

Today's Light Bible Readings



Week 1: The Book of Genesis 1:1-12:9

▶ **INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF GENESIS**

NAME OF BOOK: Genesis is a Greek word meaning “origins, beginnings.” It is an appropriate name as the first book of the Bible gives us information about the origin of the universe and of the human race as well as the tragic details of the origin of sin and its ugly consequences.

AUTHOR: The author of the book is never specifically mentioned in the book of Genesis. Scripture treats the first five books of the Bible as a unit called the “Torah (usually translated as “law”) of Moses,” indicating that it was Moses who was the author.

CONTENT / PURPOSE: God gave us the book of Genesis in order to trace the plan of God’s saving activity. It is in Genesis that we learn how sin entered the world and how God began to put into action his awesome rescue operation by which he would save men from sin.

OUTLINE OF GENESIS: Theme: Salvation History—In the Beginning

Introduction—God made the universe (1:1-2:3)

1. Salvation History in the Original World
 - A. The Account of Heaven and Earth (2:4-4:26)
 - B. The Account of Adam (5:1-6:8)
 - C. The Account of Noah (6:9-9:29)
 - D. The Account of the sons of Noah (10:1-11:9)
 - E. The Account of Shem (11:10-26)

2. Salvation History among the Patriarchs
 - A. The account of Terah (11:27-25:11)
 - B. The account of Ishmael (25:12-18)
 - C. The account of Isaac (25:19-35:29)
 - D. The account of Esau (36:1-43)
 - E. The account of Jacob (37:1-50:26)

▶ Monday: Genesis 1-2

1:5 - **“And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.”** This appears at the end of each day of creation. The Hebrew leads us to understand them to be specific days of 24-hour duration.

1:26 - **“In our image”**—God is spirit. To be made in his image cannot mean that we look like him but that we are like him in holiness and perfection.

- How was man's creation different from that of the animals?

▶ Tuesday: Genesis 3

This is one of the most important chapters in the Scripture. It teaches us how the perfect world got to be what it is today. It lays the foundation on which the rest of Scripture is built, and forms the foundation for a true understanding of human nature and morality. It gives us the first promise of a Savior from sin.

- God did not leave Adam and Eve in their guilt. Verse 15 is the first gospel promise. In this one short verse is found a wealth of good news. Explain the promise God gives here.

▶ Wednesday: Genesis 4-6:8

4:26 - **“To call on the name of the LORD”**—To pray, to preach, to worship God

5:3 - **“In his own likeness, in his own image”**—God had created Adam and Eve in his image. They had been holy and perfect. But things had changed. The image of God had been lost, and now children were being born in the image and likeness of their sinful, mortal parents

- What was the difference between Cain's sacrifice and Abel's?

▶ Thursday: Genesis 6:9-8:22

7:11 - **“On the seventeenth day of the second month”**—From all the time references given, we learn that Noah were in the ark about 13 months.

8:20 - **“Clean animals and clean birds”**—God made clear distinctions between clean and unclean animals. This was to remind the Israelites that there is a clear distinction between sin and righteousness.

- Verse 9 says that Noah was a righteous man. What does it mean that Noah was righteous? What constitutes righteousness?

▶ Friday: Genesis 9-10

9:21 - **“He became drunk.”** God is showing the sinfulness of Noah in unblinking honesty. Noah was a real man, a saint who was also a sinner.

- How did God protect mankind from the animals' hostility?
- What covenant did God make between himself and all living creatures after the flood?

▶ Saturday: Genesis 11-12:9

12:8 - **“There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.”** We are to proclaim God's words and deeds and worship him

- The people of Babel wanted to make a name for themselves rather than glorify God. This is a humanistic impulse rising to the surface. How does humanism rear its head today? What does the account of the Tower of Babel teach us about humanism?

▶ The Answers

Monday

- Although both were created from the ground, Adam was personally formed by God, and God himself breathed into him the breath of life. This shows that man is distinct from the animals

Tuesday

- After Adam and Eve sinned, there was peace between them and Satan, and there was enmity (hostility) between them and God. God would turn the tables. Peace between him and Adam and Eve would be restored. But Adam and Eve and their offspring would have to suffer at Satan's hand and at the hand of his followers as these forces of evil sought to undermine and destroy God's plan of salvation in Christ. The Savior would kill Satan and undo his work. This points ahead to the great battle the Savior would wage against Satan.

Wednesday

- The real difference lay in their hearts. Cain was not a believer and Abel was. If there was any difference in the actual quality of the offering, it was only a symptom of the vast difference between their hearts. Gifts that make our God rejoice are gifts that stem from our love for him.

Thursday

- The Lord had forgiven his sins through faith in the promised Savior. Noah dedicated his life to serving the Lord and keeping his will.

Friday

- He placed a natural fear of mankind into their hearts.
- He would never again destroy the world with a flood. In fact, he gave a sign of his promise, the rainbow.

Saturday

- Science dominates our thinking. Instead of exploring this world in order to glorify God, many explore the world to glorify mankind. Many economists argue for a single unified economy that they claim will take care of our needs. The attitude of "me" - look at what "I've" done, made, or earned.