

Genesis: A Story of Beginnings

John Phillips – “Genesis 1 is one of the most God-centered chapters in the Bible. God is mentioned by name thirty-two times in thirty-one verses. Add to that the use of personal pronouns, and He is mentioned no less than forty-three times. Thus on the very first page of Scripture the Holy Spirit brings us into the presence of God and keeps us there. No wonder Satan hates that chapter! Genesis teaches readers about the beginning of everything except God.”

Genesis reveals the story of God’s **sovereignty**, the **Fall** of humanity, and the urgent need for **redemption**.

Moses wrote to the people of **Israel**. The book’s purpose is “to record God’s **creation** of the world and His desire to have a people set apart to **worship** Him.”

Who are the major **personalities** in the book of Genesis?

- **God**

Genesis 1:1 – *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”*

- **Adam** and **Eve**

Genesis 2:21-22 – *So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.*

- The **serpent**

Genesis 3:1 – *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”*

- **Cain** and **Abel**

Genesis 4:1-2 – *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.” And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.*

- **Noah**

Genesis 6:8-9 – *But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.*

- **Abraham** and **Sarah** (Isaac and Jacob)

Genesis 12:5 – *And Abram took Sarai his wife.*

- **Joseph**

Genesis 39:1-4 – *Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.*

What are the major (not exhaustive) **spiritual principles** in the book of Genesis?

- It's important to take a **day of rest** (Gen. 2)
- God gave a clear definition of **marriage** (Gen. 2)
- God's people face an **enemy** that's determined to deceive and destroy (Gen. 3)
- The first murder in the Bible was over a **worship** issue (Gen. 4)
- Sin always results in devastating **consequences** (Gen. 6)
- God's plan of **redemption** looks foolish to the world (Gen. 6)
- God calls people to come to Him on His **terms**, not theirs (Gen. 11)
- It's wise to do what God says even without all the **details** (Gen. 12)
- God expects His servants to obey Him even when His leadership doesn't **make sense** (Gen. 22)
- It's possible to sacrifice the future for the **pleasure** of the moment (Gen. 25)
- God enables His followers to be faithful in **tough times** (Gen. 39)
- **Grief** and **tears** are appropriate at the death of a loved one (Gen. 23 & 50)
- Believers need to practice **forgiveness**, not plot retaliation (Gen. 50)

How has God opened doors for you to experience "new beginnings?"