

In the beginning... Genesis Introduction

To a world mired in sin and suffering, fear and futility, Genesis triumphantly declares that there is one true God whose power gives us security, whose calling provides us significance, whose grace grants us forgiveness, and whose promises give us hope.

Why Study Genesis?

1. Genesis provides answers

- Why does the universe exist?
- Why do I exist?
- How can I find purpose and peace?
- Why are relationships so hard?
- Is there a God? If so, can I know Him?
- Does God love me? Does He like me?

"I don't know the meaning of life. I don't know why we are here. I think life is full of anxieties and fears and tears. It has a lot of grief in it, and it can be very grim. And I do not want to be the one who tries to tell somebody else what life is all about. To me it's a complete mystery." Charles M. Schulz

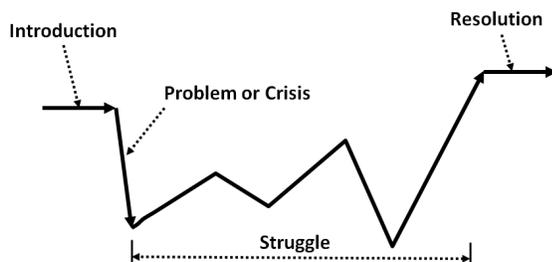
2. Genesis provides a worldview

- What is marriage?
- Is abortion a problem or not?
- Should I care about the environment?
- Why is there so much pain, suffering, violence and war?
- Will there ever be peace and justice?
- Who is to blame for all these problems?

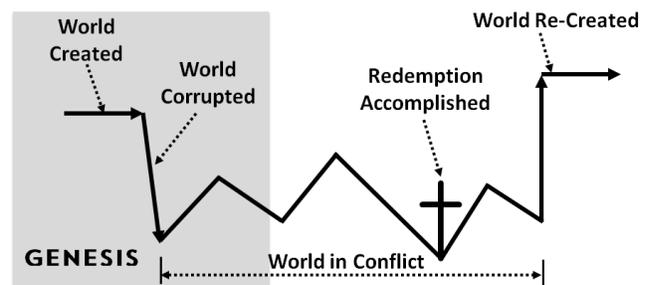
3. Genesis provides a foundation

- The Bible is a story
- Every story has a plot

HOW A STORY WORKS



THE STORY OF THE BIBLE



Genesis is a story

about a relationship...

between the One true God who is...

TRANSCENDENT

NEAR

GRACIOUS

and His people who are...

EXALTED

BROKEN

LOVED

“God is massive, infinite, ineffable glory who dwells in unapproachable light, and I am happily the opposite. A real encounter with the living God changes everything. First, it magnifies the Lord, and then it puts me and my ego and my sin and my burdens all in their rightful place.” James MacDonald

Revelation 21:3–4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

Who wrote genesis?

Moses

Acts 7:22

“Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds.”

Moses...and God

2 Peter 1:21

...men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God....

What did Moses write?

Moses wasn't speaking to a convention of agnostic scientists, nor to a group of academic historians, but to an ancient near eastern people on a journey of faith.

Genesis is historical narrative (including portions of poetry, figures of speech, idioms, phenomenological language and law) written with a theological purpose.

“Genesis is...ideological art.”

—Bruce Waltke

Joshua 24:14

...put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

- God is transcendent
- God is near
- God is gracious

Application

- Draw near to God
- Draw near to God's people
- Dig deep into Genesis

Genesis Series

1. In the Beginning (chs 1-2)
2. Fallen (chs 3-11)
3. Abraham: Chosen Family (chs 12-25)
4. Jacob: Dysfunctional Family (chs 25-36)
5. Joseph: Delivered Family (chs 37-50)
6. Jesus: Promised Son