

GENESIS: Introduction

Genesis is the book of beginnings. In this first book of the Bible, you will find the foundation — the beginning — of everything that matters.

The beginning of the world. The beginning of an understanding of Who God is. The beginning of sin. The beginning of God's people and His relationship with them. The beginning of the plan of God to redeem the world and establish His Kingdom.

Since it is the book of beginnings, Genesis is absolutely foundational for reading and understanding the rest of the Bible. So it's the perfect place to start!

It will help your reading to see Genesis as organized into two parts:

Genesis 1–11 — The Beginning of the World

Genesis 12–50 — The Beginning of Israel

The first 11 chapters tell the story of how the world began. And then chapter 12 zooms in to focus on one family that will remain central for the rest of the Bible. Beginning with Abraham, God establishes His people, the nation of Israel. The rest of Genesis is the story of this family.

Here are a few guiding thoughts to help as you travel through Genesis:

- Remember that **God is the main character** of Genesis. Read every word with your focus on Him. Consider keeping a list of what you learn about the character of God as you read.
- There are many familiar stories in the pages of this book. You will read about Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark, the call of Abram, and Joseph's coat of many colors. Don't lose sight of the **overarching story** of Genesis and the way these individual stories fit together.
- Pay attention to the **family line** of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and God's covenant with them. It might help to make a family tree as you read.
- **Don't give up!** Even when you come to genealogies or difficult stories, press on. You will be so thankful for your time in Genesis as you continue through the rest of the Bible.

