

GENESIS, PT 1—INTRODUCTION: WHY IS THE RELIABILITY OF GENESIS SO IMPT?

>>>This AM, we want to start a new series of msgs

*A vs-by-vs/chpt by chap study of **Bk of Gen**

>>>>Now—the Bk of Genesis has been the focus of incredible controversy ovr the last 300 yrs

*In fact, thre's probably not a single statement in entire Bk of Gen tht sombdy hasn't accused of being wrong ovr the last 300yrs

*Everything from (1) 6-day creation to (2)Gd's direct creation of A&E to(3) a literal GofEd to (4)Noah's Flood to (5)the destruction of S&G to (6)the historicity of the Patriarchs (A/I/J) to (7)Mo's authrshp of the bk itself

ILLUST: Thomas Paine (famous author of “Common Sense”during the Rev War)...WHO SAID:

*”These are the times that try men's souls”...&

*”If we do not hang together, we shall surely hang separately”

*Also said: “Genesis is nothing but an anonymous book of stories, fables, traditions, & invented absurdities.”

SAY: “But Lon, isn't it true...tht the entire B's been under attack for the last 300 years?”

A:“Indeed it has! **BUT** the “battle” ovr the Bk of Gn has been unusually intense”

>>>& this is no accident/coincidence—**OH NO!**

*The same serpent...who tried to undermine Gd's word in the Garden of Eden...is still trying to do the same thing today...

*But He's especially out to torpedo Bk of Gn

>>>>Which raises the impt Q: “**WHY?**”

***"WHY is Stn working so hard to discredit the Bk of Gen?"**

***AND WHY** are so many evng'l Chr's working so hard to defend the Book of Genesis?

>>>>**I mn**, as Chr's--why don't we just spend our time reading the NT & telling ple about Jesus?

>>>>**I mn**--"Does it really matt'r all tht much whthr everything the Bk of Gen says is totally true?"

>>>>This=what I want us to talk abt today--**3 Q's**:

#1-Does it rily mtrr if all of Gen is true/acurate

#2--How can we be sure that it is?

#3--And **IF** it is--then "**SO WHAT?**"

I-"DOES IT REALLY MATTER IF ALL OF BK OF GEN IS TRUE & ACCURATE?"

A. Answer: "**YES! YES! A 1000 TIMES YES!**"

B. Ps. 11:3--"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

1. **IOW**—If U destroy a bldg's foundation...

2. The suprstrcture **must** come crashing dwn

SAY: "Fine, Lon—I accept tht premise—but wht's tht got to do with the Bk of Genesis?"

A: Well, it's got everything to do w/Bk of Gen!

*Bc Bk of Gn is the "founda"...upon which...

*The rest of the B's "superstructure" is built!

C. For example—did U know????....

1. Tht the Bk of Gen is the most quoted book...

2. & the most referenced book...

3. In all the rest of the Bible!

D. But even more imptly—we must understnd...

1. Tht every major doctrine the B teaches...

2. Every theolog truth tht the B sits on...

3. Is rooted/grounded in the Bk of Genesis

E. Or to put it another way: If the Bk of Gn is not totally true in its every word...

1. Then everything else the Bible says...
2. **INCLUDING** the part abt Jesus...
3. Comes crashing down!

[LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN]

G. #1-How abt what B says abt **SIN**

1. Rom 5:12a--"Therefore, as by one man sin entered the world..."
2. What "**one man**" is B talking abt here?
3. Well—"Adam"--of course!
4. & where does this bib teaching come from?
 - *Tht sin/evil entered the world thru Adam
 - *& his disobedience to Gd in G of Eden?
5. Well—of course--comes frm Bk of Gen., ch 3

H. #2- How abt what B says abt **DEATH**

1. Rom 5:12b--" Therefore, as by one man sin entered the world...& death came by sin"
2. OK—so whre does this bib teachng cme frm?
3. Tht hm n death is the direct result of sin?
4. Gen 2:17—"For in the day U eat from that tree, U shall surely die"

K. #3-Hw abt wht B says ab our **SIN NATURE?**

1. Rm 5:12c & 14--"And so death passed on all pple, fr all sinned...This is why death existed from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a cmmand(of Gd)as Adm had"
2. **SO IMPT**...WHAT B SAYING HERE IN ROM 5
3. Wht Rm 5 saying = betw the time of A & Mo
 1. There were no formal laws/written rules /10 C's frm Gd for pple to disobey

2. Acc to B—after the Gdn of Eden...

*The next x Gd gave specific commnds
abt right/wrong to hmn race

*Commands tht pple cld disobey...

*Was to Moses at Mt. Sinai...

*1000's of yrs after Adam died

3. Yet—in spite of this—evry hn being who
lived during this intervening period--
still died

4. & THIS FACT—(tht is) the fact tht death was
universal betw the time of Adam & Mo...

*Evn tho--during tht time—pple weren't
disobeying direct commands of Gd
like Adam did in Gof Eden...

*This proves tht thre was anothr problm/
reason why pple were dying

[Do weallsee this/this=a hugely impt bib trth]

5.& this "problem" = all pple everywhere...

*Had inherited a "sin nature" frm Adam

6. A sin nature tht causes Gd to see every one
of us ...evry member of Adam's race...

*As a "snnr" frm the momnt we're born

*& tht puts every one of us under the
judgment of Gd

7. Whre does this bib teachng ab the "lostness
of every hmn being alive" come from?

8. Book of Genesis

L. #4-Hw ab wht B says ab GD'S CURSE ON CRTN?

1. B says—that when J returns...

*He will heal this present world and...

*Rv 22:3—"There will be no more curse"

2. Whre does this bib teaching comes from?

- *Tht the present creation is undr a "curse"
 *& tht this explns all the pain/evil in wrld
 *A "curse" Gd's gna remove whn J retrns?
 2. Gen 3:17--"Cursed is the ground bec of what
 you have done, Adam"

[JUST A COUPLE MORE EXAMPLES]

M.#5-Hw ab wht B says ab the SANCTITY OF LIFE

1. Why is murder wrng? Why is abrtion wrng?
2. Why is euthanasia wrong?
3. Why is racism wrong?
4. Why is discriminating agst pple with disabilities wrong?
5. BEC--man is created in the "image of Gd"
6. & threfore--ALL hmn life is sacred & special
7. & where does this bib tchnng come from?
8. Gn 1:27--"So Gd creatd mn in His own image"

N. #6-Hw ab wht B says ab NEED FR J TO SHED HIS BLOOD FOR OUR SALV?

1. Mt 26:28--"This is my blood which is shed fr many for the forgiveness of sins"
2. Heb 9:22--"Fr w/out the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness of sin"
3. Where does this bib teaching come from?
 *Tht Gd only forgives sin...based on...
 *The shed blood of an innocent substitute
5. Comes frm Gn 3:21-whre Gd shed the blood of two innocent animals to make coverings for Adam & Eve's sin
6. Comes frm Gn 4:4-whre Gd rejected Cain's offering fr sin bec it was not a blood offering

O#7-Hw ab wht B sys ab GD'S LRDSHP OVR UNIV

1. Why is Gd the sov potentate of this univ?

2. Why does Gd hve the unilateral right to set the rules for this universe?
3. Why does Gd hve the rght to jdge mn/wmn for sin
 - *To decide who goes to hvn/goes to hell?
4. Rv 4:11-"**BEC**...U created all thngs & by yur will they were created & hve their being"
5. A: Gd has the right to be **LRD** of all creation bec He is the "**CREATOR**" of ALL Creation!!
6. & where does tht bib teaching come from?
7. Gen 1:1--"In the beginning **GOD** CREATED the heavens and the earth"

[I CLD GO ON & ON--BUT I THINK THE PT IS CLEAR]

P. POINT: Book of Genesis forms the foundation of everything else that the Bible teaches

1. Abt man/sin/death/judgment/lostness of hn race/blood of JC/Gd's authr'ty ovr unv

3. Therefore--if smeone is able to discredit the Bk of Gen...

*Then with one broad stroke...

*They hve discredited **ALL** of bib theology!

ILLT: Dr. Andrew Snelling of Inst fr Creation Rsrch:

"It is imposs to reject the Bk of Genesis without repudiating the authority of the entire B"

[BUT—IT'S EVEN MORE SERIOUS THN THAT!]

R. For U see--J's crdibility as Messiah/Sn of Gd/Gd in flesh--is inextricably linked to the reliability of the Book of Genesis

1. **& WHY IS THAT?**

2. Well bec--when we look in the NT...we find...

*Tht J belvd evry single part of Genesis to be true...even most cntroversial parts

[LET ME SHOW U THIS]

3. In Mt 19:4—it's clear Jesus believd tht A&E existed--just like Genesis says
 4. Also Mt 19:4—it's clear J blvd tht A&E were created directly by Gd--jst lke Gen says
 5. In Mt 12:24—it's clear J believed tht there is a literal devil--just like Genesis says
 6. In Mt 11:23—it's clear J bliev'd tht S&G were destroyed by Gd--just like Genesis says
 7. In Lk 17:32—it's clear J blvd Lot's wife turnd into a pillar of salt just lke Gen says
 8. In Lk 17:26—it's clear J blvd the B's acct of Noah&Ark/&the Flood--jst lke Gen says
 9. In Jn 8:36, it's clear J blvd tht Abrhm existed & tht he was the forefathr of the Jwsh pple -- just lke Gen says
 10. **PT:** if Gn isn't true/rliable in **ALL** tht it says
 *Thn **EITHER**--Jesus *Himself* was deceived
 ***OR**--J *knew* Gen was untrue & lied to us
 11. **IN EITHER CASE**—J's claim to be Gd is SHOT
 ILT: Dr. John Whitcomb & Henry Morris (Gen Flood):
 "If the Bk of Gen is not dependable, then *Jesus* is not dependable--& we are w/out a Svior
- S. **SUMMARIZE:** if we give up the truthfulness of Gen
1. Not only do we destroy the theolog founda of everything else that the B teaches...
 2. But we also destroy Jesus' claim to be God
 *Makng his death on the crss *meaninglss*
 *& our hope of saly thru him *ridiculous*
- T. **BTTM LINE:** there's an awful lot riding on whethr the Bk of Genesis is trustworthy or not
- II-Q #2-HW CAN WE PROVE THT GEN IS TRUE?**

A. **First**—let's talk abt Genesis chapters 1-7

B. Can I prove to U tht events of Gn 1-7 are true?

1. Creation of univ/creation of mankind/God Ed

Fall of Man/Cain & Abel/Noah's Flood?

2. Answer = "Of course not"

*No one can go back there & do this

*All the records gone due to Flood

*Can't evn look at the natural wrld arnd us
to try & verify the accuracy these
early chapters of Genesis...

*Bc Flood so altered the course of nature

*Tht everything today environmentally is
rad'ly diff frm the way it was in Gn 1-7

C. **But**-if we can prove tht rest of Gn is accurate...

1. Ie, Gen chapters 8-50....

1. Ie, the part of Gn tht's hpnd **SINCE** the Flood

2. Logic dictates tht 1st part shld be true too

3. I mn, why wld Gd tell us the truth in the 2nd
part of the book...& lie in the first part?

D. & whn it comes to the 2nd part of Gen--part after
the Flood—the reliability of Gen is bulletproof!

E. **JUST A VERY FEW EXAMPLES:**

1. Critics used to say tht Hittites tht Gn speaks
of never even existed...that is...

*Until Hugh Winckler excavated capital
city of BOGHAZ-KOI in central Turkey

*Found it to be the cnter of a pwrful Httite
Empire--**JUST LIKE GENESIS SAYS!!**

2. Critics used to say tht the Joseph story false

*But now we know tht the B's acct of Jo is
full of accurate Egyptian customs of x

*EG--Eg's = only who shaved (Gen 41:14)

***JUST LIKE GENESIS SAYS!**

3. Critics used to say tht Ab stories all wrong bec they mention "camels" which didn't exist in ANE in Ab's day
 - *1961-Andre Parrot dug up an entire camel skeleton in dated to time of Abraham!!

***JUST LIKE GENESIS SAYS!**
4. Critics used to say that Ur of Chaldees (Ab's hometown) never existed
 - *Until, in 1922, Leonard Wooley dug it up!
 - *Found it to be a large, flourishing city at the time of Abraham...

***JUST LIKE GENESIS SAYS!!**
5. Critics used to say tht the S&G stry is wrong bc tht part of Canaan uninhabitd in Ab's x
 - *Great archaeologist Nelson Glueck found mre thn 70 cities in tht area of Cnaan
 - *Tht were rich & prosperous at x of Ab...

***JUST LIKE GENESIS SAYS!!**
6. We knw frm dscvries at Nuzi(ANE city at Ab's time)that the customs we read abt in bib stories of A/I/J were all culturally correct
 - *EG-we now knw tht at x of Ab--it was legal to sell yur birthright & all its priv's
 - **Sound familiar???
 - ****Gen 25** says Esau did to Jacob
 - *We now knw tht at x of Ab--a father's blessing upon a son cldn't be revoked whch is why (**Gn 27**) Isc cldn't simply revoke the blsg Jb had stolen frm Esau
 - *We now knw tht at x Ab—a childless wife cld lgally gve her hmaid to hsb fr c'rn

****Sound familiar???**

****Sarah giving Hagar to Ab(Ishmael)**

***We nw knw tht at x Ab-if wife went on to later hve a child—it was illegal to drive out the hndmiden & c'rn**

****This explains why(in Gn 21)Ab was so distressed whn Gd told him to..**

[I cld give U tons mre examples-enuf fr now]

QUOTE: Dr. WM. F. ALBRIGHT(NOT A CHR.)--"IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THT THE TRADITIONS OF THE PATRIARCHAL AGE, PRESERVED IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS, REFLECT WITH REMRKABLE ACCURACY THE ACTUAL CONDITIONS OF THE ANE AT THT X."

QUOTE: Dr.H. H. ROWLEY (NOT A CHR.)--"IT IS NOT BEC SCHOLARS OF TODAY BEGIN WITH MORE CONSERVATIVE PRESUPPOSITIONS...THT THEY HAVE MUCH GREATER RESPECT FOR THE STORIES IN GENESIS--BUT RATHER, BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE WARRANTS IT"

F. Frnds—as I said earlier—it makes no sense that Gd wld tell us the **truth** in Gen chap's 8-50...
1. & thn **lie** to us in Gen chapters 1-7

F. & since I can prove to U tht Gen ch's 8-50 are utterly true & historically reliable...

1. I submit to U tht we're on totlly solid grnd

2. To assume tht **all 50 chap's of Gen** are totally true & historically reliable

G. & tht's precisely hw we're gonna approach Bk of Gn in this series! Truth/whole truth/nthng but

III-SO WHAT?

A. If Bk of Genesis really is true--then tht has some

enormous implications fr U/me/evry prsn alive

B. IT MEANS:

1. That the Living Gd of B really does exist
2. That He really did create univ/Adam/Eve
3. That Adm really did disobey Gd in GofEden
4. That when God pronounced "death" as the penalty fr Adm's sin--He wasn't kidding
5. Tht evry dscndant of Adm inherits his "sin nature" & the death penalty tht goes w/it
6. BUT--tht Gd is serious abt rescuing sinners
 - *In Noah's day, God's way = Ark
 - *All other ways failed—canoes/rafts/
"doggie-paddling"
 - *It was "Gd's way out"-or "no way out"!
7. Today--Gd's way of rescuing sinners = trusting blood of JC
 - *All other ways will fail--good wrks/chrch membership/Jewish lineage/rosary
 - *It's still..."Gd's way out" or "no way out"

C. Acts 4:12—"Thre is no othr name undr heaven, given to mankind, by which we can be saved

CONCLUSION

>>>>& so—in closing--I wanta ask U, my friend....

>>>>"Have U grabbed ahold of 'Gd's way out'?"

*Hve U embraced the blood of JC-plus nothing-as yur one-&-only remedy fr your sin?

>>>>If not—gonna give U oppor to do so right now!

SALV PRAYER

CHR 101—GOT QUESTIONS