



"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This is how God introduces His revelation to mankind. This quarter our focus will be upon "Beginnings." Because of the length of the book and the number of available classes, we will be unable to study the entire book of Genesis. Our attention will be upon the powerful lessons drawn from the first few chapters.

In this first lesson, we want to give an overview lesson about Genesis.

What we know about Genesis & Creation Before We Begin:

1. The book of Genesis is considered part of:
 A. The Torah B. The Pentateuch C. Neither D. Both
2. An example of a pre-historic animal would be:
 A. Alligator B. Brontosaurus C. Iguana D. None of these
3. When God made a lion, its original diet would have included:
 A. Small animals B. Large animals C. Plants D. A & B
4. No human being ever saw a living dinosaur
 A. True B. False C. We are unable to know
5. The difference between evolution and creation is:
 A. Evolution is based upon evidence and creation is based upon faith
 B. Evolution has been proven and creation has not been proven
 C. Evolution belongs in the classroom and creation belongs in the church house
 D. Both are systems of faith
6. The caveman concept is a good illustration of Adam
 A. True B. False C. We don't know
7. Adam was the first man
 A. Possibly B. Yes C. No D. We don't know

A. Genesis as a book

1. The authorship is attributed to Moses, though he is not named as the author
2. By word count, Genesis is the second largest book in the Bible (32,046 words).
 - only Jeremiah has more (33,002)
3. The word "Genesis" means "_____"
 - although Genesis reveals the beginning of "Everything", major concepts are first shown here
 Marriage, family, authority, sin, salvation, judgment, death
 - as its place in our Bibles, Genesis introduces us to three major beginnings
 (a)
 (b)
 (c)

4. Genesis begins with man in the garden of Eden and the book ends with the people of God in Egypt
 - chapters 1-11: Adam—Abraham (cover _____ years)
 - chapters 12-50: Abraham to Joseph's death (covers _____ years)
5. There are Ten Sections in Genesis set off by the Hebrew word 'Toledoth' - "generations" or "account"
 - 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10, 27; 25:12, 19; 36:1; 37:2
6. Why did God write Genesis?
 - it seems that Genesis was written by Moses while Israel was in the wilderness before the nation entered the promise land

Deut 18:9-13 “When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹² For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you. ¹³ You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. “

- to prepare the nation to God did two things for them
 - (a) repeated the law:
 - (b) reminded them of their origin and their relationship with the One True God

Different Explanations and Concepts of God

1. Pantheism: God and nature are identical. God is everything and everything is God.
2. Polytheism: there exists several gods (this is what was in the land Israel was going to)
3. Deism: God made the world but has removed Himself from it.
4. Agnosticism: we cannot be certain whether there is a god or not
5. Atheism: The denial of a supernatural God.
 - Freud said, “Religion is a projection of a wish by man. It is because of man's fears that God was created.” (The Future of an Illusion)
7. Monotheism: There is One God. God told Moses: I Am

Why is Genesis Important to Us?

1. It introduces us to _____
2. It answers the big _____ in life:
 - Where did I come from? Why am I here? Why is there suffering? Why do people have to die?
 - What is my purpose?
2. It establishes a chain of _____
3. It shows us the love of God in the _____
4. It defines what _____ is
5. It teaches us about _____
6. It describes how humans are _____ to the rest of creation
7. It _____ many of the preconceived ideas that we have heard and learned and shows that they are not true