

Winchester Evangelical Church
Bible Study 1 - Genesis

***Reading* : Genesis 22:1-18**

Key Word : Beginning

Key Verse : 1:1 - **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

Message : The Failure of Man and the Salvation of God

Author : Moses

There are two books in the Bible hated by Satan - Genesis and Revelation - Both prophesy his downfall. Genesis - the Who, and Revelation - the How.

Satan has attempted to overthrow Genesis by attacks of Scientists and other critics - and Revelation by persuading people it is too mysterious.

Moses is generally regarded as the author of the first five books of the Bible - The Torah (the Law or Instruction) or the Pentateuch (Five books or five scrolls).

There is much discussion about how Moses learned of these accounts:

Compilation from ancient documents?

Or a Written record of traditional folk lore? - Many think this to be the case - In 'Paradise Lost' John Milton describes Gabriel relating to Adam the wonders of creation. Obviously, this is pure fiction, but the Lord, no doubt, would communicate coveted knowledge to Adam, who told Methuselah, who told Noah, who told Shem, who told Abraham, who told Isaac, who told Jacob, who told Joseph, from whose writings Moses would learn it.

But Acts 7:37-38 leaves us in no doubt - It was received from God - 'This is the Moses who told the Israelites, "God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people." He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us.

It was received by Moses from God on Mount Sinai.

Jesus spoke of the writings of Moses (John 5:46-47) - If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?

Dr Adam Clark : The narrative is so simple, so much like truth, so consistent everywhere with itself, so correct in its dates, so impartial in its biography, so accurate in its philosophical details, so pure in its morality, and so benevolent in its design, as amply to demonstrate that it never could have had an earthly origin.

It is written in prose, not poetry - Poetry is used in myth and legend,

while prose is an historical style. - Genesis is written, not in a mythical, but an historical style - it is history and fact, not fable.

The book can be divided into nine sections under the heading of 'Beginning' :

Part One - Primeval history, covering a period of over 2,000 years.

A) The beginning of the material universe - 1:1-25

Verse 1 gives us the original creation - Isaiah wrote of God's creating power - (Isaiah 45:18)

For this is what the Lord says –
he who created the heavens,
 he is God;
he who fashioned and made the earth,
 he founded it;
he did not create it to be empty,
 but formed it to be inhabited –
he says:
'I am the Lord,
 and there is no other.

We can also read of God's creation in 2 Peter 3:5-6 - But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

A reiteration that God spoke and it came into being.

B) The beginning of the human race - 1:26 - 2:25

We should note that man was created - he did not evolve.

He was placed in charge of Eden (2:15) The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

C) Beginning of human sin - 3:1-7

This was the first tampering with the Word of God - The woman subtracted from and added to the Word of God

She Saw, she Took and she Gave.

D) Beginning of revelations of redemption - 3:8-24

We read in these verses the first promise of a Redeemer -

And I will put enmity

between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head,

and you will strike his heel. (3:15)

E) Beginnings of human family life - 4:1-15

Here is the first family - Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel

Here is also the first family quarrel - over religion!

God likens sin to a wild beast - If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it. (4:7)

F) Beginning of Godless civilisation - 4:16 - 9:29

This is the first city built - Cain built it - a murderer - and named it after his son, Enoch - not the Enoch who walked with God!

G) Beginning of the nations of the world - Chapter 10

This is an important section as it shows us how the nations were formed from Noah's sons - (10:32) - From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.

H) Beginning of confusion of language - Chapter 11

This was a first attempt at unity without God - Through pride in themselves, the people tried to build a tower to reach to God. Then God muddled their languages, which caused the building to stop, and the people spread over the earth speaking different languages.

It shows how God was watching things and stepped in when it was needed. Something that God would continue to do and continues, to this day, to do.

Part Two - Patriarchal History, covering a period of over 300 years.

I) Beginning of the Hebrew Race - Chapters 12 - 50

This final section - the longest - is largely biographical - God calling a special people.

Abraham - and Sarah

Isaac

Easu and Jacob - youngest being chosen

Twelve sons - though the 11th son is the favourite and ends up leading his brothers

Yet, it is not Joseph, through whom the Messiah will come, but Judah.
(49:10) -

The sceptre will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until he to whom it belongs shall come
and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

The message of this book is, the failure of man under every situation, is met by the salvation of God.

It was necessary for man to know by failure, his own weakness and insufficiency, before he would voluntarily choose God.

Note: the book begins with God, and ends with a coffin!

What we learn is that human failure is met by Divine grace and activity.

Where sin increased, grace increased all the more (Romans 5:20)

Questions - Genesis 22

1. In Genesis 22:1 What is the difference between testing and temptation?

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything...

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:2-4, 12-15)

2. What and who does verse 2 remind you of?

3. What was Abraham confident of in verse 8?

4. Who speaks in verse 11?

Who does he claim to be in verse 12?

5. In verses 15-18 the Lord mentions 3 elements of blessing to Abraham. What are they?