

Bible Reading Notes
Genesis

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Genesis 1

Note that Moses writes the creation account as a matter of fact. There is no indication that the account is to be understood in any way other than historical.

1:2 – without form and void – Through the rest of Genesis 1 the Lord will solve this problem as he gives form to his creation (days 1-3) and then fills it (days 4-6)

Day – This term has been understood as a long period of time of undetermined length, or a framework which gives structure to the account, or of a normal day. I believe it refers to a normal day in the light to refrain, “evening and morning.”

Genesis 2

Note the Creation Ordinances that are established in Genesis. These are ordinances that are binding on all of creation for all time.

Labor/Rest – Genesis 2:1-3

Marriage – Genesis 2:18-25

Later the Sanctity of Life – Genesis 9:6

Genesis 2:4ff is not a second creation but a second account of the creation focused on the creation of man.

2:24 – This verse is quoted several times in the New Testament as being the basis for God’s intention for marriage.

Genesis 3

The Lord has completed his work of creation.

Fall is cosmic rebellion – first by Satan and then by Adam and Eve.

3:6 – Note that Adam was with Eve and said nothing while she was tempted and ate the fruit. Adam was guilty of failing to submit to the Lord and to protect his wife.

Eve ate first but Adam bore the guilt – Romans 5:12, 17, 19. Christ came as the second Adam to do what Adam did not do – obey.

Genesis 4

Genesis shows the development of two lines – ungodly (Cain) and godly (Seth).

Genesis 4 = ungodly line of Cain culminating in Lamach.

Why did God accept Abel's offering but not Cain's?

Hebrews 11:4 tells us that Abel offered his sacrifice in faith.

Genesis 5

Genesis 5 = godly line of Seth – from Seth to the flood.

Cain's line is increasingly ungodly, but the Lord still has a people in the line of Seth.

5:24 – Enoch – He is listed in Hebrews 11:5 as one of the great men of faith who pleased God.

Genesis 6

6:1-8 - Sons of God = the line of Seth. **Daughters of men**
= the line of Cain.

Line of Seth was being diminished by intermarriage
with unbelievers.

Growing corruption will lead to the necessity of the
flood. By the time of Noah there was only one
faithful family that was left.

6:15 – The dimensions of the ark were 450' x 75' x 45'.

Genesis 7

7:6 – six hundred years old – Prior to the flood people
lived to a much older age. After the flood the
average age at death diminished.

7:20 – The waters were twenty-two and a half feet over
the highest mountain peaks.

Genesis 8

8:13 - Noah and his family were in the ark for one year
and 10 days.

The flood is a picture and precursor to the final
judgment.

8:21 – But the flood did not deal with the problem of sin
– as seen in the sin of Noah and Ham.

Genesis 9

9:5-6 – The flood should not be misunderstood to reflect that God does not value human life. The death of anyone made in the image of God is a serious matter. So much that a murderer must give up his life in payment for his sin.

9:8-17 – Noahic covenant in which God promised he would never again destroy all humanity by a flood.

Genesis 10

Chapter 10 reveals the line of Noah through Japheth and Ham.

10:1-11:9 = Kingdom of Man – Line of unbelievers.

10:8 – Nimrod – This name means, “we shall rebel,” which reflects what he did in Babel.

Genesis 11

Tower of Babel was unbelieving man starting down the same road of rebellion as was seen in Genesis 6. The flood did not change the hearts of Noah’s sons and their rebellion was apparent very soon.

11:4 – Tower is the idea of a Ziggurat, a high tower that would allow the priests to be closer to the pagan gods they worshiped. By building the tower they were engaging in pagan idolatry.

11:4 – **let us make a name for ourselves** – Rather than bearing the name of God, they sought to be independent of God and exalt their own name.

God uses language to separate the people. At Pentecost the Lord used language to unite his people in the church.

11:10-32 – Line of Shem - The line of the godly continues and leads to the account of Abraham.

Genesis 12

12:1 – God’s call to Abram was to leave everything behind.

12:3 – This verse is quoted in Galatians 3:8. All the earth will be blessed by Abram’s descendant, Christ.

12:7 – Abram responds in faith to God’s promise with worship. At this time, he did not have any descendants.

12:10-20 – Abram had been chosen by God out of all the families of the earth. It is evident it was not because of his great holiness as seen in this episode. God’s choice was based on his own sovereign grace.

Genesis 13

13:8-9 - Though the promise of the land had been given to Abram, not Lot, Abram shows graciousness to Lot.

13:15 – In response the Lord repeats the covenant promise to Abram and expands it from chapter 12.

Genesis 14

14:1-2 – The various kings involved in the battle came from the north, the modern countries of Iran, Iraq, and Turkey.

14:12 – Hebrew - This is the first time in Scripture that Abram is referred to as a Hebrew.

Abram's military campaign was significant for a man with an army of only 318. He drove them all the way north of Damascus.

14:18 – Salem = Jerusalem

Genesis 15

15:2 – God has promised that Abram's descendants will create a nation and yet he is childless.

15:2 - Eliezer is the heir as Abram's chief servant/slave.

Example of ancient covenant making. Parties would pass between the animals and symbolically take the curse upon themselves. "May this be my fate if I do not keep the terms of the covenant."

15:17 – Pot and torch were signs of God's presence.

Genesis 16

16:1-2 - God had promised offspring to Abram but is too slow in Sarai's mind, so she attempts to take control.

16:15 - Ishmael = "God hears"

Genesis 17

17:5 - **Abram** = Exalted father. **Abraham** = Father of a multitude

17:4-8 = God's covenant obligations.

17:9-14 = Abraham's covenant obligations.

17:15 - **Sarai & Sarah** = Princess

17:18-19 - Covenant line will not be through Ishmael but through Isaac.

17:19 - **Isaac** = Laughter or he laughs.

17:22-23 - Notice that not only Abraham but his whole household experienced circumcision. This is the background to household baptisms in Acts 16:15, 33.

Genesis 18

18:1-5 – Hospitality was very important in the culture of that area.

18:2 - **3 men** = the Lord (v. 10) and two angels (19:1)

18:32 - Abraham must have known the reputation of the wickedness of the valley if he went all the way down to 10 righteous.

Genesis 19

19:8 - Obligations of hospitality were so strong that when Lot took the men (angels) into his home he took on the responsibility for their safety. It was better to send his daughters out than the guests. This is very hard for us to fathom.

19:29 – **Remembered** – The Lord remembered his covenant promises to Abraham.

19:32 – Their descendants would later seduce Israel's men – Numbers 25.

19:38-39 – The Moabites and Ammonites would be Israel's ongoing enemies.

Genesis 20

20:1ff - Abraham repeats his sin of Genesis 12.

20:7 – **prophet** – This is the first use of this term in the Bible.

20:18 – Sarah must have been in Abimelech's house for a period of time.

Genesis 21

21:1-6 – After twenty-five years of waiting for God's promise of a descendant to be fulfilled, Isaac is finally born. This resolves the problem of 11:30, "Sarai was barren."

21:8 – Weaning usually took place around 3 years old.

21:17 – Ishmael's name = "God hears."

Genesis 22

22:2 – **love** – This is the first time the word "love" is found in the Bible.

22:2 – **Moriah** = future site of Jerusalem and the temple.

22:5 – According to Hebrews 11:19, Abraham believed Isaac would be raised from the dead by the Lord.

22:14 – Years later the Lord would provide a Savior when he did not withhold his only Son for our salvation.

Genesis 23

Abraham is a sojourner in the land but shows his faith in God's promise that his descendants will inherit the land by purchasing a section of land for himself.

23:15 – Some believe 400 shekels was an excessive price for a field, but Abraham is willing to pay the full price.

Genesis 24

If you want to be literal, this chapter shows what a biblical marriage arrangement looks like – Dad sends a servant to find a bride for his son!

24:6 – Note Abraham's concern for sending his servant back to Haran to find Isaac a bride.

24:14, 27 – **steadfast love** = God's covenant love.

24:65 – **veil** – A veil would have been worn during the betrothal period.

Genesis 25

25:12ff – Ishmael’s descendants are listed as the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham in 17:20.

25:21 – Isaac and Rebekah were infertile for 20 years (v. 26).

Esau and Jacob were born about 15 years prior to Abraham’s death. The chapter is thematic rather than chronological.

25:31 – Birthright = the heir of his father’s estate.

Genesis 26

The main theme of this chapter is the Lord giving the covenant promises to a new generation. Isaac becomes the line through which God’s covenant will continue. But he also shows the same sinful behavior as his father.

26:1-5 – God gives the promise of the land to Isaac just as he had done to Abraham (Genesis 12:7).

26:6ff - Isaac follows in the sin of his father (Genesis 12:10ff) by acting in unbelief that the Lord would protect them.

26:8 – laughing - In the Hebrew the term has the idea of “playing.”

Genesis 27

Look at Gen. 25:23, 28 for the context to the events of this chapter.

27:4 – bless you - Blessing – distinct but associated with the birthright. Blessing was usually given to the firstborn. Once given a blessing cannot be altered.

27:29 – Isaac’s descendants would sovereignly rule over peoples and nations. This was fully accomplished in Isaac’s descendant, Christ.

Genesis 28

28:2 - Jacob’s trip to Paddan-aram would have been about 550 miles.

28:12 – ladder – Tower with steps similar to Tower of Babel (11:4).

28:21 – If – Jacob is not ready to make a firm commitment to the Lord as his God.

John 1:51 – Jesus is the true “ladder” to God.

Genesis 29

29:13-14 – Says much about the character we will see displayed in Laban. He sees himself in Jacob’s deception of Isaac.

29:16 – Names tell us a lot about perception - **Leah** = Wild Cow; **Rachel** = Ewe. Imagine the shame Leah lived with all of her life.

Genesis 30

30:1-2 – Jacob does not pray for Rachel the way his father, Isaac, had done for Rebekah.

30:14 – **Mandrakes** – either an aphrodisiac or a help for female fertility.

30:24 – **add to me another son** – This desire will be answered in Genesis 35:16-10 with the birth of Benjamin.

Genesis 31

This chapter will start the process of bringing Jacob back to the Land of Promise.

31:5ff – It is uncertain if all of this were true or if deceptive Jacob was merely making it up.

31:5 – Contrast between how Leah's and Rachel's father had dealt with Jacob compared to how the God of Jacob's father had dealt with him.

31:15 – Part of the bride's price should have been given to Leah and Rachel.

31:20 – **tricked** - Jacob the deceiver acts again.

31:43ff – God, at times, plundered unbelievers for the sake of his people – Abimelech (Genesis 20:14) and Laban are two examples.

31:48ff – Not a covenant of trust because they did not trust each other. Nonaggression treaty.

Genesis 32

Jacob meets angels once again just as he had met them in Bethel when he was leaving the Promised Land.

32:2 – Manhanaim = Two camps – This seems to be an allusion to God’s camp (Bethel) and Jacob’s camp.

32:10 – Great change in attitude for Jacob from when he left the Promised Land. The Lord has humbled him and will continue that process through the rest of the chapter.

32:11 – Blessing – in contrast to the one he took from Esau. This is Jacob’s bid to make restitution.

32:13-15 – Jacob has acquired much wealth in the years he has been gone.

32:22ff – Jacob will discover in verse 30 that it is the Lord with whom he wrestled.

32:25 – hip was put out of joint - All of Jacob’s future steps will remind him of his dependence upon God since his own human strength has been taken away.

32:28 – Israel = He strives with God.

32:30 – Peniel = The face of God.

Genesis 33

33:2 – Seems to be an order of affection so that the most loved would have best chance of escaping, if necessary.

33:17 – Succoth = Booths

33:18-20 – Jacob completes his return to the Land of Promise but does not do as he told Esau he would do by coming to Seir.

33:20 – Name = God, the God of Israel

Genesis 34

- 34:8ff** – Hamor is tempting Jacob and his family to blend in with the pagans of the land and lose their identity as the covenant people.
- 34:13ff** – deceitfully - The theme of deceitfulness comes up again in the account of Jacob. He has taught his sons well. Their deception goes even further than Jacob had ever done.
- 34:27** – For their sin Simeon and Levi will lose their leadership and land in Israel (Genesis 49:5-8).
- 34:30** – Jacob’s condemnation of Simeon and Levi’s action was not based on the morality of what they did but on the consequences of their action for the rest of the family.

Genesis 35

- 35:2ff** – Jacob’s family is still worshipping idols. Jacob purifies the family by taking away their idols.
- 35:18** – **Ben-oni** (son of my sorrow) and **Benjamin** (son of my right hand).
- 35:22-23** – Reuben was challenging Jacob’s position as the head of the family. Similar to Absalom’s actions in 2 Samuel 16:22.
- 35:27-29** – Isaac’s concern about dying in chapter 27 did not come true for over 20 years.

Genesis 36

This chapter contains a brief description of Esau and his descendants.

Throughout Genesis there are two lines – the covenant line and the non-covenant line. Esau's line is a continuation of the non-covenant line.

Genesis 37

37:3 – Jacob's pronounced love for Joseph will be the foundation of much of the discord in the family.

37:3 – **Robe of many colors** - It is uncertain if the Hebrew refers to a robe of many colors or one of long sleeves.

37:21-22 – Perhaps Reuben is trying to regain his father's favor after 35:22-23.

37:31ff - Another example of the line of Jacob practicing deceit.

Genesis 38

What is the purpose of this chapter? Focuses on the continuation of the line of Judah. In this chapter we see a contrast between Judah and Joseph. Judah gives in to his sin while Joseph remains morally pure in chapter 39.

38:5 – **Chezib** = Deceptive

38:8 – This is an example of Levirate Marriage, which required a brother to marry his brother's childless widow and raise up children so his brother's line will continue (Deuteronomy 25:5ff).

- 38:9** – Son born to Tamar would be privileged over all of his sons and the descendent of the firstborn son, Er.
- 38:27-30** – Another occurrence of the younger having more prominence than the older.
- 38:29** – **Perez** – Perez appears in the line leading up to Christ in the genealogy of Matthew (Matthew 1:3).

Genesis 39

At this point Joseph is still a fairly young man.

39:2 – **The Lord was with Joseph** - Note the repetition of the phrase (vv. 2, 21,23). This point is also mentioned in Acts 7:9.

39:9 – **against God** – The primary offended party if Joseph agreed to an affair with Potiphar's wife, would be the Lord. Similar sentiment as David to Nathan – Psalm 51:4.

Joseph's integrity is in contrast to his two brothers Reuben (35:22) and Judah (38:15-18).

39:19-20 – Potiphar may have had doubts about his wife's story since Joseph was not executed for his alleged crime.

Genesis 40

Note some of the clear parallels with Daniel in this and the next chapter.

40:3 – The text does not inform us of their crimes, but they were in prison awaiting Pharaoh's sentence.

40:8 – interpretations belong to God – This was also Daniel’s message to Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2:26-27).

Genesis 41

41:1 – Two whole years – This is how long it has been since the cupbearer was released from prison. Joseph had been in prison for a longer period than that already.

41:8 – Magicians – similar to the wise men of Assyria/Babylon that Daniel was part of.

41:39 – Reminds us of Daniel and his role during the exile.

41:41-46 - Joseph’s installation as the second in command in Egypt with a new name and a new status.

41:45 – On was the center of the worship of the sun god Ra.

41:46 – Joseph had been a slave for about 13 years – 37:2.

41:57 – This is a partial fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham – in you all the families of the earth will be blessed (Gen. 12:3).

Genesis 42

The scene now shifts back to Canaan where Joseph’s family is living.

42:6 – dreams – These were the dreams recorded in 37:5ff.

42:38 – Jacob is continuing with his favoritism towards Rachel and her sons.

Genesis 43

43:1-10 – Unlike Reuben (42:37), Judah pledges his own life for the safety of Benjamin.

43:33 – Judah's attitude is very different from earlier in 37:34, 35.

Genesis 44

44:14 – See Judah begin to take leadership in the family. Significant because through Judah the covenant line will continue to Christ.

44:18ff – Quite a contrast with the Judah that came up with the plan to sell Joseph into slavery (37:26-27).

Genesis 45

45:5, 7 – **God sent me** - Note the repetition that reflects Joseph's confidence in God's sovereignty and providence = God sent me.

Genesis 46

46:1 – Significance of Beersheba = Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all worshiped and brought sacrifices at this place.

46:2ff – God reiterates his covenant promises to Jacob as Jacob leaves to go to Joseph.

46:21 – **sons of Benjamin** – These were probably born in Egypt.

Genesis 47

47:1 - **Goshen** is in northern Egypt close to the Mediterranean Sea in the Nile River valley.

47:7, 10 – As Jacob blesses Pharaoh, he stands out as the greater who blesses the lesser.

47:24ff – Joseph enacted a 20% tax rate on the land.

47:29 – **Hand under my thigh** – This action was done in those days when making a solemn commitment. Abraham required this of his servant before sending him off to find a bride for Isaac in Genesis 24:2.

Genesis 48

48:5 - Joseph is elevated to firstborn status and is given a double portion of Jacob's estate through his two sons.

48:5 – Jacob adopts Joseph's two sons as his own.

48:17ff – Jacob did not mix up the boys but intentionally put Ephraim first.

Genesis 49

- 49:2-4 – This is a reference to Reuben’s sin back to Genesis 35:22.
- 49:5-7 – Simeon and Levi’s violence is referenced in Genesis 34:25ff.
- 49:7 – Simeon will not get an allotment in Canaan but reside in the tribe of Judah (Joshua 19:1-9).
- 49:8-13 – Elevation of Judah – he will be the chief of the sons and his descendants (particularly Christ) will rule.
- 49:10 - **Scepter** = kingly authority and rule. This is also referred to in 2 Samuel 7:16 in the Davidic covenant.
- 49:11 – **foal** – This is fulfilled by Christ on Palm Sunday (Zechariah 9:9 and Matthew 21:7).

Genesis 50

- 50:3 – The embalming and mourning period shows the high status of Joseph in Egypt.
- 50:11 – **Abel-mizraim** = Mourning of Egypt
- 50:15ff – Brothers seem to be projecting their own sinful ways of dealing with people on Joseph.
- 50:20 – Joseph has the insight into God’s plan that Job never received for himself.

