

LESSON 4 - GENESIS, THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

When you have studied this lesson carefully, you should become well acquainted with the general contents of the Book of Genesis. You will also be required to do some memory work for this lesson. Answer the questions only after thoroughly mastering the lesson.

THE BOOK'S NAME The name "Genesis" comes from the Greek and means "beginning," "origin," or "source." The name was used in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament.

The Jews called the book "B'reshith." "B'reshith" is the first word of the Book of Genesis in the Hebrew language. It means "in the beginning." The Jews commonly named the books of the Old Testament after the first word or words of the books.

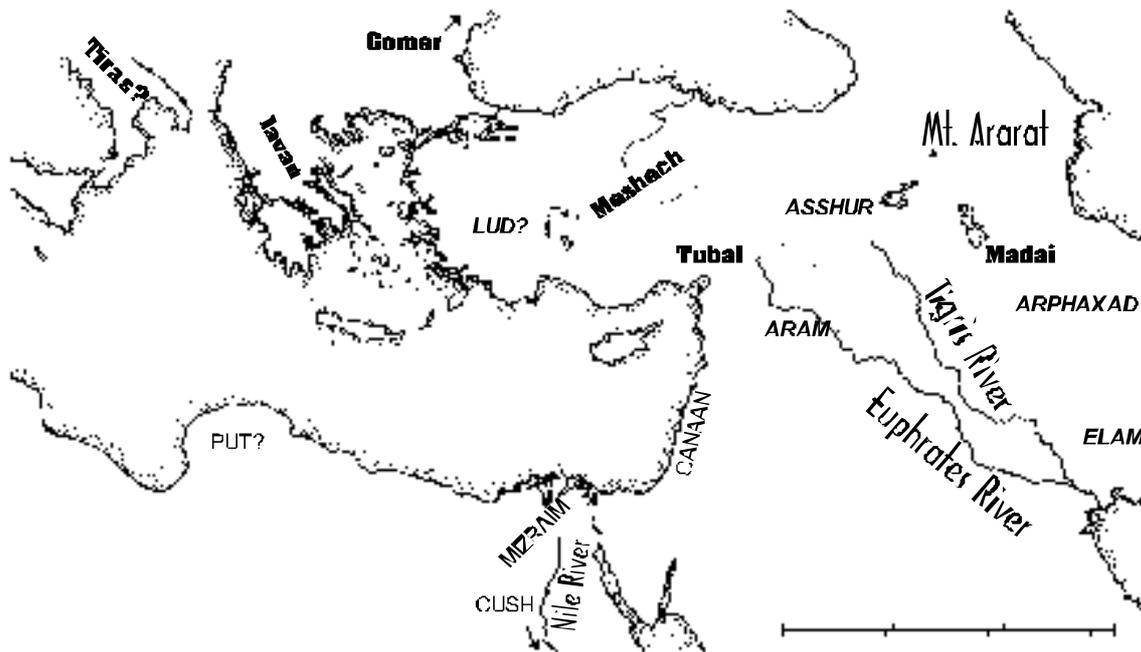
GOD'S BOOK OF BEGINNINGS Genesis is a good name for the book because it is not only the book with which the Bible begins; it also tells us of many beginnings. Genesis records nine beginnings in its 50 chapters:

1. The beginning of the earth and universe (1:1-2:3)
2. The beginning of the human race (2:4-25)
3. The beginning of sin (3:1-7)
4. The beginning of the Gospel promises (3:15)
5. The beginning of the human family (4:1-15)
6. The beginning of godless civilization and evangelism activity (4:16-9:29)
7. The beginning of nations (10:1-32)
8. The beginning of languages (11:1-9)
9. The beginning of the Hebrew or Jewish race, God's covenant people. (11:10-50:26)

TWO MAIN DIVISIONS We can think of the Book of Genesis as being divided into two main parts. The first division is chapters 1-11. The second division is chapters 12-50.

Chapters 1-11 give us a general history of man over some thousands of years. Chapters 12-50 give us the history of Abraham and his descendants, the people to whom God gave the great promise and with whom

Table of Nations



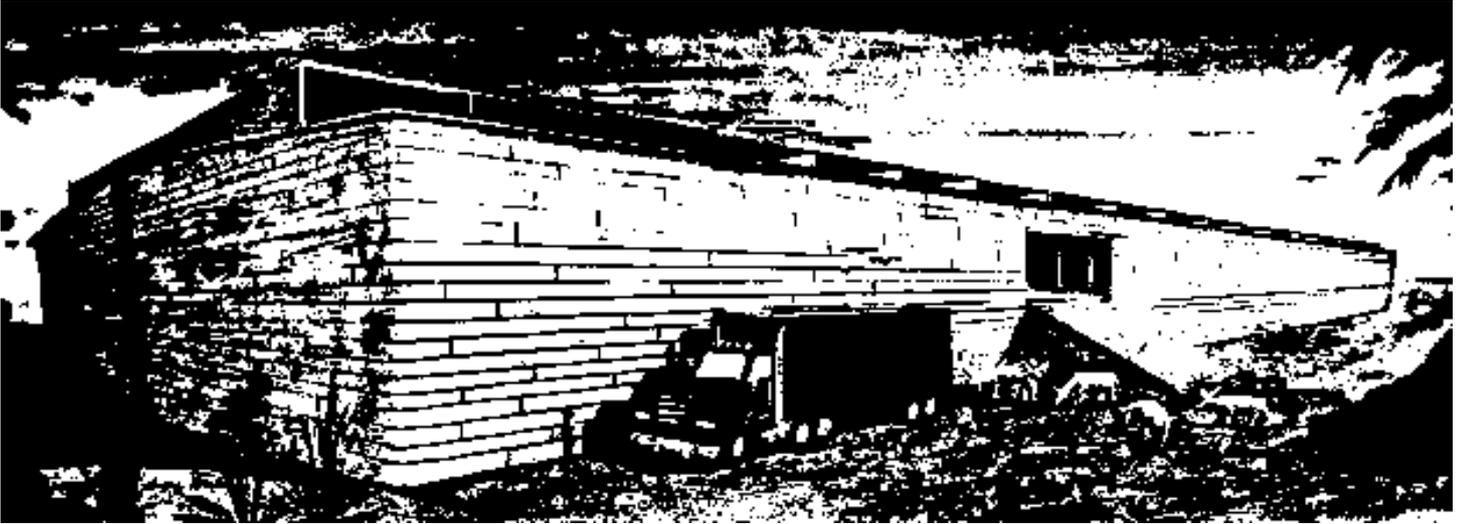
Descendants of Noah

HAM **SHEM** **Japheth**

He established His covenant.

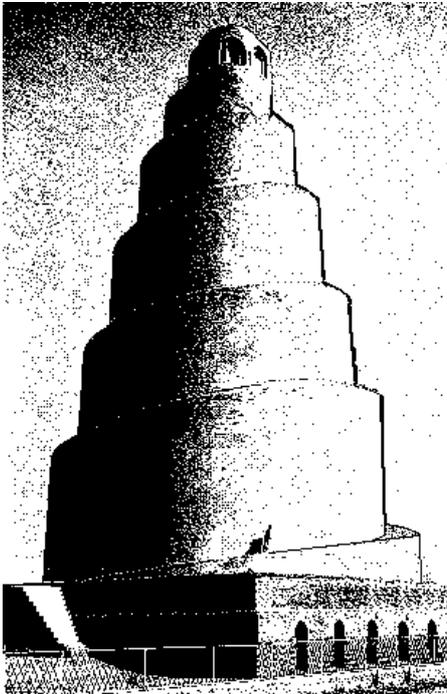
HIGHLIGHTING THE BIG EVENTS AND CHARACTERS OF GENESIS

1. CREATION: (Chaps. 1 and 2) It is clear from the account of creation that the origin of the world and of life was no accident. Creation is the work of the great Creator God. Everything that God made was perfect. The high point of all of God's creating work was the making of man. Man is different from all other creatures in that he alone has a soul and was made in God's own image, and he is in charge over all the rest of creation.

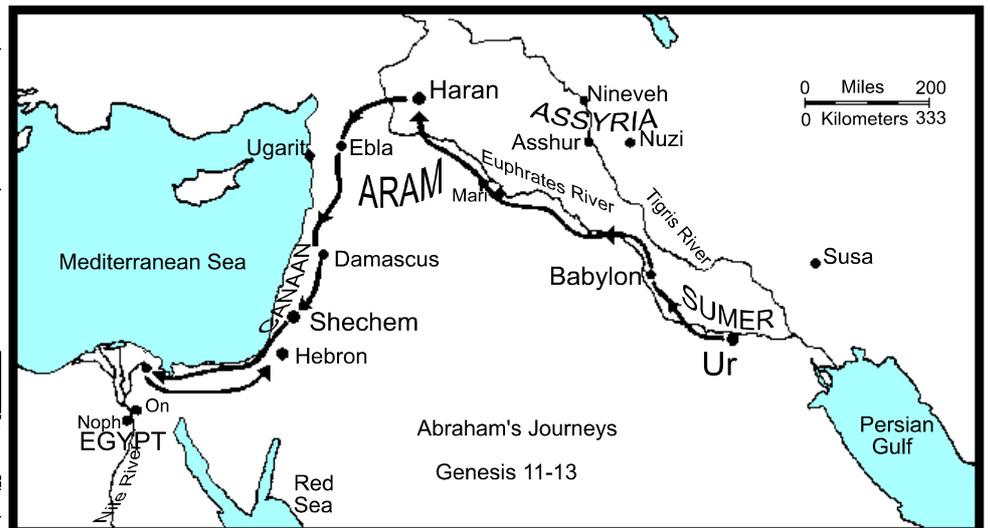


Was Noah's ark a small cute little boat as pictured for children? No, it was more like a floating warehouse! The modern truck (included for comparison) shows the size of the ark according to the dimensions written in Genesis. The ark was 140 meters long, 23 meters wide and 13.5 meters high. It had a lower, middle and upper deck.

4. BABEL: (Chap. 11) God confused the language of the wicked people who were building the Tower of Babel. This is the beginning of the world's many languages.



5. ABRAHAM: (Chaps. 12-25:10) God calls Abraham and promises him: **"All peoples on earth will be blessed through you"** (12:3). In these chapters are also included the accounts of Abraham and Lot,



Hagar and Ishmael, the Covenant of Circumcision, Sodom and Gomorrah, the birth of Isaac, and the testing of Abraham.

6. ISAAC: (Chap. 25:11-26)

7. JACOB: (Chaps. 27-36)

8. JOSEPH: (Chaps. 37-50)

MEMORIZE THE NUMBER OF THE CHAPTER OR CHAPTERS OF THESE EVENTS

Creation of the Universe	1
Creation of mankind (Adam and Eve)	2
The Fall Into Sin	3
The Protevangelium (First Gospel)	3:15
Cain and Abel	4
"The wages of sin is death"	5
Noah and the Flood	6-9
The Tower of Babel	11
The Call of Abraham	12
The Covenant of Circumcision	17
Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed	19
The Birth of Isaac	21
Abraham Tested	22
The Birth of Jacob	25
Jacob's Dream at Bethel	28
Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel	29
Jacob's Children	29-30
The Joseph Stories	37-50

MEMORIZE THESE IMPORTANT VERSES FROM GENESIS

Gen. 3:15 **"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."**

Gen. 15:6 **"Abraham believed the LORD, and He credited to him as righteousness. "**

Gen. 22:18 **"And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed"**
(God's promise to Abraham).

Gen. 49:10 **"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until He comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is His. "**
(See also Ezekiel 21:27)

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AFTER MASTERING THE LESSON:

1. The name "Genesis" means _____.
2. The Jews call Genesis _____, because that is the first word in Genesis in the language.
3. List the nine "beginnings" that are recorded in Genesis. The beginning of

_____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____,

4. How many chapters are there in Genesis? _____.
5. Divide the chapters of Genesis into two divisions and tell what each division is concerned with.

First Part, chapters _____.

Second Part, chapters _____.

Content of First Part _____.

Content of Second Part _____.

6. Protevangelium means _____.
7. From memory give the chapters where these events are recorded in Genesis:

The Call of Abraham _____

The Joseph Stories _____

Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed _____

Abraham Tested _____

The Tower of Babel _____

The Fall Into Sin _____

Circumcision _____

The Birth of Isaac _____

The Birth of Jacob _____

Creation _____

Noah and the Flood _____

Jacob Marries _____

Cain and Abel _____

Jacob's Dream _____

Jacob's Children are Named _____

8. From memory write:

Gen. 3:15

Gen. 15:6

Gen. 22:18

Gen. 49:10

Moses' outline of Genesis The books of the Bible originally had no chapter and verse divisions. The chapter divisions were first done by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury (d. 1228), who divided the Latin translation of the Bible (Vulgate) into chapters sometime around AD 1200. Verse divisions were added by Robert Stephanus, a printer in Paris, in AD 1551. These divisions are not inspired by God, but have been found generally useful as a means of referencing passages of the Bible and finding them more quickly. However, Moses used a special word "Toledoth" (subsequent history) to divide the book of Genesis into 10 sections. It is helpful to keep in mind the original plan of Moses as one reads Genesis.

The Toledoth of Genesis (Moses' outline of Genesis)

- 1□ Genesis 2:4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens--
- 2□ Genesis 5:1 This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.
- 3□ Genesis 6:9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.
- 4□ Genesis 10:1 This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.
- 5□ Genesis 11:10 This is the account of Shem. Two years after the flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of Arphaxad.
- 6□ Genesis 11:27 This is the account of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot.
- 7□ Genesis 25:12 This is the account of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Sarah's maidservant, Hagar the Egyptian, bore to Abraham.
- 8□ Genesis 25:19 This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac.
- 9□ Genesis 36:1 This is the account of Esau (that is, Edom).
- 10□ Genesis 37:2 This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was

tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

The Ancestors of the Promised Savior's

