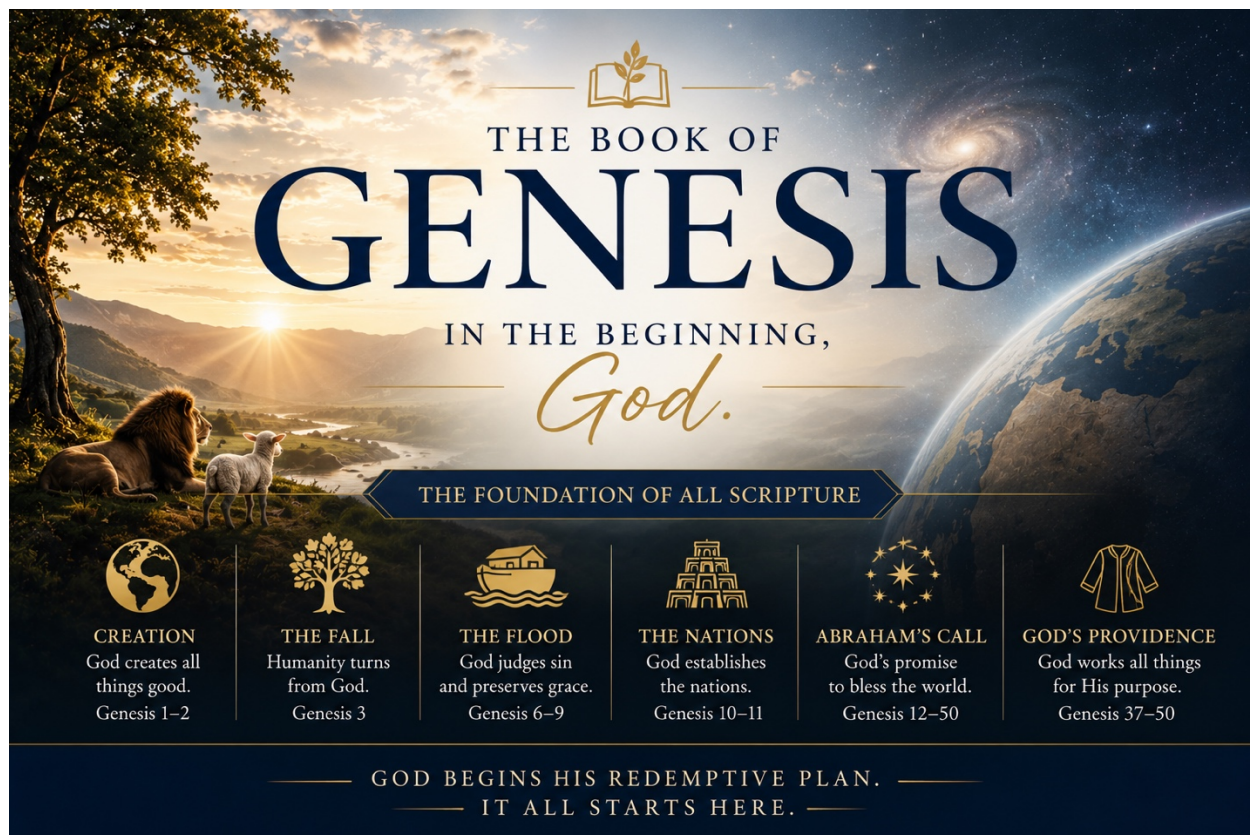




### Genesis 12:3

**“And I will bless those who bless you,  
And the one who curses you, I will curse.  
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”**

**Theme: God does everything to reveal the fullness of His character and ensure the praise of His glory forever.**

Every story has a beginning. Every nation has an origin. Every family has a first generation. Every river has a source. If we want to understand something correctly, we must begin where it began. The same is true of God’s revelation. The opening book of the Bible is appropriately called **Genesis**, a word meaning “**origin**,” “**beginning**,” or “**birth**.” It is the book of beginnings because it records the beginning of everything that matters. Here we find the beginning of the universe, the earth, light, life, marriage, work, worship, language, government, nations, sin, death, sacrifice, redemption, covenant, and the people of God. Nearly every major doctrine developed throughout the rest of Scripture has its roots in Genesis.

That is why Genesis is so foundational. If we misunderstand Genesis, we will misunderstand the rest of the Bible. The remaining sixty-five books simply unfold what Genesis introduces. Moses plants the seeds; the rest of Scripture shows them growing until they reach their full flower in Jesus Christ and ultimately in the new heavens and the new earth. Yet Genesis is about far more than the beginnings of things. It is about the One who stands **before** every beginning.

The Purpose of God

The Bible does not begin with an argument for God's existence. It simply declares, **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"** (Genesis 1:1, NASB 95). Before there was a universe, there was God. Before there was time, there was God. Before there was light, man, angels, nations, or history, there was the eternal, self-existent, all-glorious God. Every beginning recorded in Genesis ultimately points beyond itself to Him.

That is why Genesis is not merely the story of beginnings—it is the beginning of God's self-revelation. In this book He introduces Himself as the sovereign Creator, the righteous Judge, the faithful Covenant-Keeper, the gracious Redeemer, and the wise Governor of history. More importantly, He begins to reveal His eternal purpose: to display His own glory through everything He has made and everything He ordains.

Genesis begins with a world that is "very good," perfectly reflecting God's wisdom, beauty, power, and holiness. It quickly records mankind's rebellion, the entrance of sin and death, the Flood, and the scattering of the nations at Babel. Human history appears to spiral downward almost as soon as it begins.

Yet another beginning emerges. In Genesis 12, God sovereignly calls one man—Abram—and through him begins a covenant relationship that becomes the foundation of His redemptive plan for the world.

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And the one who curses you, I will curse.  
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—Genesis 12:3 (NASB 95)

I. **God's Glory in Primeval History** – **1:1-11:32** – *Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and Babel demonstrate mankind's ruin through sin.*

A. A Brief Overview:

1. Creation – 1:1-2:25
2. The Fall – 3:1-5:32
3. The Flood – 6:1-9:29
4. The Nations – 10:1-11:32

B. The Glory of God Displayed

1. **God's glory is revealed in Creation** – ***Genesis 1:31*** - **"very good"** means more than just functional excellence; it indicates that creation perfectly reflected God's wisdom, holiness, beauty, power, and goodness. Creation achieved exactly what its Creator intended – cp. ***Psalms 19:1***.
2. **God's glory is displayed in Providence** – God's glory in providence by showing that after creating the world, He never abandons it. He continually governs nature, preserves life, restrains

evil, fulfills His word, and directs history toward His redemptive purpose. The providential God of Genesis 1–11 is not a distant Creator but the sovereign Lord who actively sustains and governs all things for His own glory – **Genesis 8:22**.

3. **God's glory is displayed in Judgment** – **Genesis 6:13; 7:23** - God glorifies Himself by displaying His perfect holiness, righteous justice, sovereign authority, and saving grace through judgment. It encapsulates the central truth that God's judgments are never capricious—they vindicate His righteousness while preserving His covenant purposes.
4. **God's glory is displayed in Redemption** – **Genesis 3:15** – It marks the moment when God's purpose to glorify Himself through redemption is first revealed and sets the course for the entire biblical narrative, culminating in the victory of Christ over sin, death, and Satan.

## II. **God's Glory in Patriarchal History** – **12:1-50:26** - *God begins His Redemptive Plan through Abraham and his descendants*

### A. A Brief Overview

1. The Covenant Established (Abraham) – 12:1-25:18
  - a) *God initiates the covenant with Abraham and demonstrates that His promises rest upon divine grace and faithfulness.*
  - b) Key Verse: **Genesis 12:2-3**
2. The Covenant Confirmed (Isaac) – 25:19-28:9
  - a) *God reaffirms His covenant and clarifies the seed.*
  - b) Key Verse: **Genesis 26:3-5**.
3. The Covenant Expanded (Jacob) – 28:10-36:43
  - a) *God transforms Jacob into Israel and builds the covenant family.*
  - b) Key Verse: **Genesis 28:13-15**.
4. The Covenant Preserved (Joseph) – 37:1-50:26.
  - a) *God's providence preserves the covenant family through trial and difficulty.*
  - b) Key Verse: **Genesis 50:20**.

### B. The Glory of God Displayed

1. **It is Displayed in Creation** – **Revelation 4:11**
  - a) *He created everything out of nothing – (אֶלֶף) – a term not*

*used for what is made by humans who must use pre-existing materials – **Genesis 1:31**.*

- b) The birth of Isaac – by Sarah, a barren woman passed child-bearing years – **Hebrews 11:11**.*

- 2. **It is Displayed in Providence** – *Genesis teaches that God's providence is the invisible hand of His glory. Nothing in these events is accidental, left to chance, or unintentional. Every promise, delay, disappointment, betrayal, famine, journey, and reconciliation is governed by the sovereign Lord who is fulfilling His purpose – to bring Himself glory – cp. **Genesis 50:20**.*

- a) Calling Abram out of idolatry – (12:1-3)*
- b) Protecting Sarah from Pharaoh & Abimelech – (12, 20)*
- c) Providing a Substitute for Isaac on Mt. Moriah – (22)*
- d) Guiding Abraham's servant to Rebekah – (24)*
- e) Choosing Jacob before his birth – (25).*
- f) Overruling Joseph's brothers' evil intentions – (37)*
- g) Prospering Joseph in slavery & prison – (39)*
- h) Revealing future events through dreams – (41)*
- i) Directing a famine to preserve His covenant family – (41-47).*

- 3. **It is Displayed in Redemption** – *presented not mainly as man's rescue but as God's way of showing His own glorious character.*

- a) God promised to redeem – **Genesis 3:15**.*
- b) God provided a garment of skins from an animal that died to cover the sins of Adam and Eve – **Genesis 3:21**.*
- c) God taught that, by faith, to anticipate His provision of a Redeemer through the use of a sacrifice – **Genesis 4:3-7**.*
- d) God taught that the Redeemer would bless all nations – **Genesis 12:1-3**.*
- e) God taught substitutionary atonement by providing a lamb – **Genesis 22:8**.*
- f) God taught that redemption ultimately centers on the coming Messiah – **Genesis 49:10**.*

- 4. **It is Displayed in Judgment** – *throughout Genesis, God demonstrates that He is morally perfect, always judges sin justly, and that His judgments uphold His holiness while furthering His redemptive purpose. Judgment is never arbitrary or capricious; it reveals God's righteous character, vindicating His justice – **Genesis 18:25**.*

- a) God judges Adam & Eve – **Genesis 2:17**.*

- b) God judges Cain – **Genesis 4:7**.
- c) God judges the world through the Flood – **Genesis 6:5, 11**.
- d) God judges at Babel – *Genesis 11*
- e) God judges Sodom & Gomorrah – **Genesis 18:20**.
- f) God judges Lot's wife – **Genesis 19:26**.
- g) God judges Judah's sons – **Genesis 38:7, 10**.

5. **It Is Displayed in Sanctification** – God does not merely redeem sinners; He progressively sanctifies them. Through trials, discipline, testing, and providential circumstances, He conforms His chosen people to trust, obey, and reflect His character. Their growth magnifies His grace because the transformation is clearly His work rather than theirs.

- a) *He refines Adam & Eve through Discipline – expelling them from the Garden of Eden – not merely punitively, but for correction and redemption.*
- b) *God refines Noah through decades of faithful obedience – **Genesis 6:22**.*
- c) *God repeatedly refined Abraham through tests*
  - (1) Calling Abram from Ur.
  - (2) Calling Abram to wait for the promised seed.
  - (3) Calling Abraham to the covenant commitment of circumcision.
  - (4) Calling Abraham to demonstrate His obedience in the offering of Isaac – **Hebrews 11:17-19**.
  - (5) Calling Sarah to trust Him.
    - (a) *To wait for a child*
    - (b) *To protect her from Pharaoh and Abimelech – cp. **1 Peter 3:5-6**.*
  - (6) Calling Jacob to trust Him as He wrestles with him (32).
  - (7) Calling Joseph to trust Him through his suffering, betrayal, slavery, false accusations, imprisonment, and forgotten years.

6. **It is Displayed in Consummation** - *from the opening chapters onward, God reveals that history is moving toward the restoration of His rule, the defeat of evil, the blessing of the nations, and the dwelling of His people in His presence. Each of these themes ultimately culminates in the eternal display of God's glory. Genesis begins in a garden but points toward an eternal kingdom.*

- a) *The promised Seed anticipates Christ's final victory –*

**Genesis 3:15.**

- (1) Satan's ultimate defeat – **Revelation 20:10.**
- (2) Christ's rule
- (3) Removal of the curse
- (4) Final Peace.
- b) *The promised Rest looks to the restoration – **Genesis 23:4; Hebrews 11:10.***
- c) *The Garden of Eden anticipates the Eternal State of glory – **Revelation 21:3.***
- d) *The Tree of Life anticipates Eternal Life – **Genesis 3:22-24; Revelation 22:2.***
- e) *The Abrahamic Covenant anticipates worldwide worship – **Genesis 12:3; Revelation 7:9.***

Summary:

**Genesis reveals that God's supreme purpose is to glorify Himself by creating, governing, judging, redeeming, sanctifying, and ultimately restoring His creation through the promised Seed**

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