

Why Study Genesis (Part 1)

Genesis 1:1

May 22, 2016

Series Introduction

We are starting a new study called *Back to the Beginning, Looking to the Future*, a study of **Genesis 1-12**. Genesis, even though is a book about beginnings, is actually a forward-looking book. It looks to the future. In Genesis, we learn that God creates the universe, and we learn in the New Testament, that God will uncreate all the old universe and create a new universe. Peter talks about the day of uncreation:

2 Peter 3:10-12 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.*

Then John says that he sees a new heaven and earth

Revelation 21:1 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.*

We will talk about how Genesis looks to the future in upcoming sermons.

Introduction

Why do we need to study Genesis? Genesis is the foundation of the Bible. Without Genesis, the whole Scripture falls down. It has been said that if one accepts Genesis as factual, then this person will be able to accept the rest of Scripture. If he rejects Genesis, then it is impossible for this person to understand Scripture. Furthermore, if one cannot accept Genesis as historical, how can anyone accept the rest of Scripture as historical and truthful? I believe that if anyone rejects Genesis as truth, then the person will have no hope and is unable to come to the truth.

Genesis is the book about beginnings. We study Genesis to learn about God and who He is. We also need to learn about where we come from and how we have come to be this way today. When we study Genesis, we realize that it has been relentlessly under attack by the world and Satan. Most of the issues today are direct attacks to Genesis, and it goes back to the lie that Satan told Eve: "Did God really say this? (**Genesis 3:1**) It is important that, as believers in Christ, we stand for the truthfulness of Genesis because the gospel starts there. We are in effect standing on the gospel of God.

I. Genesis: Fact or Fiction?

- Genesis as fiction
 - Treating it as myth
 - Many cultures have creation stories
 - Usually full of gods fighting amongst themselves
 - Human beings created accidentally
 - Genesis viewed as myth because it contradicts science
 - Treating it as poetry
 - **Genesis 1-3** especially

- Denial of creation account because of science
 - Usually by liberal scholars (who do not accept Bible as factual)
- Genesis as fact
 - Not a mythology
 - Very much historical style of writing
 - Religious history
 - Very brief and to the point
 - Jews treated the creation story as historical

Psalms 136:4-12 *to Him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. 5 who by His understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever. 6 who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever. 7 who made the great lights— His love endures forever. 8 the sun to govern the day, His love endures forever. 9 the moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever. 10 to Him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt His love endures forever. 11 and brought Israel out from among them His love endures forever. 12 with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; His love endures forever.*

- The Jews did not view **Genesis 1-3** as poetry
- Jesus treated Genesis as historical

Matthew 19:3-6 *Some Pharisees came to Him to test Him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" 4 "Haven't you read," He replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."*

- Paul viewed Genesis as historical

Romans 5:12-14a *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— 13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. 14a Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses,*

1 Timothy 2:12-14 *I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.*

- God's word

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

2 Peter 1:19-21 *And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

- Everything in Scripture is written by God

- God used these men to write Scripture
- Bottom line
 - You either accept it or you reject it
 - Did God really say this?

Note: Sadly, many churches have fallen away from the literal view of Genesis, and as a result, many professed Christians have views that are compatible with the world. Paul tells us that this will happen before His Coming.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.*

II. Genesis and Issues of Today

- Evolution
 - Rejection of God
 - Attempt to remove God completely out of the picture
 - Based on chance—God had nothing to do with Creation
 - Or God started the process and left it alone
 - Survival of the fittest
- Destruction of family
 - Single family homes
 - Divorce
 - Same sex marriages
- Abortion
 - Destruction of the image of God
 - Lies from evolutionist—the best baby to be born
 - The weak ones and the no good ones to be aborted
 - Lack of Down’s Syndrome babies
 - From genetic testing and abortion
 - Soon the deaf babies will be aborted?
 - Why—in womb, fetus is not a human being, but tissue
- Homosexuality
 - Rejection of sexual roles—man for a woman; woman for a man
- Transgender
 - Rejection of one’s gender
 - Rejection that God created them male or female
- Environmentalism
 - Elevation of environment over man
 - Elevation of created beings over the Creator
- False religion
 - Rejection of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- Racism
 - Conflicts between people of different skin color
 - Conflicts between people of different culture
 - Stems from **Genesis 10**—Tower of Babel

- Jewish conflict with world
 - People are trying to destroy the Jews (Holocaust; Islamic jihad against the Jews)
 - Rejection of Jews as God's chosen people
- All these issues are the result of God's judgment

Romans 1:18-31 *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*

24 *Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. 26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

28 *Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.*