



THE BIGGEST STORY

SCRIPTURE JOURNAL
FOR KIDS

GENESIS



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The Biggest Story Scripture Journal for Kids: Genesis (ESV)

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)

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ABOUT THE ESV

The Bible

The words of the Bible are the very words of God our Creator speaking to us. They are completely truthful;¹ they are pure;² they are powerful;³ and they are wise and righteous.⁴ We should read these words with reverence and awe,⁵ and with joy and delight.⁶ Through these words God gives us eternal life,⁷ and daily nourishes our spiritual lives.⁸

The ESV Translation

The English Standard Version® (ESV®) stands in the classic stream of English Bible translations that goes back nearly five centuries. In this stream, accurate faithfulness to the original text is combined with simplicity, beauty, and dignity of expression. Our goal has been to carry forward this legacy for this generation and generations to come.

The ESV is an “essentially literal” translation that seeks as far as possible to reproduce the meaning and structure of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. We have sought to be “as literal as possible” while maintaining clear expression and literary excellence. Therefore the ESV is well suited for both personal reading and church ministry, for devotional reflection and serious study, and for Scripture memorization.

¹ Ps. 119:160; Prov. 30:5; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18 ² Ps. 12:6 ³ Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23 ⁴ Ps. 19:7–11

⁵ Deut. 28:58; Ps. 119:74; Isa. 66:2 ⁶ Pss. 19:7–11; 119:14, 97, 103; Jer. 15:16 ⁷ John 6:68; 1 Pet. 1:23

⁸ Deut. 32:46; Matt. 4:4

The ESV Publishing Team

The ESV publishing team has included more than a hundred people. The fourteen-member Translation Oversight Committee benefited from the work of fifty biblical experts serving as Translation Review Scholars and from the comments of the more than fifty members of the Advisory Council. This international team from many denominations shares a common commitment to the truth of God's word and to historic Christian orthodoxy.

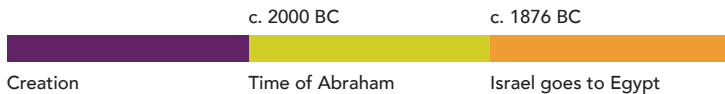
To God's Honor and Praise

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to his people—we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

Soli Deo Gloria!—To God alone be the glory!
The Translation Oversight Committee

INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS

Timeline



Who Wrote It?

Moses wrote Genesis.

What's It About?

God created everything, and when he did he called it all “very good” (Gen. 1:31). Sadly, though, the story that began “very good” turns very bad very fast! Adam and Eve sinned against God, and death came into the world. But God was not done with his world or his people. He promised that the Snake Crusher would come from Adam and Eve. He also promised Abraham that, through the Snake Crusher, he would bless all nations of the earth.

Genesis is a book of beginnings. It's also a book full of stories that you'll hear repeated throughout the whole Bible. As you read, look out for stories about the great flood, the Tower of Babel, God's asking Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, and Joseph's getting sold into slavery by his brothers.

Character Profiles



Adam and Eve

The first man and woman, made in the image of God as the high point of creation. They had peace with God in Eden but then disobeyed, bringing forth sin and death for all.



Noah

A righteous man who obeyed God even when it was hard. God saved Noah and his family through the ark and then promised never to send such a flood again.



Abraham and Sarah

A faithful couple who received God's blessing and became the parents of many nations. Abraham's story teaches us that righteousness (being right with God) comes through faith.



Jacob

A trickster who wrestled with God yet advanced God's promises. Jacob was renamed Israel, and he was the father of twelve sons, whose offspring became the twelve tribes of Israel.



Joseph

The beloved son of Jacob, who made his brothers so angry that they sold him into slavery. God lifted Joseph out of slavery and prison to rule as Pharaoh's right-hand man.

You Are Here

c. 2000 BC

The book of Genesis takes place in the ancient Near East, starting at the very beginning of time and covering events up until Jacob and his sons move to Egypt. The stories you'll read in this book have to do with some of the oldest nations in the world!



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.

Created: God made everything. There is nothing in the universe—no animal, no person, no planet, no galaxy—that God did not create (John 1:3). Before God created, there was nothing except God.

Read Genesis 1:1–3. The Bible starts at the very beginning. God makes the world, the sun, the moon, all the animals, and people too. God was not created, but he created everything. And he made all things out of nothing and by his mighty word. He speaks and things just appear! This word is so powerful; we learn in John 1:1–3 that this word is the Word—Jesus. And then in Genesis we also meet his Spirit. He is hovering over the world, like a mother bird sitting on eggs ready to hatch. The one true God, who is three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), created this wonderful world!



List one way in which each person of the Trinity can be seen in God's work of creation. Finish with a short prayer. Thank God for what he has made!

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And So It Begins



¹¹ And 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.

¹² The 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. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

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

Image: Idol worshipers made images to represent their false gods. But the one true God created an image to represent himself: humans. Only people—not animals—are created in the image of God. This gives humans special value (9:6).

Read Genesis 1:26–28. In Genesis 1 we see that God is the great and powerful King! He speaks and things appear; they obey his commands (1:3–25). But this mighty King will rule the world he has made in a special way. He creates men and women “in his own image” (1:27). In ancient times, kings made statues of themselves and put them throughout their kingdom. The statues meant: “The king rules here!” In Genesis God puts his images (men and women) on earth. He commands them to rule over the world he has made. Humans represent God’s kingly rule; we take care of his world.



Draw yourself as God's image in the world. Then answer this question: What can you do, in the place you live, to show that God is King?

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 LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up — for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground — ⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good;

bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God **commanded** the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

Commanded: God is King over everything. When he commands, creation obeys: Light and planets and animals and oceans are created (1:3–25). God also gives commands to people (1:28–30; 2:15–17).

Read Genesis 2:16–17. God is not only powerful—he is good. In these verses, God shows his goodness and love in two ways. First, he commands Adam and Eve to enjoy his gifts: They may eat from every tree in the garden—almost! Second, he commands them not to eat from one tree. When they obey, they show that God matters more than any gift. God’s gifts are good, but God is even better.



²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines.

A Very Bad Day



you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

" Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

" I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
 in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
 and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

" Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
 and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
 ' You shall not eat of it,'

Read Genesis 3:14–15. In Genesis 3 Satan is in the garden as a snake. He tricks Eve, and she and Adam disobey God. Because of sin, life becomes hard for Adam (3:17–19) and Eve (3:16). God curses the serpent too (3:14). Then God promises what will happen next: There will be hatred (“enmity”) and fighting between the serpent’s children and Eve’s children (3:15). And starting with Cain and Abel (Gen. 4), you see this kind of conflict—between people who listen to God and people who listen to the serpent. One day, Satan would attack Jesus. On the cross, Jesus is wounded and he dies (“bruise his heel”). But through his death, Jesus defeats Satan (“bruise his head”).



Draw two teams, "God's Children" and "Satan's Children," with a banner over each one. Think about Genesis 3. What kind of motto or battle cry would each team have on their banner?