

A Summary Story of the Bible

The Bible is composed of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Bible was written by about 40 authors in about 20 occupations, living in 10 countries spanning about 6,000 miles, and over about 1600 years of time (possibly 2,000 years if Job was written in patriarchal period). Portions of the Bible were originally written in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The Bible records a cast of 2,930 different characters. Over 1,550 geographical sites are mentioned in various scenes of the Bible. Yet, careful study of the Bible show a most amazing continuity of thought, of consistency, of revelation and of insight than anyone could possibly conceive.

The Bible could be summarized as follows:

Genesis, or 'the Book of Beginnings', tells or reveals how God created the heavens and the earth, all creatures therein, and mankind, all in perfect harmony with Himself. Therefore, God pre-existed the Creation and exists apart and independent of the Creation. Adam and Eve were given dominion through God over the creation. Satan, an outlaw spirit, then tempts Eve, and both disobey God, and sin enters the human race. Adam and Eve lose their relationship with God, and die spiritually. Dominion is lost, and a curse falls on the whole of creation, including mankind, who now are forced to serve their new god, Satan. God the Father, in His love for mankind, launches a plan of redemption. He chooses a man, Abram, through which to work salvation. This one man results in one family line, one people, one nation, Israel, through which God redeems the human race. A future "seed" of Abraham, Jesus, completes God's plan of redemption. The OT foreshadows in the natural what is fulfilled spiritually in the NT through the birth, death, resurrection, and ascension of God's only Son. Through this sacrifice of the Lamb of God, God redeems many sons and daughters to himself. We, the redeemed of God, are then given a commission to bring the message of reconciliation to the whole human race. God's **Creative Order** is replaced by His **Redemptive Order** until He restores all creation to Himself, and sin and rebellion are abolished forever. The curse will pass away, and a new creation will arise in which God is ruler over all.

Genesis is a history book. It tells the life stories of many important people. For example: Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel; Noah; Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Ishmael; Jacob; and Joseph and his brothers.

Perhaps a better title would be the First Testament. The word "old" tends to give the idea of "outdated" or "not-relevant." That could not be further from the truth.

The First Five books of the Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, are authored by Moses. The Book of Genesis has sometimes been called the "seed-plot" of the entire Bible. Most of the major doctrines in the Bible are introduced in "seed" form in the Book of Genesis. Along with the fall of man, God's promise of salvation or redemption is recorded (Genesis 3:15). The doctrines of creation, imputation of sin, justification, atonement, depravity, wrath, grace, sovereignty, responsibility, and many more are all addressed in this "seed" Book called Genesis.

Many of the great questions of life are answered in Genesis. (1) Where have I come from? (answered in Genesis 1:1) (2) Why am I here? (answered in Genesis 15:6) (3) Where am I going? (answered in Genesis 25:8). Genesis has appeal to the scientist, the historian, the theologian, the housewife, the farmer, the traveler, and the man or woman of God. It is a fitting beginning for God's story of His love for mankind, the Bible.

Key Verses: Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 3:15, "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."

Genesis 12:2-3, "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 50:20, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

Brief Summary: One can divide the Book of Genesis into two sections: Primitive and Patriarchal History. Primitive history records (1) Creation (Genesis chapters 1-2); (2) the Fall of man (Genesis chapters 3-5); (3) the Flood (Genesis chapters 6-9); and (4) the dispersion (Genesis chapters 10-11). Patriarchal history records the lives of four great men: (1) Abraham (Genesis 12-25:8); (2) Isaac (Genesis 21:1-35-29); (3) Jacob (Genesis 25:21-50:14); and (4) Joseph (Genesis 30:22-50:26).

God created a universe that was good and free from sin. God created humanity to have a personal relationship with. Adam and Eve sinned and thereby brought evil and death into the world. Evil increased steadily in the world until there was only one family in which God found anything good. God sent the Flood to wipe out evil, but delivered Noah and his family along with the animals in the Ark. After the Flood, humanity began again to multiply and spread throughout the world.

God chose Abraham through whom He would create a chosen people and eventually the promised Messiah. The chosen line was passed on to Abraham's son Isaac, and then Isaac's son Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to Israel, and his twelve sons became the ancestors of the twelve tribes of Israel. In His sovereignty, God had Jacob's son Joseph sent to Egypt by the despicable

actions of Joseph's brothers. This intended evil act eventually resulted in Jacob and his family being saved from a devastating famine by Joseph, who had risen to great power in Egypt.

Practical Application: God created the universe, the earth, and every living being. We can trust Him to handle the concerns in our life. God allows us to make our own decisions, and then allows us to live with the consequences of our decisions - but God never abandons us and promises deliverance to those who will trust in Him.

God can take a hopeless situation, i.e. Abraham and Sarah being childless, and do amazing things if we will simply trust and obey. Terrible and unjust things may happen in your life, i.e. Joseph, but God will bring about a greater good if we have faith in Him and His sovereign plan.