

GENESIS

A Comprehensive Study Guide

From Creation to the Death of Joseph

Bible Ministries International

Study Resources

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Table of Contents

Quiz Questions & Answers	3
Essay Format Questions	6
Glossary of Key Terms	8

Quiz Questions & Answers

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

Question 1

Describe the sequence of creation as presented in Genesis chapter 1.

Answer:

In Genesis 1, creation unfolds over six days: Day 1: light and darkness; Day 2: the expanse (heavens) separating waters; Day 3: dry land, seas, and vegetation; Day 4: sun, moon, and stars; Day 5: fish and birds; Day 6: land animals and humankind. God declared each stage "good" and the whole creation "very good."

Question 2

What was the purpose of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden?

Answer:

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was placed in the Garden of Eden as a test of obedience for Adam and Eve. Eating from it was forbidden, with the consequence of death, to establish a boundary and the importance of trusting God's command.

Question 3

Explain the primary reason for God's judgment of a global flood in Noah's time.

Answer:

God initiated the global flood due to the great wickedness of humanity on earth. Every purpose of man's heart was only evil continually, and the earth was filled with violence and corruption, grieving God's heart.

Question 4

What covenant did God establish with Noah after the flood, and what was its sign?

Answer:

After the flood, God established a covenant with Noah and all living creatures, promising never again to destroy all flesh by a flood. The sign of this everlasting covenant was the rainbow in the cloud.

Question 5

Why did God scatter the people and confuse their language at Babel?

Answer:

God scattered the people at Babel and confused their language because they were united in a project (building a city and a tower to reach the heavens) that demonstrated their ambition to make a name for themselves and prevent their scattering, rather than fulfilling God's command to fill the earth. God saw this as an attempt to resist His will and consolidate power.

Question 6

Summarize God's initial promises to Abram when He called him out of his homeland.

Answer:

God promised Abram that He would make him a great nation, bless him, make his name great, and that he would be a blessing. Furthermore, those who blessed him would be blessed, and those who cursed him would be cursed, and all families of the earth would be blessed through him.

Question 7

Describe the conflict that led to Abram and Lot separating their households.

Answer:

The conflict between Abram and Lot arose because their combined wealth, particularly their livestock, was so great that the land could not sustain them dwelling together. This led to strife between their herdsmen, prompting Abram to suggest they separate to avoid further contention.

Question 8

How did Joseph's brothers betray him, and what was the immediate consequence for Joseph?

Answer:

Joseph's brothers betrayed him by conspiring to kill him, but Reuben intervened to have him thrown into a pit instead. Ultimately, they sold him to Ishmaelite traders for twenty pieces of silver, resulting in Joseph being taken to Egypt as a slave.

Question 9

Explain why Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt, and what significant event occurred upon their arrival.

Answer:

Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy grain because a severe famine had struck the land of Canaan. Upon their arrival, they unknowingly bowed down to Joseph, who had become the potentate over Egypt and was in charge of selling food, fulfilling a part of his earlier dreams.

Question 10

What prophecy did Jacob give regarding Judah, and what was its significance for future leadership?

Answer:

Jacob prophesied that the scepter would not depart from Judah, nor the lawmaker from between his feet, until "Shiloh" came, and the obedience of the peoples would be His. This signified that Judah's lineage would hold royal authority and that a significant future leader or Messiah would come from his line.

Essay Format Questions

These essay topics are designed for deeper theological reflection and extended written responses. No answers are provided to encourage independent study and critical thinking.

Essay 1

Analyze the concept of covenant as it develops in the early chapters of Genesis. Discuss the terms, signs, and significance of the covenants established with Noah and Abraham, and how they set the stage for later biblical themes.

Essay 2

Compare and contrast the characters of Cain and Abel, and then Esau and Jacob. What do their stories reveal about human nature, divine favoritism (or lack thereof), and the consequences of personal choices within a family context?

Essay 3

Discuss the repeated motif of deception and its consequences throughout the Book of Genesis. How do various characters engage in deceit (e.g., the serpent, Jacob, Abraham, Joseph's brothers), and what are the short-term and long-term effects on individuals, families, and divine plans?

Essay 4

Examine the role of dreams and divine communication in Genesis, particularly in the narratives of Jacob and Joseph. How do these supernatural encounters guide characters' actions, reveal God's will, and foreshadow future events?

Essay 5

Trace the theme of "blessing" through Genesis. Identify instances where blessing is pronounced, inherited, or sought after. How does God's blessing shape the destiny of individuals and the developing nation, and what conditions (if any) are associated with its reception?

Glossary of Key Terms

A

Abel: The second son of Adam and Eve, a keeper of flocks whose offering was favored by God, leading to his murder by his brother Cain.

Abimelech: King of Gerar, who twice took Abraham's wife Sarah (and later Isaac's wife Rebekah) thinking she was a sister, but was corrected by God in a dream.

Abraham (formerly Abram): The patriarch chosen by God to be the father of a great nation, through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed. His name change signifies his new role.

B

Beth-el: Meaning "House of God," this is the place where Jacob had his dream of a ladder to heaven and vowed a vow to God.

Benjamin: The youngest son of Jacob and Rachel, born near Ephrath after Rachel's difficult labor and subsequent death.

Bilhah: Rachel's slave-girl, given to Jacob as a concubine, who bore Dan and Naphtali.

C

Cain: The first son of Adam and Eve, a tiller of the ground who murdered his brother Abel out of jealousy and was cursed by God.

Canaan: The land promised by God to Abraham and his descendants, inhabited by various peoples (Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, etc.) before the Israelites.

Circumcision: The physical sign of the covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants, commanded to be performed on all male children on the eighth day.

Covenant: A sacred agreement or promise, often involving reciprocal obligations, established by God with various individuals and groups throughout Genesis (e.g., with Noah, with Abraham).

Creation: The divine act of bringing the universe and all living things into existence, described in Genesis chapter 1 over six days.

D

Dinah: The daughter of Jacob and Leah, whose rape by Shechem led to a violent retaliation by her brothers Simeon and Levi.

Dominion: The authority and responsibility given to humankind by God over the earth and its creatures, as stated in Genesis 1:26.

E

Eden: The garden planted by God where Adam and Eve were placed, containing the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Edom: Another name for Esau, and later refers to the nation descended from him, located in the mountainous region of Seir.

Egypt: A land to which Abraham descended during a famine, and later where Joseph was sold into slavery and eventually rose to power, bringing his family there during a severe famine.

Enoch: Son of Jared, who "walked with God; and he was not, for God took him," indicating he did not die but was translated.

Esau: The elder son of Isaac and Rebekah, a skillful hunter, who despised his birthright and sold it to Jacob for a meal.

Eve: The first woman, created by God from Adam's rib, and the first to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

F

Famine: A recurring theme in Genesis, prompting migration and testing faith, notably in the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph.

Flood (Great Flood): A catastrophic deluge sent by God to destroy all living things on earth due to pervasive wickedness, with only Noah and his family being saved in the ark.

G

Goshen: A fertile region in Egypt where Joseph settled his family, allowing them to live separately and thrive.

H

Hagar: Sarai's Egyptian slave-girl, who bore Ishmael to Abram, and was later cast out but protected by God.

Ham: One of Noah's three sons, whose disrespect towards his father led to a curse on his son Canaan.

Hebron: A city in Canaan, also known as Kirjath-arba, where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah were buried in the cave of Machpelah.

I

Image of God: The likeness in which humanity (male and female) was created, implying unique qualities and a special relationship with the Creator.

Isaac: The miraculously born son of Abraham and Sarah, whose name means "laughter," and a patriarch in his own right.

Ishmael: The son of Abram and Hagar, whose descendants became a great nation, and from whom various Arab tribes are said to originate.

Israel (formerly Jacob): Jacob's new name after wrestling with God (or an angel), meaning "he who struggles with God," becoming the namesake of the nation.

J

Jacob: The younger son of Isaac and Rebekah, who was born holding Esau's heel, later acquired Esau's birthright and blessing through deceit, and was renamed Israel.

Japheth: One of Noah's three sons, blessed by his father. His descendants are associated with European and Asian peoples.

Jehovah (Lord): The personal name of God, frequently used in Genesis to denote God's covenant relationship with humanity.

Joseph: Rachel's firstborn son, greatly favored by Jacob, whose dreams led to his brothers selling him into slavery, but who eventually rose to prominence in Egypt and saved his family from famine.

Judah: One of Jacob's sons by Leah, from whose lineage kings and ultimately the Messiah would come. He played a significant role in Joseph's story and interceded for Benjamin.

L

Laban: Rebekah's brother and Jacob's uncle and father-in-law, known for his cunning and repeated manipulation of Jacob's wages.

Leah: Jacob's first wife, given to him deceitfully by Laban, and the mother of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Dinah.

Levi: A son of Jacob and Leah, and one of the brothers who violently avenged Dinah. His descendants formed the priestly tribe.

Lot: Abram's nephew, who chose to settle in the well-watered plain of Jordan, near Sodom, and was later rescued from the destruction of Sodom.

M

Machpelah (Cave of): The burial cave near Hebron that Abraham purchased from Ephron the Hittite, where Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah were buried.

Melchizedek: King of Salem and "priest of the Most High God," who blessed Abram after his victory over the kings and received a tithe from him.

Methuselah: The oldest recorded person in Genesis, living 969 years, father of Lamech and grandfather of Noah.

N

Noah: A righteous man, blameless among his generations, chosen by God to build an ark and preserve life during the Great Flood.

Nimrod: A mighty hunter and the first powerful monarch mentioned in Genesis, associated with the beginning of Babel and other cities.

P

Pharaoh: The title of the ruler of Egypt, encountered by Abraham, and later by Joseph, who served him.

Potiphar: A eunuch of Pharaoh and chief of the executioners, who bought Joseph as a slave and put him in charge of his household.

R

Rachel: Jacob's beloved second wife, Leah's younger sister, and the mother of Joseph and Benjamin.

Rebekah: Isaac's wife, a cousin of Jacob, who conceived twins after Isaac prayed for her barrenness, and favored Jacob over Esau.

Reuben: Jacob's firstborn son by Leah, who lost his birthright due to defiling his father's concubine.

S

Sabbath (Seventh Day): The day on which God rested after creation, blessed it, and sanctified it, establishing a pattern for humanity.

Sarah (formerly Sarai): Abram's wife, whose name was changed to Sarah, meaning "princess," and who miraculously bore Isaac in her old age.

Serpent: The cunning animal in the Garden of Eden who deceived Eve, leading to the fall of humanity.

Seth: The third son of Adam and Eve, born after Abel's death, appointed by God as a replacement seed.

Shem: One of Noah's three sons, from whom the Semitic peoples, including Abraham, are descended, and who was blessed by Noah.

Sodom and Gomorrah: Cities in the plain of Jordan known for their great wickedness, destroyed by God with fire and brimstone.

T

Tree of Life: A tree in the Garden of Eden, eating from which would grant eternal life.

Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil: A tree in the Garden of Eden whose fruit was forbidden to Adam and Eve, serving as a test of obedience.

U-Z

Ur of the Chaldeans: The original homeland from which God called Abram.

Zaphnath-paaneah: The name Pharaoh gave to Joseph in Egypt.

Zebulun: A son of Jacob by Leah, his tenth son.

Zilpah: Leah's slave-girl, given to Jacob as a concubine, who bore Gad and Asher.

Zoar: A small city that Lot requested to flee to instead of the mountains, spared from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

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