

Memory Verse

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the
heavens and the earth.

GRACELIFE CHURCH



Thematic Overview of Genesis 1-12

**Pt 1 – Intr. and
God the Creator**

We will talk about creation, dinosaurs, humans, marriage, sexuality, sin, the ark, the flood, science, the Abrahamic covenant and more. Each lesson will be a **short systematic theology**, with *questions answered* within each topic.

We can't cover everything, and answer every question, but my goal is to help you **develop a Biblical worldview based on these chapters**, as they answer many questions people ask.

A. Introduction and Outline to Genesis

Genesis is the book of "beginnings." We have the beginning of: creation, humanity, animals, sin, marriage, death, languages, culture, government, the nation of Israel and more. While there are *various views* of the writer and timeframe this book was written, I believe the Biblical view is that this was *written by Moses about 1445BC*, after the Israelites were freed from Egypt.

A. Introduction and Outline to Genesis

Moses wrote this before the *Israelites went into the Promised Land of Canaan* and that determined some of the topics he chose to write about. Once you get to Abraham in *chapter 12*, the text focuses on the **Patriarch's or fathers** and *leaders of the nation of Israel*, with their victories, faith, and lack thereof. This *transitions* to the book of **Exodus**, where we are introduced to the man Moses.

A. Introduction and Outline to Genesis

Genesis 1-2 - Creation

Genesis 3 - The Fall

Genesis 4-5 - Family of Adam and Eve

Genesis 6-9 - Worldwide Flood

Genesis 10-11 - The Nations and Tower of Babel

Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

Genesis 26-27:45 - Isaac

Genesis 27:46-36:43 - Jacob

Genesis 37-50 - Joseph

B. God the Creator

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

B. God the Creator

The *Bible begins with the declaration that there is one God.* The Hebrew word used here is "**Elohim**." This is a plural word, but when the Bible speaks of God, we know He is one God revealed in a complex unity, Trinity, or Tri-Unity. He is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Some say *Elohim* refers to God's plurality of majesty, and others say it is a reference to the Tri-Une nature of God.

B. God the Creator

Christians believe in one God. This is known as ***Monotheism*** - mono = one and theism = a god. We do **not** believe in 3 gods, 3 modes or manifestations of the one God. This God was the *God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Isaiah, Micah, John the Baptist, "Father" of Jesus (as the Son of God), Paul and others in the Bible.* But the Bible refers to other "*gods*."

B. God the Creator

Why is that? When Scripture was written, known as the Ancient Near East or *ANE*, it was accepted that there were *other deities or gods that existed*. This is known as **Henotheism**, and hard for us to grasp.

B. God the Creator

Historically, and in other parts of the world today, some *cultures believe in a multitude of gods.* Hinduism, Native American folk religion, ancestor worship, and *other false religions* believe there are a multitude of gods or spirits. Historically and in some places today, these gods are viewed as **local deities**. They live on a *mountain*, in the *water*, the *desert*, *sky*, or in the *trees and rocks*.

B. God the Creator

The Israelites came out of Egyptian bondage. There were numerous gods worshipped in Egypt. While they knew of and some believed in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they were exposed to and to an extent, **embraced some pagan worship practices.**



B. God the Creator

Psalm 115:4 - Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.

Psalm 135:15 - The idols of the nations are
silver and gold, the work of human hands.

B. God the Creator

Revelation 9:20 - The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,

B. God the Creator

Psalm 19:1-2 - The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
2Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

Isaiah 40:28 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

B. God the Creator

Revelation 4:11 - “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

B. God the Creator

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

B. God the Creator

Colossians 1:15-17 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn [*pre-eminent*] of all creation.

16For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him.

17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

B. God the Creator

Exodus 34:1-8

The LORD said to Moses, “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. 2Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. 3No one shall come up with you, and let

B. God the Creator

no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain."

4So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone.

5The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

6The LORD passed before him and proclaimed,

B. God the Creator

“The LORD, the LORD, a God **merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,** 7**keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”** 8And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

B. God the Creator

The last part regarding visiting iniquity has tripped up many people and been *taken out of context*. Verse 7 is a Hebrew figure of speech that **contrasts** God's abounding love toward "thousands" by forgiving their transgression and sin, and His judgment to "*the third and fourth generation*" or **limitations** of His discipline.

C. Implications of God as the Creator

- 1. We are all accountable to Him**
- 2. We serve Him, He does not serve us**
- 3. He has first and final say so on what happens in His universe**
- 4. We should turn to Him and trust Him**
- 5. We should worship Him**