

The Essence of Genesis

I. God created the world

- The world was created by God, through His Word

Genesis 1:1 (ESV) ¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1–3 (ESV) ¹In 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.

John 1:1–4 (ESV) ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

- The world reflects the order established by God

Genesis 1:11–12 (ESV) ¹¹And 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. ¹²The 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.

Genesis 1:21 (ESV) ²¹So 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.

- The world demonstrates the goodness of God

Genesis 1:31 (ESV) ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, **it was very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

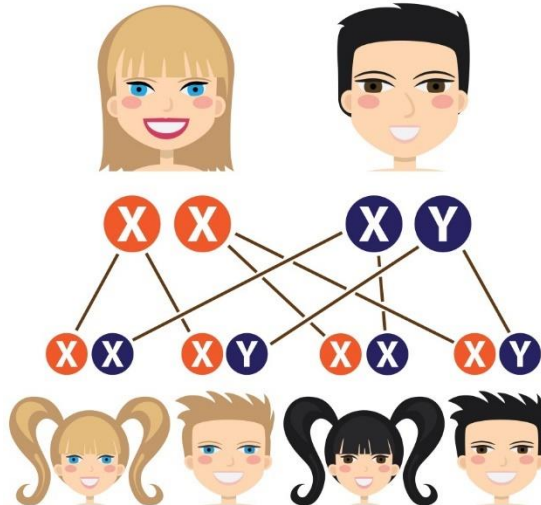
II. God established the nature of humans

- Image and likeness of God

Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV) ²⁶Then 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.” ²⁷So God created man **in his own image, in the image of God** he created him; male and female he created them.

- Man and woman

Genesis 1:27–28 (ESV) ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And 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.”



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- Working with God

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III. God shows the horror of sin

- Warning about sin

Genesis 2:16-17 (ESV) ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but 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.”

• The terrible consequence of sin

Genesis 4:8 (ESV) ⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:23–24 (ESV) ²³Lamech said to his wives: “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. ²⁴If Cain’s revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech’s is seventy-sevenfold.”

Genesis 6:11–13 (ESV) ¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

IV. God saves people

Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV) ¹Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

A. Salvation through the Covenant

Genesis 15:18 (ESV) ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Genesis 17:1–2 (ESV) ¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ²that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”

Genesis 17:3–4 (ESV) ³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

Genesis 22:17–18 (ESV) ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

B. Salvation by Faith

Genesis 15:4–6 (ESV) ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Hebrews 11:8–10 (ESV) ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:17–19 (ESV) ¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Hebrews 11:20–22 (ESV) ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

The Essence of the Book of Genesis

- God the Creator defining reality
- Human sin is the main problem of people
- Salvation by faith, through participation in God's Covenant, is the main goal of history.