if they are going to result in an award-winning display board. Here was one big science fair project: in the beginning, God made everything—including all those things you study and measure in your projects! In six days, God created weather and electricity and chemicals and gravity and colors. And every animal. And your first parents, Adam and Eve. And he did it just by saying so.

Some people think the Bible's story of creation doesn't make scientific sense. But actually, science would be impossible without God's work of creation. As you look at a mountain, or at a blue sky, or at a racehorse in full stride, or at your own face in the mirror, admire God's spectacular display board!