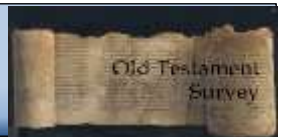




Genesis Prehistory - Study Guide



Bible Reading (Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)	Textbook Reading (Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)
Genesis	Ch. 4
☐ ch. 1 ☐ ch. 2 ☐ ch. 3 ☐ ch. 4 ☐ ch. 6 ☐ ch. 7 ☐ ch. 8 ☐ ch. 9 ☐ 11:1-9	☐ Creation and Its Nature ☐ Sin and Its Nature

Study Guide for Genesis

Chapter 1

- How does the Bible story begin? Why does it begin this way? How does this set the stage for everything else?
- How did God create everything? What does this tell us about God? What does this tell us about His relationship with His creation?
- Can you see a pattern in the way the acts of creation are described in this chapter? What is the significance of this? How did God evaluate His creation?
- What was different about the creation of humanity? How does this chapter describe the creation of humanity and its purpose?
- What did God say to the first humans? Why?
- How did God evaluate the first humans?

Chapter 2

- How was the seventh day of creation different from the first six? Why do you think this was mentioned?
- How does this (second) account of creation fill in the details not mentioned in the first account? What part(s) of creation does this second account concentrate on?
- How does this account describe the formation of the first man? What does this tell us about humanity?
- How does this chapter describe the garden? What does this tell us about humanity's ideal relationship with our environment?
- What roles, tasks, and commands did God give the man? Why? What does this tell us about the purposes and limitations of humanity?
- Why did God create the woman? How did God create the first woman? How did the man respond? What does this all tell us about the relationship between men and women?

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- How does this chapter end? What is the significance of the first humans not being ashamed (not having anything to be ashamed about)? How is this different from the typical human experience now?

Chapter 3

- How did the serpent start the conversation with the woman?
- How did she respond?
- What did the serpent claim? What was he claiming about God? What was he promising the woman?
- How did the woman respond? Why? What did she base her response on?
- What were the consequences that came from the woman and man eating the fruit?
- How did they respond to God's presence? How was this different than before? Why?
- What did God ask the man? How did he respond?
- What did God ask the woman? How did she respond?
- What did God say to the serpent? What does this tell about the relationship of the serpent and humanity? What promise was given about how her offspring will crush the serpent?
- What did God say to the woman? How did this describe the damage caused to the relationship between men and women? How is this experienced today?
- What did God say to the man? How did this describe the damage caused to the relationship between mankind and his environment? How is this experienced today?
- How does this chapter end? What are the signs of hope? What are the signs of continued hardship?

Chapter 4

- How does this chapter describe the first two sons?
- How does it describe their worship offerings to God? How was each offering received? Why? How did the sons respond?
- What did God say to Cain? What did He promise Him? What did He warn him about?
- How did Cain respond?
- How did God confront Cain? How did he respond?
- How did God describe Cain's punishment? How did Cain respond?
- How does this chapter describe Cain's descendants?
- How does this chapter end? What are the signs of hope?

Chapter 6

- Describe God's evaluation of humanity in the first six verses of this chapter. What did God resolve to do as a result of this? Why was this an appropriate response?
- How is Noah described in this chapter?
- What did God command Noah to do? Why?
- What promise(s) did God give to Noah?
- How did Noah respond?

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Chapter 7

- What did God command Noah to do? Why do you think this is repeated from the prior chapter? How did Noah respond?
- What does this chapter say about Noah and the animals? Why is this important for the story?
- What happened after Noah entered the ark? How does this chapter describe these events? What was the result of the flood?

Chapter 8

- What is the significance of the first phrase of this chapter? What does this tell us about God?
- What does this chapter describe about the waters receding?
- What does this story narrate about Noah releasing birds? Why do you think this was included in this story?
- What did God say to Noah at the end of the flood?
- What did Noah do after leaving the ark? How did God respond? What did God promise?

Chapter 9

- What did God say to Noah at the beginning of this chapter? How does this compare to what God said in chapter 1?
- What did God tell Noah about what he could and could not eat? Why is that important?
- What did God tell Noah about shedding blood of humans? Why do you think God was/is so adamant about this? What does this tell us about God's justice? How should we respond?
- What is the content/promises of the covenant that God made with Noah? What did He promise? Why is this important? What is the sign of this covenant?
- What are the names of the sons of Noah? Describe their general character, based on their actions in the rest of this chapter.
- How did Noah respond to what his sons had done? What does this foreshadow will happen later in the story?

Chapter 11:1-9

- What did the people plan to do? Why?
- What did God think about their plans? Why?
- What did God do in response to this? What was the result?

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 4

Intro

- How does Genesis chapters 1-11 set the stage for the story of God's people?

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Primeval History and Its Nature

- How does the textbook define the term “primeval history”? What is a “cosmogony”? What do these terms tell us about the nature and content of this part of Genesis?
- How is Genesis different from the creation accounts of other ancient near east civilizations? Why is this important? What was Genesis trying to accomplish by this?
- How is the Genesis account different from the Enuma Elish and the Epic of Atrahasis? How is it similar? How does the textbook explain these similarities and differences? Why should we trust Genesis more than these ancient myths?

Contents of Genesis 1-11

Creation and Its Nature (chapters 1-2)

- What do these two chapters introduce?
- What are the different views of how the first verses of chapter 1 are related to the rest of creation? What are the implications if one believes the various views? Which view does the textbook support? Why is the traditional view the only one “theologically possible”? What are the implications of this for the creation of time and space?
- What was the only thing that existed in the beginning? Why? How does this challenge the idea of polytheism?
- Describe the repetition and literary symmetry in Genesis chapter 1? What do you think this communicates about creation?
- What is the meaning of “imago Dei”? How does the textbook describe the implications of this for humanity? How are we to relate to the rest of creation? How are we to relate to God? How does this relate to our purpose in life?
- What is the purpose of the mandate to “be fruitful and multiply” according to the textbook? How does this apply for our lives today?
- What one word summarizes the essence of creation in this chapter? What is the significance of this?
- How does chapter 2 complement chapter 1?
- What is the meaning and significance of the term “generations” as first used in this chapter?
- How does the textbook describe the relationship between God and the first people?
- How does the textbook summarize the first two chapters of Genesis? How do these chapters prepare for what will follow?

Sin and Its Nature (chapters 3-11)

- What is the single theme that unites all the various stories in these chapters? Why is this significant?
- What happened in chapter 3 that changed humanity? Why?
- In what ways did humanity change as a result of chapter 3? Why does this matter?
- What was immoral about a seemingly innocent act of eating fruit? What are the implications of this?
- How do chapters 4-11 illustrate the consequences of chapter 3? How do the genealogies give evidence for this?

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- According to the textbook, what is the point of the flood story?
- What is the “Table of Nations”? How does this contribute to the Genesis story? What was the later contribution of each of the three categories of nations?
- What does the textbook say is the point of the tower of Babel story? Why is unification and peace not “the ultimate goods of society”?
- How does the genealogy in ch. 11 give a hint of hope? Why is this important?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter