

GENESIS

IN THE BEGINNING

What is It?

The story of beginnings – the universe, the chosen people, the chosen nation – and most importantly the Promise.

Who, What, When, Where and Why

Who Genesis was written by Moses. It was written to the tribes of Jews of his time and the nation of Israel going forward. It was also written for us.

What Genesis is history. The 50 chapters outline the history of early mankind, the history of Abraham and his family, and the history of particular people of Abraham's family.

When We don't know for sure, but Moses compiled and wrote Genesis while he and the rest of the Jews were spending 40 years in the desert of Sinai; probably around 1410 BC. The events covered start about 8,000 BC (creation), through 2100 BC (Abraham), to 1850 BC (Joseph in Egypt).

Where Genesis was probably written in the desert of Sinai (part of today's Egypt). The events take place mostly in the Fertile Crescent of the Middle East – today's Iraq, Syria, Israel and Egypt – though creation, the flood and the rest of early human history, takes place everywhere.

Why God wanted the Jews to know his love for them and how important they were in his plan. For both them and us, God shows us his power, grace, love, and plan for salvation.

Reading Advice

To get through Genesis in one week you will need to read about 8-9 chapters a day (50 chapters/6 days = 8.33 per day). That should be about 30 minutes a day, Monday through Saturday. If you include a Sunday reading, then you will need to read 7+ chapters a day.

God loves to tell stories, but stories with "meat" - always packed with important messages. It's also important to remember they are true stories, not fiction. But since they are stories, sit back and enjoy reading this story of beginnings. It tends to read like a novel anyway.

Just as in every book of the Bible, watch for Christ in Genesis – He's there in several places.