

# TRANSFORMATION

2020 → Year of Transformation

## Genesis

### Introduction:

#### Timeline



The word Genesis can mean “birth,” “genealogy,” or “history of origin.” In both its Hebrew and Greek forms, the traditional title of Genesis appropriately describes its contents, since it is primarily a book of beginnings. The book of Genesis is foundational to the understanding of the rest of the Bible. Without it, redemption’s story would have no historical basis. Its message is rich and complex, and listing it’s main elements gives a great outline of the Biblical message as a whole.

#### Author, Date, and Recipients

Traditionally, Moses is considered to have been the author of Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch. Of course, Moses lived much later than the events of Genesis. Presumably, stories were passed down about those earlier events, and Moses brought them all together between 1600-1440 BC.

The first audience would have been the Israelites Moses led through the wilderness. For readers today, Genesis is an essential introduction to the rest of the Bible. It is rightly called the book of beginnings.

## **Theme**

The theme of Genesis is creation, sin, and re-creation. God made the world very good, but first cursed it and then destroyed it in the flood because of man's disobedience. The new world after the flood was also spoiled by human sin. God chose Abraham for a special purpose. Through his family, all nations would be blessed, and God's purpose will eventually be fulfilled through Abraham's descendants.

## **A Simple Outline of Genesis**

1. The Creation (Chapters 1,2)
2. The Fall (Chapter 3)
3. The First Sixteen Hundred Years (Chapter 4 and 5)
4. Noah - The Flood, His Family, and Failure (Chapters 6 through 9)
5. Babel and the Dispersion of the Nations (Chapters 10 and 11)
6. Abraham (Chapters 12 through 23)
7. Isaac (Chapters 24 through 26)
8. Jacob and Esau (Chapters 27 through 36)
9. The Twelve Sons of Jacob - Joseph in Particular (Ch 37 through 50)

## **Christ in Genesis**

Christ is the Seed of the woman (3:15), the Seed of Abraham (12:3) and the Shiloh descended from Judah (49:10). Christ is also the Life-giver in contrast to Adam who brought death (Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21-22). Christ is the ultimate object to whom the sacrifices point (Gen. 3:21; John 1:29). In addition, the "sacrifice" of Isaac points to the death of Christ, who was the Lamb provided by God (Gen. 22). Christ is also prefigured in Melchizedek, to whom Abraham paid tithes (Gen. 14:18-20; Ps. 110:1; Heb. 7:1-17). Joseph's life is also at least an illustration of Christ. Both were the objects of their father's love; both were hated and rejected by those closest to them; both were sold for a price, condemned as innocent and raised from humiliation to blessing by the power of God. My hope for you as you study the book of Genesis is that you will see that God is creator of all things, He is the personal creator of everything that exists, he created everything for his glory, and his benevolent love extends to all of creation, especially to humans who he created in his image, which are the object of his redeeming love.

# Week 1: Did God Really Say That?

## Introduction:

A few months ago, I got a phone call from someone claiming to be from the social security administration. They said that my social security number had been compromised, and that my name was attached to a crime committed in Texas. Turns out, this was a scam, but everything they said sounded true up to a certain point. I

Today, it is extremely important for us to distinguish between the voice of God and the voice of distraction. For us to know what God actually said can be the difference between blessing or curse. Adam and Eve experienced this first-hand in the garden of Eden when they were deceived by the serpent. “The serpent was more-crafty than any other beasts of the field, tricked Adam and Eve by saying, “*Did God actually say*” (Gen 3:1)? The serpent twisted the words just a little to make Adam and Eve believe, and rebel against what God actually said. The Bible tells us that “*Satan (our adversary) prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*” (1 Peter 5:8).

This week we will look at the importance of knowing the word of God so that we are not deceived, mis-led, or mis-guided down a path that could lead to destruction. The devil himself knows scripture, and tries to tempt us, so that he can take us away from God’s best. This week as you study, my hope is that you will develop a love for the word of God.

**Read Scripture: Gen 3 & Luke 4:1-13**

## Discussion Questions

**Question 1: How did Satan twist the word of God in Genesis 3:1-5?**

- Did the serpent tell them the truth about death and their eyes being opened?
- Discuss a time when you were deceived by someone? Did what they say sound like truth?

**Question 2: What were the consequences of Adam and Eve being deceived**

## by the serpent (Gen 3:6-11 & 17-24)?

(Leader Insight) The word **Deception** is an act or statement which misleads, hides the truth, or promotes a belief, concept, or idea that is not true. It is often done for personal gain or advantage. The devil's number tool he uses to blind the hearts and eyes of people is deception. The devil wants to deceive mankind so that they do not want to listen to the truth he has given. The greatest thing the devil wants to do to us is cause us to doubt what God has spoken.

### Question 3: What did God promise was going to happen in Gen 3:15?

- How should this give us hope?

### Read Luke 4:1-12

**Question 4: In verses 3-5, the devil comes to Jesus when he is hungry and tired and attacks his identity, his deity, and offers him riches. Why do you think the devil tried to attack him this way?**

- Describe a time when you have been attacked by the devil. Was this a time when you were full of the Spirit as described in verse 1?
- Did you feel like you could resist the devil, or did you feel like there was no way out?

### Question 5: Why do God's people need to know his word?

- What tool did the devil use to try and deceive Jesus in the desert?
- How did Jesus respond to the devil? Do you think our enemy, the devil, knows the word of God? Why or why not?
- How does he use it against us?

**Questions 6: In verse 12, what does the phrase, "you shall not put the Lord your God to the test" mean?**

- In verse 13, the scripture says "that when the devil ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time". What does this mean?
- If we resist the devil once, does that mean he will leave us alone? Explain!

(Leader Insight) The devil does know the word of God, and can twist it in a way that makes it sound like God said something He didn't say. In both scripture passages we studied today, the devil

used the word of God against Adam & Eve, and tried to use the word of God against Jesus. He took the truth, twisted it just a little, so that it sounded like the word of God. It is important for the Christian to know and study the word to be able to resist the devil, and understand his schemes. There are many world religions that are a deception of the truth. Distorted truth is still a lie, and many have been deceived as a result of this tactic. The Christian should know and understand actual truth of God's word by reading it and studying it for themselves.

Did you know that many Christians each year are deceived because they do not know the word of God properly? Many believers are deceived each year and fall away from the faith because they believe something that is a distortion of the truth. Mormonism, Jehovah's witnesses, Islam, and many other religions are full of people that have been deceived into thinking their way is the truth. The devil doesn't care how many world religions there are, as long as he can deceive people away from the truth of God's word. Jesus knew what God said accurately, and used the truth of Scripture to defeat and resist the devil.

## **Next Steps**

- 1. Share one small "next step" that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.**
- 2. Create some time to just be alone with God and ask him to show his plan for you.**
- 3. Read the Bible 5-10 minutes every day for the next 30 days. (join us in reading through the bible this year by signing up for the Bible reading plan. (Text**

**Pray and Dismiss**