



BEGINNING
OF VICTORY
A STUDY OF GENESIS
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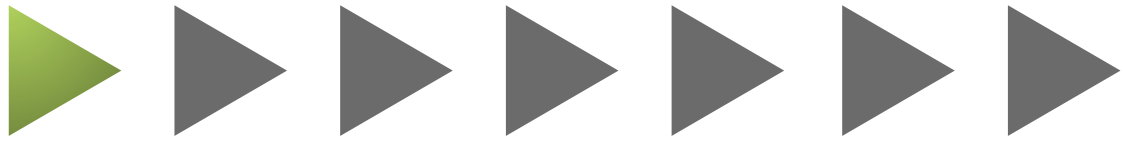
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I n t r o d u c t i o n

Victorious!

That is what we are. We are the victorious army of God's people looking forward to an eternal home with our victorious King. But every story has a beginning. **Genesis** is where ours begins. No doubt, the very beginning is grand as the universe bursts forth on the stage by the mighty power of the self-existent God (who is the one exception to the rule about beginnings). But the rest of our beginning is not all that flattering.

The mere fact that we are victorious implies some things. First, it implies an enemy to be victorious over. Second, it implies the possibility of failure and defeat. Therefore, it implies struggle and turmoil. That is exactly what we see as our story begins. **Genesis** forever puts to rest the idea that the Bible is a children's story book. We will read about the destruction of nearly every living thing through the flood. We will read about the awful blasphemy of men. We will read about the vileness of man as they try to violate the angels of the Lord in Sodom. We will read about extremely dysfunctional families, witnessing a legacy of that dysfunction. Parents playing favorites. Siblings wanting to kill each other (and one that even succeeds). Immorality, homosexuality, rape, incest, murder, wickedness, and sin.

In fact, at some point in the midst of this reading, you will likely wonder why God even bothered. But He did and He does. In the midst of all this defeat and failure of man, there is the seed of victory. A hope for something greater is planted and begins to germinate. A promised blessing begins. For all that is wicked and vile in the beginning of our story, we will see redemption, deliverance, and salvation. And recognizing that we will be amazed that this redemption, deliverance, and salvation happens with the very people who had allowed themselves to be so badly defeated. In that we will see comfort for us. And we will see the seeds and beginning of our victory.

Read through **Genesis** at least once as quickly as you can. Then read through it again as we go through the class. Pay careful attention to the beginnings and themes in this book. Pay careful attention to the foreshadowing of our victory in Jesus Christ. And pay careful attention to how this book would have been read by its original audience, the wilderness wandering Jews. *While there are many issues we can study in **Genesis** and many questions we can try to answer, we will go through this book with a specific emphasis on why Moses' original audience needed to hear what was in this book and then secondarily how what they learned from it applies to our victory in Jesus Christ today.*

This is going to be a great study, you won't want to miss a single session as we learn about the beginning of our victory.

Edwin L. Crozier



Author and Audience

Two keys we often overlook in understanding any book is recognizing the book's *author* and original intended *audience*. **Genesis** is no different.

Regarding authorship, there are plenty of theories about that for **Genesis**. They can get very creative and imaginative. But for we who believe Jesus is God, His word satisfies.

Regarding audience, no key will help us understand God's intent through **Genesis** than recognizing who the original audience was. We have to remember we are reading someone else's mail. Only when we grasp the victory **Genesis** was proclaiming for its original audience will we remotely grasp the victory it is proclaiming for its latest audience: us.

Jesus's Statements about the Pentateuch

1. According to Jesus in **Matthew 8:4**, who commanded the offerings in **Leviticus 14**?
2. According to Jesus in **Mark 10:3**, who gave the Israelites permission to divorce in **Deuteronomy 24**?
3. According to Jesus in **Mark 7:10**, who gave the commandment to honor father and mother in **Exodus 20:12** and the death penalty for dishonoring them in **Exodus 21:17**?
4. According to Jesus in **Luke 20:37**, whose book recounts the events of the burning bush found in **Exodus 3-4**?
5. Critics claim that just because the first century Jews believed Moses wrote the Pentateuch (**Genesis-Deuteronomy**) doesn't mean he did. However, that admits the common idea of the Jews at the time of Jesus was that Moses wrote **Genesis** as well as the other four books. How did Jesus place a stamp of approval on this common idea in **John 5:46**?
6. Considering the above, who does Jesus claim is the author of **Genesis**?

Moses

7. What do **Acts 7:20-22** and **Hebrews 11:23-28** tell us about Moses?

8. What were some of the key events in Moses' life that impacted who he was and became?

9. How does knowing all of this about Moses impact the way you will read **Genesis**?

The Original Audience

10. Considering what you know about Moses's life, when is the general time frame **Genesis** must have been written?

11. Who then was the original audience for **Genesis**?

The Original Audience's Story

12. How was the original audience connected to the people and events of **Genesis**?

13. At the time of **Genesis's** writing, what was the recent history of the original audience?

14. What was the goal set before original audience at that time Genesis was written?

15. What did Moses's original audience most need to hear?

16. What do you think might have been the original audience's greatest fears?

17. What do you think might have been Moses's greatest fears for his original audience?



Beginnings and Themes

Before we dig into the details, let's overview the whole book, looking at the forest before we examine the trees.

These are the Generations

1. A structural marker throughout **Genesis** is the phrase "these are the generations" or similar phrasing. This is a marker that talks about beginnings of families and lineages usually highlighting the descendants of the one mentioned or wrapping up the story of the one mentioned. For each of the passages below, list whose generations are discussed:
 - a. **Genesis 2:4** _____
 - b. **Genesis 5:1** _____
 - c. **Genesis 6:9** _____
 - d. **Genesis 10:1** _____
 - e. **Genesis 11:10** _____
 - f. **Genesis 11:27** _____
 - g. **Genesis 25:12-13** _____
 - h. **Genesis 25:19** _____
 - i. **Genesis 36:1, 9** _____
 - j. **Genesis 37:2** _____
2. Considering our last lesson, why would these generations matter to Moses' original audience: the Israelites?

Beginnings

3. List as many of the "beginnings" as you can recall from **Genesis**? Discuss how each beginning happened? (Try to go chronologically... i.e. start at the *very* beginning)

4. Let's give special attention to the beginning of our story and our victory. What does **Genesis** say about the beginning of our redemption story and our victory in Jesus?

Themes

Give at least one story or event in Genesis for each theme below:

1. God's sovereignty

2. God's fellowship with man

3. Sin and judgment

4. Plan for man's redemption

5. The covenant with Abraham

6. Egypt

7. Deliverance and victory



In the Beginning, God...

Read Genesis 1:1-2

The Bible is God's story. It is the story of God's creation and how He dealt with the rebellion of His creation. He is the ultimate beginning of all we see. In the first two verses of **Genesis** we learn about the God of the rest of the Bible. These verses set the tone for everything we should believe about God in direct contradiction of the modern mainstream ideas of the divine that plague our society and culture. No doubt, if the Bible is wrong, then the nature of God is up in the air, for surely there is no other "revelation" that gives such distinct and certain explanations of God as the Bible does. But the one thing we simply cannot do is pick and choose from the Bible. We cannot pick the parts about the God of the Bible that we like and ignore the rest. If we are going to accept the Bible, then these two verses tell us about our God who is our beginning.

The first five questions of this lesson are inspired by the following sentence found in Jack Cottrell's What the Bible Says about God the Creator.

This simple sentence denies *atheism*, for it assumes the Being of God. It denies *polytheism*, and among its various forms, the doctrine of two eternal principles, the one good and the other evil—for it confesses the one eternal Creator. It denies *materialism*, for it asserts the creation of matter. It denies *pantheism*, for it assumes the existence of God before all things, and apart from them. It denies *fatalism*, for it involves the freedom of the Eternal Being.¹

The God of the Bible

1. How does **Genesis 1:1-2** deny atheism?

2. How does **Genesis 1:1-2** deny polytheism?

3. How does **Genesis 1:1-2** deny materialism?

¹ Cottrell, Jack, What the Bible Says about God the Creator, Wipf and Stock, Eugene, OR, 1983, p. 106, quoting Revere F Weidner, Theologia, or The Doctring of God, Revell, New York, 1902, p. 80

4. How does **Genesis 1:1-2** deny pantheism?

5. How does **Genesis 1:1-2** deny fatalism?

6. Based on these two verses, what kind of God do we serve?

7. Why would Moses' original audience need to know this ^ about their God?

Our God

In **Romans 1:18-32**, Paul makes some arguments based on the principle of **Genesis 1:1-2** about how we should relate to God. Let's consider these arguments.

8. What must we do with the God of **Genesis 1:1-2** according to **Romans 1:21**?

9. What must we do with the God of **Genesis 1:1-2** according to **Romans 1:25**?

10. What must we do with the God of **Genesis 1:1-2** according to **Romans 1:28-31**?

11. What does the God of **Genesis 1:1-2** get to do according to **Romans 1:32**?



The Beginning of the Earth

Read Genesis 1:3-2:3

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” This is not the beginning of all things, because it is not the beginning of God. He is self-existent. He is not the effect of some other cause. He is Himself the ultimate cause of all other things. Prior to the events of **Genesis 1-2**, though there was God, there was no time. Therefore this is the beginning. It is not God’s beginning, but ours.

Examine this creation account with the original audience in mind. Why did they need to know what this account reveals? Then consider what we learn from that application.

The Creation

1. What happened on each day of the Creation week?
 - a. Day 1: _____
 - b. Day 2: _____
 - c. Day 3: _____
 - d. Day 4: _____
 - e. Day 5: _____
 - f. Day 6: _____
 - g. Day 7: _____
2. Re-examine days 1-6. Notice the parallels between days 1-3 and days 4-6. Show how they parallel below. (Hint: One set is the “place,” the other list are the “inhabitants.”)
 - a. Day 1 and Day 4: _____
 - b. Day 2 and Day 5: _____
 - c. Day 3 and Day 6: _____
3. What did God see about His creation each step of the way?
4. Why did the original audience, many of whom had grown up in Egypt, need to know what this chapter reveals about God and His power?
5. What do we learn about God from the creation account?

Man

6. What is the most significant difference between how God created man and the other creatures?

7. What directions did God give man and woman?

8. According to **Psalm 8**, what surprises the psalmist most by what is revealed in **Gen. 1**?

9. How did God's instruction to Adam and Eve parallel what Israel would be instructed as it was headed for the Promised Land?

The Sabbath

10. In the parallels we noticed above (Q2), there is no parallel to the seventh day. It stands alone. The parallel structure is building to the point of that day. According to **Genesis 2:3**, what did God do to the seventh day when He rested or completed His work on it?

11. What law for the Israelites in **Exodus 20** is based on this action of God?

12. Considering **Exodus 31:12-17**, why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear about God's Sabbath in **Genesis 2**?

13. Considering **Deuteronomy 5:12-15**, why else did these Jews need to hear about God's Sabbath?

14. This Sabbath was a sign for Israel, however according to **Hebrews 4** the Sabbath is significant to us as well. What is its significance for us?



The Beginning of Mankind

Read Genesis 2:4-25

In this passage, Moses presents another version of man and creation. The first one was earth-centered. This second one is man-centered. These versions do not contradict each other, they simply give different perspectives on the same event. The first shows God's creative work in ordering the earth. The second shows man as the crowning achievement of the creation and the partnership between God and man in the dominion of the land.

Neither of these accounts is intended to provide us with a "scientific" explanation of the universe, though any "scientific" explanation that denies the truths of these accounts is not truly scientific at all. When we try to press these records into our modern explanations we are missing the point. These were two stories inspired by God, told and recorded by Moses to explain their God and His creation to the Jews. If we miss the point these stories are striving to convey in our attempt to make them scientific and to make them coincide scientifically with each other, we will miss God's message for the Jews and for us.

Mankind

1. What two "substances" did God bring together to form man in **Genesis 2:7**?
2. What does this say about man's relationship with God?
3. What responsibility did God give man in **Genesis 2:15**?
4. Notice this responsibility is given before the fall. What does this tell us about work?
5. What is the first thing God said was not good about His creation?
6. What was God's "first attempt" for finding a companion for Adam?

7. Was Adam successful in finding a companion through this "first attempt"? Why or why not?
8. Since we can be assured God knew this "attempt" would fail, what important lesson or lessons did Adam and can we learn from this?
9. How did God provide a companion for Adam?
10. What do we learn from this companionship?
11. What was the great conclusion of this story of the first man and woman as explained in **Genesis 2:24**?

Partnership

12. According to this creation account in **Genesis 2:5**, what were the two reasons no bush or small plant had sprung up in the earth yet?
13. How does this show a partnership between God's work and man's?
14. Considering **Deuteronomy 11:8-17**, why did the Jews need to be reminded of this partnership?
15. Why do we need to be reminded of this partnership?



The Beginning of Sin

Read Genesis 3

Not every beginning is a good one. However, as we said in the introduction, the fact that we are talking about victory implies an enemy. We meet him in **Genesis 3**. His attack isn't material or physical. He doesn't come into the garden with a flaming sword ready to hew man and woman to the ground. Rather, he comes into the garden wily, subtle, and cunning with words to turn the couple away from God.

Sadly, the first couple cave to the attack and are defeated. God's good creation is forever changed (see **Romans 8:18-25**). But in the midst of this defeat, we see the seed of the coming victory. We see the beginning of our victory.

Temptation

1. How did the serpent tempt Eve?
2. Considering **Genesis 2:9**, had God been trying to withhold what was pleasant and good from the first couple?
3. What truth did the serpent convey and how did he lie?
4. What was the initial result of their sin?

Face to Face with God

5. Why do you think God called out "Where are you?"
6. How did Adam and Eve both deal with this opportunity to confess and repent?

7. What curse did God place on the serpent, the woman, and the man?

8. How does man's curse hearken back to the partnership between God and man we discussed in the last lesson? (pg 11)

The Jews and the Land

9. According to **Genesis 3:22-24**, what other consequence did the first couple face because they did not heed their God?

10. Considering **Leviticus 26**, what message did Israel need to understand from this account of Adam and Eve's sin and punishment?

Victory in the Midst of Defeat

11. Look again at the curse on the serpent. What would happen between the serpent and the woman, the serpent's seed and the woman's?

12. What will ultimately happen between the woman's seed and the serpent's?

13. Is the application here only to the relationship between snakes and men? Or is it about something else?

14. How do we see the beginning of victory in this promise to the serpent?



The Spread of Sin and Death

Read Genesis 4-5

Sadly, sin didn't end with Adam and Eve. It spread and grew. In only the second generation from creation, what seems to be the most extreme sin entered the world—murder. Not only murder—but the murder of a brother.

Further, **Genesis 5** seems to be written to proclaim the reign of sin and death from Adam onward. However, in the midst of death's reign, we once again see victory. Seth is born and his is a line who call on the Lord contrasted with Cain who leaves the presence of the Lord.

Cain

1. What warning did God give Cain after rejecting his sacrifice? How did Cain respond?
2. What was God's curse on Cain? In what way did God extend grace to Cain?
3. What was Moses' original audience in the middle of as they heard this account for the first time? What would they learn from it?

Lamech

4. Considering **Leviticus 24:20**, was Lamech's action justifiable?
5. How does Lamech add to the sin of murder with the sin of blasphemy?

Seth's Line

6. What did people begin to do during the life of Enosh, Seth's son?

7. Considering the contrast between **Genesis 4:16** and **Genesis 4:26**, what was the difference between the descendants of Cain and those of Seth?

8. Why is Seth, as a replacement for Abel, so significant to Moses' original audience?

Two Enochs

9. How was Enoch different from the rest of the list in **Genesis 5**? Why was he different?

10. Cain also had a son named Enoch. Cain built a city and named it after him apparently hoping to memorialize his son despite his own condemnation to wander. What is going to happen to the city named after Cain's Enoch in the next few chapters of **Genesis**?

11. Considering **Hebrews 11:5, 13-16**, how has the city of Seth's Enoch fared?

12. Why did the wandering Hebrews need to hear about these two Enochs?

Two Lamechs

13. What had the sons of Cain's Lamech accomplished back in **Genesis 4:19-22**?

14. What would the son of Seth's Lamech accomplish according to **Genesis 5:29**?

15. What do you learn from this contrast?



The Beginning of Judgment

Genesis 6:1-9:28 (Part 1)

Each of the stories in **Genesis 1-11** is a story of crime and punishment. But the epitome of this motif is seen in the ultimate judgment that comes upon mankind in the flood. This account accomplishes a couple of powerful things. First, it demonstrates God the Judge. Second, it shows the rebirth of God's creation. In this lesson, we'll consider God the Judge. In the next, we'll look at the rebirth of creation.

Sons of God, Daughters of Men, and Nephilim

There is a lot of debate regarding who the sons of God, the daughters of men, and the Nephilim were. We will not likely answer this question beyond doubt in this class. We really aren't going to try. Instead, no matter who these classifications ultimately represent, the lesson for the wandering Jews was the same.

1. Though textually the term "Nephilim" appears first to us as modern readers, when had the wilderness wandering Jews first heard the term Nephilim? (Hint: Look at **Numbers 13:33**)
2. What sin had the Jews in **Numbers 13** committed because they heard about the Nephilim?
3. What ultimately happens to the Nephilim of **Genesis 6**?
4. Why would this message be important for the wilderness wandering Jews to hear?
5. What happened with the wilderness wandering Jews in **Numbers 25**?
6. What command had the wilderness generation been given in **Exodus 34:11-16**?
7. What would happen to the Jews if they violated this law according to **Deuteron. 7:1-4**?

8. In **Genesis 6ff**, what is the ultimate result of the sons of God intermarrying with the daughters of man?

9. Considering the above, why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear about this intermarriage of the sons of God and the daughters of man?

Noah

10. What were the two reasons Noah and his family were set apart from the rest of creation according to **Genesis 6:8-9**?

11. What instruction did God give Noah and how did Noah respond?

12. How did God judge the earth?

13. What covenant did God make with Noah following the flood?

Canaan

14. We don't know exactly what Ham did that warranted the curse on Canaan, but that is really not important. This story isn't told to explain a sin we need to avoid. Considering the original audience of this account, why do you think this story of Canaan's curse was told? In other words, why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear this story?

Judgment and Us

15. What does Peter claim this universal judgment by flood means for us according to **II Peter 3:1-13**?



The Rebirth of Creation

Read **Genesis 6:1-9:28** (Part 2)

As God judged the world, He recreated the world. We see a rebirth of creation through water. This has important concepts for the original audience and the modern one.

Recreation

1. How do the following passages parallel each other?

- a. **Genesis 1:2** and **Genesis 8:1-2**: _____
- b. **Genesis 1:6-8** and **Genesis 8:2b**: _____
- c. **Genesis 1:9** and **Genesis 8:3-5**: _____
- d. **Genesis 1:20-23** and **Genesis 8:6-12**: _____
- e. **Genesis 1:24-25** and **Genesis 8:17-19**: _____
- f. **Genesis 1:26-28** and **Genesis 8:16, 18**: _____
- g. **Genesis 1:28** and **Genesis 9:1-2**: _____

2. What do you learn from this comparison?

The Original Audience

3. What did Noah do as soon as he left the ark in **Genesis 8:20ff**?

4. What did God do with Noah as soon as he got off the ark in **Genesis 9:8-17**?

5. What did God promise Noah in **Genesis 9:1-2**?

6. How had the wilderness wandering Jews been delivered from Egypt?

7. What did Israel and God do in **Exodus 24**?

8. Considering this, what should they have known when they came to the Promised Land the first time?
9. How did God bring Israel into the Promised Land according to **Joshua 3:14-17**?
10. What did God and Israel do once they were in the Promised Land in **Joshua 8:30-35**?
11. What did Rahab say about the people of the land in relation to Israel in **Joshua 2:9**? How does this parallel what God told Noah in **Genesis 9:1-2**?
12. With all of this in mind, why did Moses' original audience need to hear this account of Noah?

The Modern Audience

13. Considering passages like **Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Colossians 2:12; I Peter 3:21**, how is Moses' modern audience (you and me) delivered from sin?
14. How do we parallel creation, recreation, and Israel's birth in this?
15. What do God and we do after this deliverance as seen in **I Corinthians 11:23-26**?
16. What should we learn from these parallels?



The Beginning of the Nations

Read Genesis 10-14

After the re-creation, God had told man to spread out over the whole earth. But they didn't. In this story of crime and punishment we see the beginning of the nations, which leads into the beginning of God's nation through Abraham.

The Division into Nations

1. What had God told man to do in **Genesis 9:1**? What was man avoiding in **Genesis 11:4**?
2. What was man's goal in building the city and the tower according to **Genesis 11:4**? How does this mirror Eve's sin?
3. How does God's response in **Genesis 11:6-8** parallel what happened in **Gen. 3:22-24**?
4. Why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to know this account?

The Chosen Nation

5. In the genealogy of **Genesis 11:10-26**, who were the notable descendants of Shem?
6. What is the first thing we learn about Sarai other than she was Abram's wife?
7. Why is this important for the wilderness wandering Israelites to remember?

The Promise

8. What did God promise Abram in **Genesis 12:1-3**? ...in **Genesis 12:7**? Why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear this promise?

9. How does Abram's sojourn in Egypt in **Genesis 12:10-20** mirror the Jews' experiences?
10. What should this story remind wandering Israel of as they marched to the Promised Land?

Abram and Lot Separate

11. What trouble arose between Abram and Lot and what choice did Abram give Lot?
12. How was the land Lot chose described?
13. While a description of being like Eden and like Egypt seems wonderful on the surface, what underlying problems do these descriptions present? (Hint: **13:13** gives some insight)
14. Why did the wandering Jews need to hear God's word to Abram in **Gen. 13:14-18** again?

Abram is a Blessing

15. What happened to Lot in the beautiful land according to **Genesis 14**?
16. How was Lot rescued? How is this an early fulfillment of God's promise to Abram?
17. How does the situation with Melchizedek show early fulfillment of God's promise to Abram?
18. Why did Moses' original audience need to hear this story?



The Beginning of the Covenant

Genesis 15-17

God has already made Abram a promise, but in these chapters it is heightened to a covenant. No doubt, God's promise is sure. Yet, for Abram's sake God establishes a covenant. And while this is great history for us to know, we must be certain that every part of this is written to those wilderness wandering Jews who had to have fears about entering the Promised Land.

God Establishes the Covenant (ch 15)

1. What doubts did Abram express about God's promises?
2. When Abram asked how he could know for certain that God would give him the land, what happened?
3. What did Abram see passing in the midst of his sacrifice?
4. What had the wilderness wandering Jews seen that mirrors the smoking pot and the flaming torch?
5. How would this whole account encourage the wilderness wandering Jews?

A Figurative Trip Back to Egypt (ch 16)

6. What plan did Sarai establish to have children?
7. Where was Hagar from?

8. How did this attempt to have descendants by turning back to Egypt turn out for Abram and Sarai?

9. What would the wilderness wandering Jews learn from this account?

Circumcision

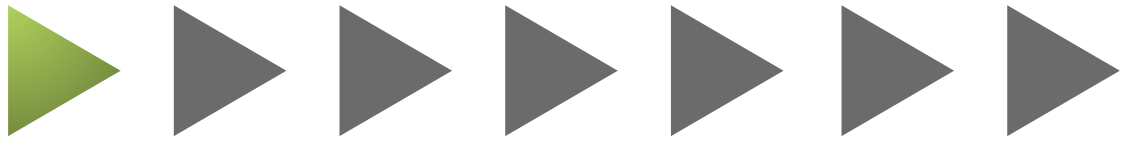
10. What did Abram need to do to be in covenant relationship with God according to **Genesis 17:1-2**?

11. According to **Genesis 17:7**, with whom was God establishing His covenant?

12. What was the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham?

13. What would the wilderness wandering Jews do once they ceased their wandering and crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land in **Joshua 5**?

14. What point did Moses drive home in this narrative for the Israelites in **Genesis 17:17-21**?



The End of Egypt

Genesis 18-19

Sadly, the great meaning of these two chapters is lost as we get sidetracked with theological questions about Abraham's bartering and with modern issues about homosexuality. Sure, these are good discussions to have, but only after we have figured out what is really going on here for the original audience and we have learned the real point for us. No doubt, this isn't the end of Egypt as a nation. However, it is the end of Egypt in **Genesis** and it is intended to be the end of Egypt in the hearts of the wilderness wandering Israelites.

The Sin of Sodom

1. Relate what happened between the Lord, Abraham, and Sarah when the "men" visited?
2. When Lot chose to move to Sodom, how was it described in **Genesis 13:10**?
3. Why was God going to destroy Sodom?
4. What does Abraham's bartering with God essentially tell us about Sodom and Gomorrah?
5. What does it tell us about God and judgment?
6. In **Genesis 19:1-11**, how was the sin of Sodom demonstrated?

Escape from "Egypt"

7. How did God show mercy to Lot?

8. What instruction was given to Lot in **Genesis 19:17**?

9. Abraham looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah in **Genesis 19:18** and nothing happened to him. What does that suggest about the looking back of Lot's wife in **Genesis 19:26**?

10. What problem did the wilderness wandering Jews repeat from **Exodus 14:11-12** to **Numbers 21:5**?

11. Why then did Moses' original audience need to hear this account of the destruction of Sodom and the death of Lot's wife?

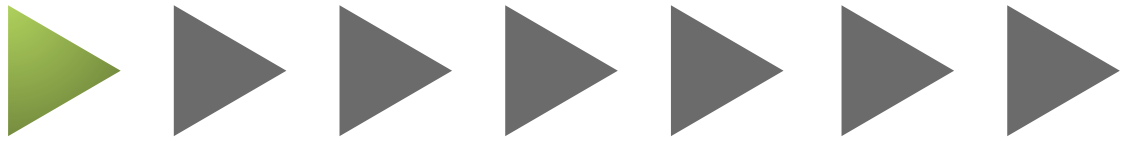
12. Why was Lot delivered according to **Genesis 19:29**?

13. Why was this important for the wilderness wandering Jews to hear?

Moab and Ammon

14. How did Moab and Ammon get started?

15. Why was this important to the wilderness wandering Jews?



T e s t s o f F a i t h

Genesis 20-22

Abraham is given to us as the epitome of faith in **Romans**, **Galatians**, and **Hebrews**. Most Bible students are aware of his great success of faith in **Genesis 22**. However, there is some considerable comfort given to us by his failure of faith in **Genesis 20**. Sandwiched between these two tests of faith we see God drive home to the wilderness wandering Jews the great message He had already conveyed through **Genesis 17**.

Failing the Faith Test

1. What same old sin did Abraham commit in **Genesis 20**?
2. How was this a flaw in Abraham's faith?
3. Why did God keep Abimelech from sinning with Sarah and keep him from death?
4. As the wilderness wandering Jews were entering Canaan and receiving God's command to bring hard judgment down upon the inhabitants, they might have questions about whether they were going too far. What lesson about God's judgment was being taught in **Genesis 20** that could set Israel's minds at ease?
5. Additionally, those Jews might be afraid that they will die at the hands of those who don't fear God. What lesson about God's power and sovereignty was being taught in **Gen. 20**?

Ishmael and Isaac

6. What happened to Hagar and Ishmael in **Genesis 21**?

7. This may seem harsh to us, but why was this important for the wandering Jews to hear?
8. What lesson does Paul claim this account allegorically provides for us under the New Covenant according to **Galatians 4:21-31**?

Room for Abraham

9. As God made room for Abraham in the Promised Land, what message was He sending to the wilderness wandering Jews with the account found in **Genesis 21:22-34**?

Passing the Faith Test

10. How did God put Abraham's faith to the test in **Genesis 22**?
11. What did Abraham believe according to **Romans 4:17** and **Hebrews 11:19**?
12. Upon what basis was Abraham's offspring going to enter the Promised Land according to **Genesis 22:16-18**?
13. Why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear this message?
14. How does this story of Isaac's sacrifice compare to the story of Jesus?
15. How does the message given to the wandering Jews in **Genesis 22:16-18** inspire the message we need to remember about why we will enter our Promised Land?



The Repetition of the Covenant

Genesis 23-26

This section seems to be such a repetition that critics want to claim **Genesis** is the result of a hack editor who pieced together stories and really didn't do a good job. In fact, he told differing versions of the same stories again and again. But that misses the point. Isaac's life mirrors Abraham's in multiple ways not because a bad editor put together made up stories in a weird order. Rather, it does that to drive home the message of the covenant with Israel. God gave that covenant to Abraham, but not only to Abraham, to Abraham's seed, Isaac. And if it was passed on to Abraham's seed Isaac, who could the Israelites trust were the inheritors of that covenant?

Abraham's Only Possession

1. In **Gen. 23**, we see Abraham's only true possession in the Promised Land. What was it?
2. Considering **Genesis 50:24-26** and **Exodus 13:19**, why is this important for the wilderness wandering Jews to hear?

A Wife for Isaac

3. What promise did Abraham extract from his servant?
4. How did that servant find a wife for Isaac?
5. Note especially **Genesis 24:7**. Then, considering **Exodus 23:20-23; 33:2**, what great message should the wilderness wandering Jews get from this account?
6. Why did Moses' original audience need to hear the blessing Rebekah's family gave her in **Genesis 24:60**?

From Isaac to Jacob

7. What parallels do you see between Jacob's birth and Isaac's?

8. What great point did the wilderness wandering Jews get from **Genesis 25:23**?

9. There is plenty of sin to go around in the whole mess between Esau and Jacob. But why did Esau lose his birthright?

10. According to **Exodus 32:6**, how did the generation before Moses' original audience mirror Esau in **Genesis 25:34**?

11. What lesson then should the wilderness wandering Jews learn from Esau?

God Repeats the Covenant

12. What condition did God place on Isaac for the covenant in **Genesis 26:1-5**?

13. What was the basis for Isaac's offspring receiving the covenant promises according to **Genesis 26:5**?

14. How does Isaac's experience mirror his father's in **Genesis 26**?

15. What lessons can we learn from this repetition?



The Beginning of Israel's Story

Genesis 27-30

What happens in these chapters is truly phenomenal. You could call it the beginning of Israel's story as a double entendre. Of course, we see the beginning of the story that ultimately leads to Jacob's name change to Israel. However, we also see a story that profoundly mirrors the story of the nation of Israel going into Egyptian servitude, then being delivered while plundering their master, and making their way back to the Promised Land. There is no doubt in my mind that this story of the person Israel is designed to encourage the nation Israel to march up to the Promised Land and take their God-given place there.

The Blessing

1. What blessing did Jacob receive? Why did Israel in the wilderness need to hear this?
2. How did Esau's "blessing" give comfort to Israel in the wilderness as well?
3. Why did Jacob leave the Promised Land?

The Covenant Confirmed to a New Generation

4. What promise did God make to Jacob in **Genesis 28:13-15**? Why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear this?
5. What was Jacob's "bargain" with God according to **Genesis 28:20-22**?
6. I admit the bargain sounds overly bold to me. However, considering **Deuteronomy 8:4; 29:5**, what powerful parallel should the wilderness wandering Jews see in this bargain and what should it mean for them?

Wives for Jacob

7. List the parallels and the differences in **Genesis 29** to the story of Isaac getting a wife.

8. How does Laban's deception of Jacob mirror Jacob's earlier deception of Isaac?
9. How does Jacob's time in Paddan-Aram mirror Israel's time in Egypt?

Children for Jacob

10. Describe the baby battle between Leah and Rachel?

11. Why might this whole battle be of interest to Moses' original audience?

Prosperity for Jacob

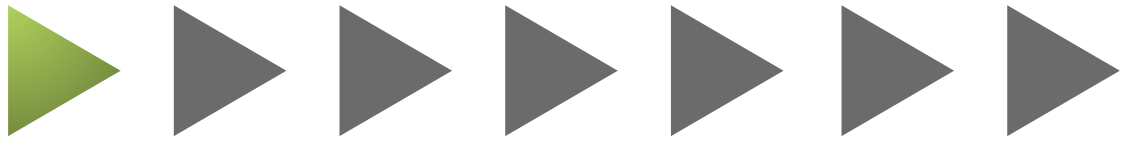
12. What agreement did Jacob and Laban reach in **Genesis 30:31-34**?

13. How did Laban try to stack the deck in his own favor?

14. What did Jacob mean when he said "You shall not give me anything" in **Genesis 30:31**?

15. Though Jacob clearly had a plan for gaining wages from Laban, to whom will he give the credit in **Genesis 31:9**?

16. How does this account show Moses' readers that God keeps His covenant promises?



I s r a e l R e t u r n s

Genesis 31-33

This truly powerful parallel between Israel the person and Israel the nation continues in these chapters. By revealing Jacob's story to them, God drives home His profound point that the generation born during the wilderness wanderings must not repeat their parents' mistake.

Escaping Servitude

1. How had Jacob spent his time with Laban and how did that parallel Israel's time in Egypt?
2. What did Laban's sons say about Jacob in **Genesis 31:1** and how did that parallel Israel's exodus from Egypt as seen in **Exodus 12:36**?
3. What did Laban do when he found out about Jacob's flight and how does that mirror what happened to Israel when they fled Egypt?
4. What kept Laban from doing Jacob any harm and how does that parallel what happened to Israel when chased by Egypt?

God's Camp

5. After Laban left, who visited Jacob? How does this bookend his time away from the Land?

Jacob's Prayer and Plan

6. What was Jacob's plan to limit damage from and appease his brother, Esau in **Genesis 32:7-8; 13-21**?
7. What did Jacob say God had done for him in his prayer of **Genesis 32:10** and how does that parallel the nation of Israel's time in Egypt?

The Wrestling Match

8. Jacob sends his family across the Jabbok. How does that parallel Israel's entrance into the Promised Land?

9. God sends a messenger to wrestle with Jacob. How did the wrestling match turn out?

10. Why did Jacob ultimately receive the blessing that he had stolen from Esau? How did Jacob's attitude here contrast with Esau's earlier attitude about the birthright?

11. What new name did God give Jacob?

Room in the Land

12. What did Jacob seem to fear most as he returned to the Promised Land?

13. What was Esau's surprising response to Jacob's return?

14. Who did Jacob credit for his prosperity? Who is conspicuously absent from Esau's statement about his own prosperity? How does this show that Esau's attitude about birthrights (and even blessings) hasn't changed all that much?

15. Despite Jacob's fear that Esau would drive Jacob out or destroy him from off the land, what did God accomplish for Israel? Why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear this account?

16. How did Jacob at least partially fulfill his **Genesis 28:21** promise in **Genesis 33:20**?



The Land's Inhabitants

Genesis 34-36

Edwin Crozier, the author of this material, admits that his interpretation of the Levi and Simeon story is unique. In the first 4 questions of this lesson we will consider the actions they took against Shechem and the reaction of Jacob. Usually we would assume they acted wrongly and Jacob did rightly by rebuking them. But maybe there is another way to look at it that could resonate with the Israelites reading this letter, as they prepared to cross the Jordan and destroy evil nations.

Beginning of Judgment on the Land's Inhabitants

1. What is one of God's number one warnings for the wilderness wandering Jews as they approach the Promised Land in passages like **Exodus 34:12-16** and **Deuteronomy 7:3**?
2. Instead, what was Israel supposed to do to the inhabitants of the Promised Land according to passages like **Deuteronomy 7:2**?
3. When we have this in mind and we have seen the numerous parallels between the accounts of **Genesis** and the messages the wilderness Jews needed to hear, what message would Israel get from **Genesis 34**?
4. Is Jacob's rebuke in **Genesis 34:30** a message from God or a lack of faith on Jacob's part? (Before you answer this question, notice **Genesis 35:5** and consider what bearing that has on this question.)

The Return to Bethel

5. What direction does God give Jacob in **Genesis 35:1** and why is it surprising that God had to do that?
6. Considering **Exodus 32** and passages like **Joshua 24:23**, how does Jacob's command to his family mirror what the wilderness wandering Jews needed to hear?

7. Why do you think Jacob also buried the rings that were in their ears?
8. What happened to the cities that Israel travelled past in **Genesis 35:5** and how did that parallel Israel's conquest into the Promised Land?
9. Why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear the message of **Genesis 35:11-12**?

Death

10. Considering **Genesis 30:1**, why is Rachel's death ironic?
11. What is surprising and sad about Rachel's burial?
12. Considering that Rachel had been Jacob's favorite wife, why is his renaming of Ben-oni to Benjamin somewhat surprising?

Room in the Land

13. Where had Esau acquired all his possessions according to **Genesis 36:6**?
14. However, when Jacob returned to Canaan, what did Esau do?
15. Why did the wilderness Jews need to hear this?



The Beginning of Deliverance

Genesis 37

Israel doesn't know it yet, but a famine is coming. It will threaten the future of his family and God's promise. But God has a plan. This chapter is the shocking beginning to a story of deliverance. In fact, it might even be seen as a microcosmic parallel to the fact that all the wickedness of the entire book of **Genesis** houses the beginning of our own deliverance and victory.

He Dreamed a Dream

1. How did Joseph alienate his brothers in **Genesis 37:2**?
2. How did Jacob repeat the mistakes of his own parents in **Genesis 37:3**?
3. According to **Genesis 37:3**, why did Jacob love Joseph more? Why is that reason a bit surprising to us?
4. Joseph's story is bookended by dreams. How did his first dream alienate his brothers even more?
5. Though Jacob rebuked Joseph for the report of his second dream, what does **Genesis 37:11** say he did with the report? What might this indicate about Jacob's thinking regarding Joseph?

A Repeated Story

6. How is this whole story in **Genesis 37:12-36** a repeated theme throughout **Genesis**?

7. How did Jacob demonstrate his total ignorance of his family's situation in **Genesis 37:13**?

8. What did the brothers conspire to do when they first saw Joseph coming?

9. According to **Genesis 37:21-22**, in what way did Reuben try to make up for his sin against his father in **Genesis 35:22**?

10. What plan did Judah devise to gain benefit from this whole situation with Joseph?

11. How did the brothers deceive Jacob?

12. How does this come full circle to Jacob's own deception of his father?

13. How did Jacob respond to this deception?

14. Where had Joseph ended up?

15. Why did the wilderness wandering Jew need to hear this story?



Joseph's Victory

Genesis 38-41

Talk about a picture of ultimate victory of Jesus. Joseph is sacrificed by his brothers but ends up being lifted up above them all. What a story! And right in the middle of it we actually see the shocking story of our Messiah's beginning and a potential turning point in Judah's life.

The Fruits of Intermarriage

1. Who did Judah marry? What is wrong with this picture?
2. What kind of boys were Judah's two oldest sons? What happened to them because of it?
3. How does this mirror what we've seen in previous lessons about the Jews intermarrying with the people of the land?

Tamar's Trickery

4. How do Judah's actions in **Genesis 38:18** mirror Esau's in **Genesis 25:29-34**?
5. How does Judah demonstrate hypocrisy in **Genesis 38:24**?
6. When Judah realized what had happened, what was his judgment of Tamar? Is this necessarily God's judgment of her?
7. What surprising thing do we learn in **Matthew 1:3**?

Potiphar's Wife

8. How is Joseph in Potiphar's house a representation of God's promises to Abraham as recorded in **Genesis 12:2-3**?

9. Consider **Genesis 39:8-9**. Why did Joseph refuse to commit sin with Potiphar's wife? How does this mirror why we should avoid sin?

10. What was the result of Joseph's faithfulness to the Lord?

Prison Dreams

11. How would Joseph's experiences in prison be an encouragement to Moses' original audience?

12. How did the cupbearer reward Joseph's dream interpretation?

Pharaoh's Dreams

13. What dreams did Pharaoh have?

14. What was Joseph's interpretation of the dreams?

15. What was Joseph's advice to Pharaoh? What reward did Joseph receive?

16. How were the names of Joseph's two sons good messages for wilderness wandering Jews?



Israel's Deliverance

Genesis 42-46

Jacob had been afraid his family would be crushed by the people of Canaan, but now the threat is nature. A famine has Jacob and his family looking to Egypt. Little do they realize it also has them looking to Joseph. Who would have thought the one they sold into slavery was not second in command of all Egypt?

The First Trip into Egypt

1. How did Joseph's brothers fulfill his earlier dreams?
2. What was Joseph's first plan for testing the honesty of the brothers in **Genesis 42:16**?
3. What was the second plan in **Genesis 42:18-20**?
4. Why did the brothers think this was happening to them?
5. Why were the brothers scared when they returned home?

The Test in the Second Trip to Egypt

6. How did Joseph determine to test his brothers when they came to Egypt the second time?
7. How does this test mirror what happened in **Genesis 31:25-35**? How does it differ?

8. What two offers did Judah make in **Genesis 44:16-34** and how did Joseph respond?

The Big Reveal

9. When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, who did he claim actually sent him into Egypt? What was His purpose for sending Joseph into Egypt?

10. What did Joseph ask of his brothers?

11. What did Pharaoh offer Joseph for his family?

The Move to Egypt

12. What promise did God make to Jacob in **Genesis 46:3-4**? Why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear this promise?

13. How many Israelites went down into Egypt?

14. What was Joseph's plan to get his family into some of the best land of Egypt?

15. Why was this whole story powerful for the wilderness wandering Jews to hear?



Joseph Lifts Up Pharaoh

Genesis 47

The fulfillment of God's covenant promises to Abraham continues as Joseph is a blessing to Pharaoh and Egypt. In the midst of this, God provides the wilderness wandering Jews with a great assurance as they prepare to go into their land.

The Land of Goshen

1. What did Pharaoh call the land of Goshen in **Genesis 47:6**?
2. Why is this a great message for the wilderness wandering Jews to hear as they prepare to enter the Promised Land?
3. What did Pharaoh want Jacob and his family to do for him according to **Genesis 47:6**?
4. According to **Genesis 47:7**, how did Jacob fulfill God's promise to Abraham in **Genesis 12:2-3**?

Joseph Blesses Pharaoh

5. What did Joseph collect from Egypt first according to **Genesis 47:14**?
6. What did Joseph collect from Egypt next according to **Genesis 47:16-17**?
7. What did Joseph collect from Egypt next according to **Genesis 47:18-21**?

8. What one exception did Joseph make in all this trading?
9. No doubt, Egyptian priests should not be confused with God's priests, however, what kind of message did this send to the Jews who were entering into the Promised Land?

Fruitful and Multiplied

10. According to **Genesis 45:5-7**, what had Joseph said the purpose of his going to Egypt had actually been?

11. How do we see that fulfilled in **Genesis 47:27**?

12. Why is that a great message for the wilderness wandering Jews to hear?

Joseph's Promise to Jacob

13. What promise did Jacob secure from Joseph in **Genesis 47:29-31**?

14. How does this prefigure Joseph himself as will be seen in **Genesis 50:25**?

15. Why did the wilderness wandering Jews need to hear this?



Blessings on the Tribes

Genesis 48:1-49:27

As happened multiple times, God reveals His promises to Israel through the blessings of their fathers. Jacob blesses Joseph's sons and then blesses his sons. Though admittedly, some of the blessings seem a little more like curses, the key point is Jacob had faith that more than a move into Egypt was going to happen. He had faith that the families of his boys were going to grow.

Ephraim, Manasseh, and the Promises of God

1. What promise does Moses make sure the wilderness wandering Jews keep hearing throughout **Genesis** as seen in **Genesis 48:4, 21**?
2. What did Jacob say about Ephraim and Manasseh in **Genesis 48:5**?
3. What blessing did Jacob speak on Ephraim and Manasseh?
4. Why was Joseph upset?
5. Why had Isaac switched the blessings on his two sons years ago? Though Jacob was also nearly blind, why did he switch the blessings on his two "sons" in this passage?
6. How did Jacob bless Joseph above his brothers in **Genesis 48:22**?

Blessings on Jacob's Boys

7. Why was it important for the wilderness wandering Jews to hear about these blessings?

8. Do whatever scriptural research you can and explain these blessings as best you can:

a. Reuben:

b. Simeon and Levi:

c. Judah:

d. Zebulun:

e. Issachar:

f. Dan:

g. Gad:

h. Asher:

i. Naphtali:

j. Joseph:

k. Benjamin:



Jacob and Joseph Die

Genesis 49:28-50:26

It is the end of **Genesis**, but even in this final chapter, we still see **Genesis** as the beginning of Israel's ultimate victory and of our ultimate victory. Israel's victory over the Promised Land was constantly foreshadowed almost every step of the way. And even in the midst of all this message directly to the wilderness Jews, we see the seeds of our victory in Jesus Christ. What a profound book Genesis is.

Jacob Dies

1. What promise did Jacob extract from his sons?
2. Who had been buried in that tomb?
3. Considering Jacob's history with his wives, what is surprising about who is buried there?
4. What request did Joseph make of Pharaoh? What was Pharaoh's response?
5. Though it was in death, what good news does Jacob's burial convey to Moses' original readers?

Joseph's Brothers

6. What old fear resurfaced among Joseph's brothers after their father's death?

7. How did they try to protect themselves from this fear?
8. What was Joseph's response to their fears?
9. What did Joseph say about God's providence in this response?

Joseph Dies

10. How long did Joseph live?
11. How many generations did Joseph see?
12. It may seem funny to us to see this book end with two deaths. However, it really ends with the promise Joseph has his brothers make. What was the promise?
13. I know we've asked this often, but as Moses himself by God's inspiration made this point over and over, we should too. Why did Moses' original audience need to hear this?
14. Considering **Exodus 13:19**, what did Moses' original audience know they had in their possession? What then could they be convinced God was going to do for them?



Review of Genesis

1. What were some of the favorite lessons you learned through this class?
2. What were some of the most interesting lessons you learned through this class?
3. What were some of the most surprising lessons you learned through this class?
4. Were there any lessons you think we missed throughout this class that you want to mention before we cease our study?
5. If you could summarize God's message for His wilderness wandering Israelites from **Genesis**, how would you summarize it?
6. If you could summarize God's message for us in **Genesis**, how would you summarize it?

