

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

Studies in Genesis

*For God, who commanded
the light to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light
of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 4:6

Trinity Bible Church
Sunday School
Fall, 2005

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Introduction

The book of Genesis will be the subject of our study for this Fall. Its place at the beginning of the revelation of God should suggest to us something of its importance. In fact, the truths presented in this book provide an essential basis for understanding the subsequent revelation of our Redeemer God.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." This simple statement is a profound expression of the sovereign power of the omnipotent God and also establishes the pattern for the subsequent work of salvation to be revealed. God, from nothing, created all that is by the mere Word of His mouth. Seriously considering such a Creator is awesome to say the least.

From creation, we turn to the account of the sin of Adam. This act and its consequences are foundational in understanding the hopeless estate of man. The subsequent behavior of the descendants of Adam reveals the depths of the corruption of the race. Even those men presented favorably in Genesis are woefully wanting of anything to commend them to a just God. The seriousness of this condition is seen in the outpouring of the fierce wrath of God in the flood and later in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The terrible dilemma of the rebellious creature before the sovereign Creator is real.

The rebellion of modern man is unmasked by his response to this picture of a helpless sinful creature before the sovereign Judge of all the earth. The pride of man rejects such a high view of God and low view of himself. For this reason the book of Genesis is attacked and rejected. An account which should strike terror in the hearts of men as they realize that they stand exposed before this all-powerful and just Judge of all the earth is subjected to ridicule. The creature thinks he knows better than the Creator.

The danger of this denial is extreme, because this book also is an account of the beginning of the revelation of God as Redeemer. The display of the wrath of God against the sinful rebel is interwoven with the revelation that this sovereign God is both gracious and merciful. At the very point of the rebellion of Adam when God pronounced judgment, He also gave the first statement of the promised Redeemer. The termination of the power of evil is predicted in the promise that the Seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent. Later, as God prepared to destroy the world for its sinfulness, He singled out Noah and his family to be graciously delivered. As man continued his rebellious ways, God sovereignly chose Abram to be a vehicle for salvation for all nations of the earth. Then, as the sinfulness of the "holy seed" is displayed, we see the grace of God as He preserved His work in them in spite of themselves. This is grace. The blessed ones are blessed entirely by God's doings and not their own. The will of man is to rebel. The will of God is to save His people. Clearly, God does not intend for us to despair but to have hope. To minimize the truths of God the Creator and man the sinful creature is to miss the wonder of the truth of God's grace. Terror is replaced by hope. We need not despair, but call for mercy to a Sovereign Who hears and saves sinful men.

The remainder of the Bible provides us with a more complete understanding of the work of redemption through Jesus, the Messiah. This is seen only in shadows in Genesis. However, the subsequent revelation rests upon and does not contradict the beginnings presented for us in Genesis. God the Creator, Who called a formless void into the splendor of the physical world by the Word of His mouth, is at work calling those who are spiritually formless into a spiritual existence as His children and heirs in Christ. It is to more clearly appreciate this truth that we turn to consider the simple yet profound teachings of Genesis.

Schedule Fall, 2005

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| September 4 | Lesson 1: God, the Creator Genesis 1, 2 |
| September 11 | Lesson 2: Man, the Sinner Genesis 3-5 |
| September 18 | Lesson 3: God, the Gracious Judge Genesis 6-8 |
| September 25 | Lesson 4: Man, the Rebel Genesis 9-11 |
| October 2 | Lesson 5: God's Covenant of Salvation Genesis 12-14 |
| October 9 | Lesson 6: God's Covenant and Man's Devices Genesis 15-17 |
| October 16 | Lesson 7: Abraham before the Judge of all the Earth Genesis 18-20 |
| October 23 | Lesson 8: The Fear of God Genesis 21-23 |
| October 30 | Lesson 9: Isaac, the Son of Promise Genesis 24-26 |
| November 6 | Lesson 10: Jacob, the Deceitful Fugitive Genesis 27-29 |
| November 13 | Lesson 11: Jacob in Exile Genesis 30-32 |
| November 20 | Lesson 12: Jacob in Canaan Genesis 33-36 |
| November 27 | Lesson 13: Jacob's Sons Genesis 37-38 |
| December 4 | Lesson 14: Joseph in Egypt Genesis 39-41 |
| December 11 | Lesson 15: Joseph and his Brothers Genesis 42-44 |
| December 18 | Lesson 16: A Family Reunion Genesis 45-47 |
| December 25 | Lesson 17: The End of the Beginning Genesis 48-50 |

Memory Assignments

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning
God created the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity
between thee and the woman,
and between thy seed and her seed;
it shall bruise thy head,
and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Genesis 6:5

And GOD saw
that the wickedness of man
was great in the earth,
and that every imagination
of the thoughts of his heart
was only evil continually.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram,
Get thee out of thy country,
and from thy kindred,
and from thy father's house,
unto a land that I will shew thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation,
and I will bless thee,
and make thy name great;
and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee,
and curse him that curseth thee:
and in thee
shall all families of the earth
be blessed.

Memory assignments (continued)

Genesis 15:6

And he believed in the LORD;
and he counted it to him
for righteousness.

Genesis 18:25

That be far from thee
to do after this manner,
to slay the righteous with the wicked:
and that the righteous
should be as the wicked,
that be far from thee:
Shall not the Judge of all the earth
do right?

Genesis 49:10


The sceptre
shall not depart from Judah,
nor a lawgiver
from between his feet,
until Shiloh come;
and unto him
shall the gathering of the people be.

O God of Bethel

Philip Doddridge, 1737

John Logan, 1781

Albert L. Peacc, 1885



1. O God of Beth - el, by whose hand Thy peo - ple still are fed,
2. Our vows, our pray'rs, we now pre - sent Be - fore thy Throne of grace;
3. Through each per - plex - ing path of life Our wan-d'ring foot - steps guide;
4. O spread thy cov - 'ring wings a - round Till all our wan-d'rings cease,
5. Such bless - ings from thy gra - cious hand Our hum - ble pray'rs im - plore;



Who through this wea - ry pil-grim-age Hast all our fa - thers led,
God of our fa - thers, be the God Of their suc - ceed - ing race.
Give us each day our dai - ly bread, And rai - ment fit pro - vide.
And at our Fa - ther's loved a - bode Our souls ar - rive in peace.
And thou shalt be our cho - sen God, And por - tion ev - er - more. A - men.

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Lesson 1: God, the Creator

Genesis 1, 2

MEMORY: Genesis 1:1

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see that the revelation of God begins with a demonstration of God's sovereign power as the Creator of all.

1. Describe what God did on each of the seven days of creation.

first day:

second day:

third day:

fourth day:

fifth day:

sixth day:

seventh day:

2. How did God make man?

3. What duties did God give to man?

4. What are we told about Eden?

5. What are we told about the two trees in Eden?

6. Why and how did God make woman?

7. What application is made concerning the creation of woman?

Lesson 2: Man, the Sinner Genesis 3 - 5

MEMORY: Genesis 3:15 and review

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see how Adam sinned and the immediate consequences of this fall into sin.

1. How did the serpent tempt the woman?
2. What happened after the woman and her husband ate of the forbidden fruit?
3. How did Adam and the woman answer the LORD God when He came to them?
4. What judgments did the LORD God pronounce upon each?
the serpent

the woman

Adam
5. What offerings did Cain and Abel bring to the LORD, and how did He receive them?
6. What did the LORD tell Cain when he became angry?
7. How did God judge Cain for killing Abel, and what provision did He make for Cain?
8. What happened in the family of Cain?
9. What significant events are noted in the family of Adam?

Lesson 3: God, the Gracious Judge

Genesis 6 - 8

MEMORY: Genesis 6:5 and review

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see that, although the evil of men was such that God brought the judgment of the flood upon the earth, God graciously preserved a remnant, the family of Noah, and then pledged to preserve life hereafter.

1. What was the condition of life upon the earth in the days of Noah?
2. How did God respond to this situation?
3. Why did God tell Noah to build the ark?
4. Who was brought into the ark?
5. What happened after all had gone into the ark?
6. How long did it rain, and how long did the flood last?
7. What happened after all living things, save those in the ark, had been destroyed?
8. How did Noah know that it was time to leave the ark?
9. After Noah built an altar to the LORD, what promise did the LORD make?

Lesson 4: Man, the Rebel

Genesis 9 - 11

MEMORY: Genesis 12:1 and review

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see the covenant that God made with man, and that it was followed by the renewal of sin and rebellion upon the earth.

1. What was the blessing that God spoke to Noah?
2. What commandments did God make concerning blood?
3. What is the significance of the rainbow?
4. How did the sons of Noah treat their father in his drunken state?
5. What did Noah do when he found out what his younger son had done to him?
6. What are we told about Nimrod?
7. What did the people propose to do in the plain of Shinar?
8. Why did the LORD frustrate their plans, and how did He do it?
9. Who is Terah and what did he do?

Lesson 5: God's Covenant of Salvation Genesis 12 - 14

MEMORY: Genesis 12:1-2 and review

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see God's covenant to bless all the families of the earth through Abram and how Abram preferred to wait for this blessing from God rather than to seek temporal gain by his own doings.

1. What did God promise to Abram?
2. What did Abram do after receiving the promise from God?
3. Why did Abram go to Egypt, and why did he return to Canaan?
4. Why was there strife between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot?
5. How did Abram resolve this conflict?
6. After Lot and Abram separated, what did the LORD tell Abram?
7. What did Abram do when he heard that Lot had been captured?
8. Who is Melchizedek, and what did he do?
9. Why did Abram refuse reward from the king of Sodom?

Lesson 6: God's Covenant and Man's Devices Genesis 15 - 17

MEMORY: Genesis 12:1-3 and review

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see how God encouraged Abram to trust Him despite great natural obstacles to the fulfillment of God's Word.

1. What was it that Abram believed that God "counted it to him for righteousness"?
2. How did God answer Abram's request for some way to know that he would inherit the land?
3. What did the LORD tell Abram about his descendants and the land?
4. Why did Sarai counsel Abram to take Hagar as his wife?
5. What happened after Hagar found that she was going to have a child?
6. What did the Angel of the LORD tell Hagar in the wilderness?
7. What did God tell Abram when he was 99 years old?
8. After God reaffirmed the covenant, what did He tell Abraham to do?
9. What did God tell Abraham about Sarai?

Lesson 7: Abraham before the Judge of all the Earth Genesis 18 - 20

MEMORY: Genesis 15:6 and review

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see that the Judge of all the earth shows Himself to be merciful in response to the intercessory pleas of Abraham in both the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and Abraham's deceit before Abimelech.

1. How did Abraham treat the three men he found standing before his tent?
2. Why did Sarah laugh?
3. Why did Abraham intercede with the LORD regarding Sodom?
4. How did Lot treat the two angels who came to Sodom?
5. How did Lot and his family respond to the warnings of the two men (angels)?
6. Who was saved from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah?
7. What did God tell Abimelech?
8. What explanation did Abraham give Abimelech for his deceitful behavior?
9. How was Abraham a blessing to Abimelech?

Lesson 8: The Fear of God

Genesis 21 - 23

MEMORY: Genesis 18:25 and review

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see the demonstration of Abraham's fear of God as he willingly went to offer as a sacrifice his only son Isaac, by whom God had promised to bless the world.

1. Why did Sarah laugh?
2. Why was the son of Hagar cast out of Abraham's house, and how did God provide for Hagar and her son?
3. What happened at Beersheba?
4. What unusual instructions did God give to Abraham?
5. What did Abraham do, and how did he explain it to his two young men and to Isaac?
6. What significance did God place upon this event?
7. What significance did Abraham place upon this event?
8. What promise did the Angel of the LORD give to Abraham?
9. How did Abraham obtain a burial place for Sarah?

Lesson 9: Isaac, the Son of Promise Genesis 24 - 26

MEMORY: Genesis 49:10 and review

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see God's provision of a wife for Isaac, God's sovereignty in the birth of Isaac's twin sons, and then God's grace in blessing Isaac.

1. What did Abraham instruct his servant concerning Isaac?
2. What request did the servant of Abraham make in his prayer as he approached the city of Nahor?
3. What caused the servant to worship the LORD when he first met Rebekah?
4. How did Rebekah's family respond to Abraham's servant's report of his errand?
5. What did the LORD tell Rebekah when she inquired about the struggle within her?
6. How did Esau show that he despised his birthright?
7. What did the LORD tell Isaac in Gerar?
8. What deceitful example of Abraham did Isaac follow while in Gerar?
9. How was it evident that the LORD was with Isaac?

Lesson 10: Jacob, the Deceitful Fugitive Genesis 27 - 29

MEMORY: Review all assignments

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see how Jacob deceived his brother Esau and stole the blessing of their father, and then, after he had to flee for his life, how he in turn was deceived by his Uncle Laban.

1. How did Jacob and his mother deceive Isaac?
2. What did Isaac tell Esau about the blessing when he came to receive it?
3. What did Rebekah tell Jacob after she heard of Esau's intent to kill Jacob?
4. Why did Isaac send Jacob away?
5. What did Jacob see in his dream?
6. What did God tell Jacob in his dream?
7. What did Jacob do after he awakened from sleep?
8. How did Laban deceive Jacob?
9. How did the LORD respond to Jacob's preference of Rachel over Leah?

Lesson 11: Jacob in Exile Genesis 30 - 32

MEMORY: Review all assignments

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see that, while Jacob's years in exile were marked by conflict among his wives and with Laban, he prospered, concluding these years with a face to face encounter with God at Penuel.

1. List the children of Jacob with their mothers and with a number indicating the order of their birth.
Leah

Rachel

Zilpah (Leah's maid)

Bilhah (Rachel's maid)
2. What agreement did Jacob make with Laban that resulted in Jacob becoming exceedingly prosperous?
3. How did Jacob explain his prosperity to his wives?
4. Why did Jacob desire to leave Laban?
5. Why did Laban pursue Jacob?
6. What were the terms of the covenant made between Jacob and Laban?
7. What preparation did Jacob make to meet Esau?
8. Whom did Jacob meet and what did they do after he sent his family across the ford of Jabbok and was left alone?
9. What blessing did Jacob receive as a result of the encounter at Penuel?

Lesson 12: Jacob in Canaan Genesis 33 - 36

MEMORY: Review all assignments

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see that, while the seed of Esau seemed to prosper, Jacob remained a pilgrim in his own land, and, while the sons of Jacob troubled him by their sinful behavior toward the inhabitants of the land, yet God reaffirmed His faithfulness to His covenant.

1. How did Esau meet Jacob?
2. What did Jacob tell Esau when Esau suggested that they travel together?
3. What did Jacob do when he arrived at Shechem?
4. What proposal did Hamor the Hivite make to Jacob's sons?
5. What did Simeon and Levi do in Shechem?
6. Why did Jacob go to Bethel, and what preparation did he make for this journey?
7. What did God tell Jacob at Bethel?
8. What happened in Jacob's family after leaving Bethel where God appeared to him?
9. Why did Esau leave the land of Canaan, and where did he go?

Lesson 13: Jacob's Sons Genesis 37 - 38

MEMORY: Review all assignments

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see the sinfulness of the sons of Jacob as their envy led them to sell their brother Joseph into slavery and as Judah separated himself from the family and joined with the Canaanites.

1. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?
2. What was Joseph's first dream?
3. What was Joseph's second dream?
4. What plan was devised when the brothers saw Joseph coming to them at Dothan?
5. What plan did Reuben propose and for what reason?
6. What advice did Judah give, and what did they finally do with Joseph?
7. How did the brothers deceive their father?
8. What happened to Judah's first two sons, and what did Judah tell his daughter-in-law Tamar about the third son?
9. How did Judah respond to word of Tamar's harlotry and her subsequent exposure of his own guilt?

Lesson 14: Joseph in Egypt Genesis 39 - 41

MEMORY: Review all assignments

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see Joseph's righteous conduct as a slave and prisoner in Egypt and God's elevation of him to a position of high honor and authority.

1. How is Joseph's conduct as a slave in Potiphar's house described?
2. How did Potiphar respond to his wife's false accusation of Joseph?
3. How is Joseph's conduct as a prisoner described?
4. What were the interpretations for the dreams of the chief baker and the chief butler?
5. What happened to the chief butler and the chief baker?
6. What two dreams did Pharaoh have?
7. What was the interpretation of these dreams, and what advice did Joseph give to Pharaoh?
8. What did Pharaoh do after he learned the meaning of his dreams?
9. What names did Joseph give to his two sons, and what is the meaning of these names?

Lesson 15: Joseph and his Brothers

Genesis 42 - 44

MEMORY: Review all assignments

HYMN: “O God of Bethel”

PURPOSE: to see the circumstances that led Joseph’s brothers to come under his authority in Egypt and their conduct before him.

1. Why did Joseph’s brothers go to Egypt, and why did Benjamin not go with them?
2. When Joseph saw his brothers, what did he remember and what did he do?
3. How did Joseph propose to test the truthfulness of his brothers?
4. How did Joseph’s brothers respond to their experiences in Egypt?
5. What proposals did Reuben and Judah make to their father?
6. How did Joseph treat his brothers after their return to Egypt?
7. What did Joseph tell his steward to do as his brothers prepared to return to Canaan, then and after they left Egypt?
8. How did Joseph’s brothers react when they were accused of stealing Joseph’s silver cup and then when the cup was found with Benjamin?
9. What did Judah say would be the consequences of Joseph’s plan for Benjamin, and what alternative did he offer?

Lesson 16: A Family Reunion

Genesis 45 - 47

MEMORY: Review all assignments

HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

PURPOSE: to see how Joseph praised the providential care of God as he revealed himself to his brothers, and then how God used Joseph to care for his family in the land of Egypt.

1. How did Joseph explain to his brothers what had happened to bring them to this time?
2. What did Joseph ask his brothers to do, and what did he promise them?
3. How did Pharaoh react when he heard that Joseph's brothers had come?
4. How did Jacob react to word that Joseph was alive and ruling in Egypt?
5. What did God tell Jacob as he prepared to go to Egypt?
6. What did Joseph tell his family about the Egyptians, and where did he suggest that they live?
7. What provision did Pharaoh make for Joseph's family?
8. What did Joseph do when the famine became so severe that the people ran out of money?
9. What vow did Jacob ask Joseph to make?

Lesson 17: The End of the Beginning Genesis 48 - 50

MEMORY: Review all assignments

HYMN: “O God of Bethel”

PURPOSE: to hear the last words of Jacob as he blesses Ephraim, the second son of Joseph, and speaks to his sons; then to hear Joseph’s reaffirmation of confidence in the providential care of God.

1. What did Jacob say he would do for Joseph’s two sons?
2. What did Jacob do with Ephraim and Manasseh that displeased Joseph?
3. What blessing did Jacob pronounce upon Joseph?
4. What did Jacob say about Simeon and Levi?
5. What did Jacob say about Judah?
6. What did Jacob say about Joseph?
7. What was done with the body of Jacob?
8. After the death of Jacob, what did Joseph’s brothers fear, and how did Joseph calm those fears?
9. What hope did Joseph have and how did he express it before his death?

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

Studies in Genesis

*For God, who commanded
the light to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light
of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 4:6

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