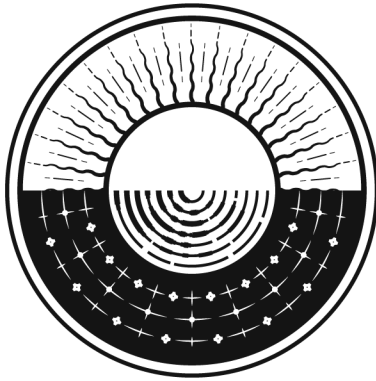


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## Part I

# THE STORY BEGINS

### S U M M A R Y

God creates a good world and fills it with communal life. He makes humanity in his image to know him and reflect his character and rule. But Adam and Eve shatter the peace of Eden through their sinful rejection of God. The Lord rightly responds with just judgment: man is sent out of God's presence in Eden, living exiled from his true home with God and then eventually returning to dust in death. Yet God uses this now fallen world to display his infinite mercy through the story of redemption that follows. He promises to send a descendant of Eve, a Savior, to conquer the Evil One and restore the lost blessings of Eden to mankind.

God judges the world with a flood, yet he graciously preserves Noah and his family so that God might continue to unfold his promises to renew the world. The Lord then chooses to bless one man—Abraham—as the means of blessing for all peoples. In generation after generation God overcomes obstacles to ensure that his promise safely passes from Abraham to Isaac and to Jacob and to

Jacob's twelve sons. Even though these sons betray their brother Joseph by selling him into slavery, the Lord blesses Joseph and uses him to preserve his family when they move to Egypt in the midst of a famine.

## 1. GOD'S CREATION AND HUMANITY'S FALL

*Genesis 1-4*

What does God originally create the world to be like, and how does this shape our expectation for what he plans the world's eternal future to be like?

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What effects of Adam's first sin do we all continue to experience today?

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What key promise does God make to humanity after the fall? How do Jesus' cross and resurrection decisively fulfill this promise?

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## 2. THE FLOOD AND GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

Genesis 6-9

What does the judgment of the flood teach us about humanity's character and God's?

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After the flood, what does God promise to Noah and to creation? Why is this important for the story of redemption?

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### 3. BABEL AND THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

*Genesis 10–12*

What does the story of Babel teach us about mankind's values and priorities?

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What three major promises does God make to Abraham?

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#### 4. ABRAHAM AND THE PROMISE OF ISAAC

*Genesis 15–18*

What does Abraham's life teach us about the nature of true faith?

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How does God intentionally cultivate Abraham's faith in these chapters?

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How are we, like Abraham and Sarah, tempted to doubt God and his promises today?

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5. THE PROMISE TO ISAAC AND THE BLESSING OF JACOB

*Genesis 25–28*

What obstacles do God's promises to Abraham face in these chapters?

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How does God overcome these obstacles? What does this reveal about his character?

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## 6. ISRAEL COMES TO EGYPT

*Genesis 45–48*

How do we see the Lord working in the life of Joseph? How can this encourage us in our own suffering?

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How does the story of Joseph's provision for his family relate to the unfolding of God's three promises to Abraham?

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## CLOSING QUESTIONS

What major themes have you discovered in the book of Genesis?

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How has your view of God been clarified through reflecting on these passages and their development of the big story line of the Bible and history?

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How should your life be impacted as a result of these reflections?

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