

Genesis 1 – 27 Bible Study Review

The book of Genesis is more than just a collection of stories to tell your kids. Genesis is the story of the history of the nation of Israel. It is the foundation for the coming of the Messiah who would save the people of God. In the pages of this book, we see the glaring problem of a sinful humanity that cannot come into the presence of a holy God without the shedding of a blood sacrifice. We see a covenant making and keeping God who not only provides for the people we meet in the book, but for all of humanity with the ultimate sacrifice of His Son. No story is irrelevant, no character unrepresentative of humanity itself.

The gospel flows through the pages of Genesis. If we are aware of the purpose of the Old Testament, and specifically the book of Genesis, it is impossible to miss the types of Christ, the foreshadows of our Savior, the preparation for His glorious arrival on earth. Genesis gives us evidence of our need for a Savior and points us to that Savior. This is why this book never gets old, and why we should never stop reading and re-reading it.

So, this week we are going to stop for a second and take in all that we have seen and read over the past months. We are also going to spend some time allowing the things we've learnt about God so far to sink into our minds as we meditate on who He is and how much He loves us.

Using the gospel as a framework, let's first remind ourselves of the story of creation. *What do you recall about creation?*

What was the relationship between God and man?

What is your impression of life in the garden?

As God created, He said that everything was good. He made man and woman in His image, to have constant relationship with Him. Even the animals were at peace in the garden. Then in an instant, things changed. *What was the result of the sin of Adam and Eve?*

Do you recall the Adamic Covenant? (see Genesis 3:16-24)

When sin entered the world, death came with it. No longer would humanity have access to the Tree of Life, only once Jesus fulfills His mission on earth do we regain access to our Tree of Life, the Messiah.

Though God sends us away from His presence He does not leave us alone. He uses flawed humans as His representatives here on earth.

What do you recall of the men and women we have seen so far in our reading of Genesis?

Do you remember the Noahic Covenant? (see Genesis 9)

How might this covenant with Noah affect you and your thought life?

Aaron Chalmers, when writing in the Tyndale bulletin, put it this way, The Noahic covenant “guarantees God’s commitment to creation, and in particular, the preservation of life on the earth. It thus provides the necessary foundation for the story of redemption—life on earth is guaranteed to continue in spite of human sin. . . . God’s promises point to his commitment to creation, irrespective of human sin. They guarantee that life will continue to flourish, that the natural order shall continue.”

Covenant: A covenant is permanent agreement between two parties, often used to express the promises or favors of God to His people. Usually requires some kind of obligation on the part of the parties.

Divine covenants between God and man are one of the most theological truths of the Bible. In fact, they are so important that the entirety of scripture is divided into Old Covenant (Testament) and New Covenant (Testament). *Knowing this, why do you think it would be important for us to understand all the covenants that God has made with humanity?*

Do you remember anything about the Abrahamic Covenant? (See Genesis 12:1-3)

Brian Dembowczyk wrote on the Gospel Project website something that makes this idea of covenant come to life for the believer. He says this:

“The Abrahamic Covenant was a major turning point in redemptive history. In this one divine covenant, God promised that He was forming a people (seed), which would be part of His kingdom (land), by salvation (blessing). And Jesus is at the core of this three-fold promise. That is why His first recorded words of ministry were “Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.” In other words, trust in Me (blessing), because I am your King (seed) who has arrived in His kingdom (land). Jesus was telling Israel that He was the fulfillment of all of the divine covenants—even the Mosaic and Noahic. The covenants were not about Abraham, Moses, David, or even Israel. They were about Jesus.”

Reading the book of Genesis becomes especially powerful when we get over seeing it as a number of unrelated stories about people long since dead. Instead, when we look at Genesis as the preparation for the gospel, we find a treasure of truth about who God is, who we are, and why we need a Savior.

This week spend some time meditating on the faithfulness of God. His covenants still stand. He is unchanging. Faithful. Good. Following are some passages that might be helpful as you set your mind on the things of God and remind yourself of His great holiness and love.

“In the same way God wanted to demonstrate more clearly to the heirs of the promise that his purpose was unchangeable, and so he intervened with an oath, so that we who have found refuge in him may find strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us through two unchangeable things, since it is impossible for God to lie. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, sure and steadfast, which reaches inside behind the curtain, where Jesus our forerunner entered on our behalf, since he became a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.” (Hebrews 6:17–20)

“But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.” (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

“No one is holy like the Lord! There is no one other than you! There is no rock like our God!” (1 Samuel 2:2)

“Lord, you have been active from ancient times; my sovereign God, you are immortal. Lord, you have made them your instrument of judgment. Protector, you have appointed them as your instrument of punishment. You are too just to tolerate evil; you are unable to condone wrongdoing. So why do you put up with such treacherous people? Why do you say nothing when the wicked devour those more righteous than they are?” (Habakkuk 1:12–13, NET)