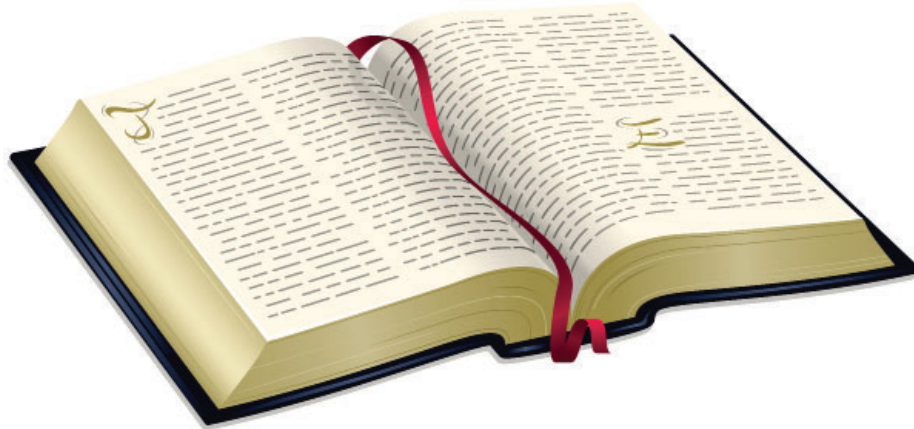


toServe Bible Study - ITB-01

Answer Sheet - New International Version (NIV)



In The Beginning Series

Twelve Lesson Study on the Book of Genesis

This Lesson - Genesis Chapters 1 - 4

Date of Writing and Who Wrote It: The book of Genesis describes the origins of the universe, humanity, sin, and redemption. Its iconic stories include God’s creation of the world, Adam and Eve’s fall into sin, the global flood in Noah’s lifetime, and the establishment and growth of the nation of Israel. The best evidence indicates that Moses wrote Genesis between 1440 and 1400 BC, during the 40-year period after Israel’s exodus from Egypt and before the nation entered the Promised Land.

Identifying the author of Genesis is key to determining when the book was written, as it narrows the period of time to the writer’s lifespan. Thus, although Genesis is technically anonymous, as the writer doesn’t identify himself in the text, the Bible assigns authorship of Genesis to Moses (e.g., Malachi 4:4; Matthew 8:4). Moreover, when citing events in Genesis, Jesus refers to Moses as the book’s author (Matthew 19:4–6; Mark 12:26; Luke 16:29; John 7:22), as does the apostle Paul (Romans 10:19; 1 Corinthians 9:9).

Purpose of Writing: 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 in 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 book of origins called Genesis.

Many of the great questions of life are answered in Genesis.

- (1) Where did I come from? (God created us - Genesis 1:1)
- (2) Why am I here? (we are here to have a relationship with God - Genesis 15:6)
- (3) Where am I going? (we have a destination after death - Genesis 25:8).

Practical Application: The overriding theme of Genesis is God’s eternal existence and His creation of the world. There is no effort on the part of the author to defend the existence of God; he simply states that God is, always was, and always will be, almighty over all. In the same way we have confidence in the truths of Genesis, despite the claims of those who would deny them. All people, regardless of culture, nationality or language, are accountable to the Creator. But because of sin, introduced into the world at the Fall, we are separated from Him. But through one small nation, Israel, God’s redemptive plan for mankind was revealed and made available to all. We rejoice in that plan.

God created the universe, the earth, and every living being. We can trust Him to handle the concerns in our lives. God can take a hopeless situation, e.g. Abraham and Sarah being childless, and do amazing things if we will simply trust and obey. Terrible and unjust things may happen in our lives, as with Joseph, but God will always bring about a greater good if we have faith in Him and His sovereign plan. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Please read Genesis Chapter 1 Check

Chapter 1

1. (Gen. 1:1) What were the first two things that God created?

1. heavens 2. earth

2. (Gen. 1:2) Who is the first member of a Trinity mentioned here.

Spirit of God

What did He do? God was hovering over the waters.

3. (Gen. 1:29) **In your own words**, what is the significance or reason for God to give man every seed-bearing plant / herb for food? _____

4. Please read Genesis 1:26. **In your own words**, who is God referring to in this verse? Your answer should center around the words, “Let Us”.

5. (Gen. 1:1-32, 2:1-3) Briefly, write out what God created in each of the first six days, or what He did on that day.

First Day: (Gen 1:3-5) “Let there be light,” and there was light.
He separated the light from the darkness. God call the light day, the darkness night

Second Day: (Gen 1:6-8) “Let there be a vault between the waters
to separate water from water.” God called the vault “sky.”

Third Day: (Gen 1:11-13) “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and
trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.”

Forth Day: (Gen 1:14-19) God made two great lights—the greater light to govern
the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.

Fifth Day: (Gen 1:20-23) “Let the water teem with living creatures,
and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”

Sixth Day: (Gen 1:24-31) “Let the land produce living creatures according to their
kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the
wild animals, each according to its kind.”

If God had not given Adam and Eve the choice, they would have essentially been robots, simply doing what they were programmed to do. God created Adam and Eve to be “free” beings, able to make decisions, able to choose between good and evil. In order for Adam and Eve to truly be free, they had to have a choice.

There was nothing essentially evil about the tree or the fruit of the tree. It is unlikely that the fruit, in and of itself, gave Adam and Eve any further knowledge. That is, the physical fruit may have contained some vitamin C and some beneficial fiber, but it was not spiritually nutritious. However, the act of disobedience was spiritually deleterious. That sin opened Adam’s and Eve’s eyes to evil. For the first time, they knew what it was to be evil, to feel shame, and to want to hide from God. Their sin of disobeying God brought corruption into their lives and into the world. Eating the fruit, as an act of disobedience against God, was what gave Adam and Eve the knowledge of evil—and the knowledge of their nakedness (Genesis 3:6–7).

7 . (Gen. 2:19) How did all the livestock, birds, and wild animals get their names?
whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

8. In Genesis 2:24 we learn the most important part about marriage as God designed it. How are man and woman united / joined as husband and wife?
united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Please read Genesis Chapter 3 Check

Chapter 3

1. (Gen. 3:1) What was the question that the serpent asked the women?
“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

2. How did the woman respond in Genesis 3:3?
‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’

3. (Gen. 3:4-5) How did the serpent respond back to the woman?

“You will not certainly die,”

“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened,
and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

The serpent:

Genesis 3:1 does not, by itself alone, clearly identify the serpent as Satan, but the rest of the Bible makes it clear this is Satan appearing as a serpent.

Ezekiel 28:13-19 tells us that Satan was in Eden. Many other passages associate a serpent or a snake-like creature with Satan (such as Job 26:13 and Isaiah 51:9).

Revelation 12:9 and Revelation 20:2 speak of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan.

The representation of Satan as a serpent makes the idea of Moses saving Israel by lifting up a bronze serpent all the more provocative (Numbers 21:8-9), especially when Jesus identifies Himself with that very serpent (John 3:14). This is because, in this picture, the serpent (a personification of sin and rebellion) is made of bronze (a metal associated with judgment, since it is made with fire). The lifting of a bronze serpent is the lifting up of sin judged, in the form of a cross.

Ezekiel 28 tells us Satan, before his fall, was an angel of the highest rank and prominence, even something of a leader of worship in heaven. Isaiah 14 tells us Satan’s fall had to do with his desire to be equal to or greater than God, to set his will against God’s will.

4. Genesis 3:6-7 tells of the experience the woman had after she ate the fruit from the tree that God told her not to. **In your own words**, from past experiences of sin, can you relate to this? Explain the consequences you may have had?

5. (Gen. 3:8) What did the man and his wife do when they heard God walking in the Garden of Eden after eating the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden

6. (Gen. 3:12) What did the man say to God when He asked, “Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

“The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Understanding Genesis 3:12

Adam and Eve have introduced human sin into the world. They gave into temptation; they disobeyed God. The wisdom of knowing good and evil that they hoped to discover turned out to be a gift of shame and separation. They came to know evil by participating in it. In the previous verse God asked Adam directly, “Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

In Adam’s response, we see the next consequence of human sin. The first was overwhelming shame. The second was a deep desire to get away from the Creator. Now we see that their choice to sin together will drive a wedge into Adam’s and Eve’s relationship to each other.

7. (Gen. 3:16) What punishment did God give the woman for disobeying His command about eating from the Tree of knowledge?

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;

with painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,

and he will rule over you.”

8. (Gen. 3:23) God said that man was becoming like one of Them, knowing both good and evil. Because of this what did God do with man?

the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden

Understanding Genesis 3:17

After pronouncing curses on the serpent/Satan in response to his deception and on Eve in response to her sinful choice, God now turns to Adam. Compared to the punishments given to Eve and the serpent, this curse is longer and more detailed.

Adam's sin was not, simplistically speaking, that of listening to his wife. Taking godly counsel is always a good thing (Proverbs 15:22). Instead, Adam sinned by not standing up and speaking the truth to his wife when she invited him to participate in her sin. And, judging by the description of Eve's conversation with the serpent, for failing to protect and lead her as he should. God makes clear that Adam was independently responsible for his choice to eat from the tree. He wouldn't be allowed to get away with passing the blame to her or anyone else.

Please read Genesis Chapter 4 Check

Chapter 4

1. Genesis Chapter 4 starts off with Eve giving birth to two sons.

What were their names?

1st son: Cain

2nd son: Abel

What were their occupations?

1st son's occupation: Abel kept flocks

2nd son's occupation: Cain worked the soil

2. (Gen. 4:3-5) In the process/course of time, both Cain and Abel brought an offering to the Lord of what they produced. **In your own words**, from God's perspective, what was the main difference in the two offerings?

3. (Gen. 4:6-7) **In your own words**, why do you think Cain got angry?

Write out the wisdom that God gave Cain from Genesis 4:7

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?

But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door;
it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

4. (Gen. 4:15) After Cain killed his brother Abel, God put him under a curse and drove him from the land. Cain said the punishment is more than he can bear and whoever finds him will kill him. What did the Lord say He would do to protect him?

the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

5. (Gen. 4:17) After God said He would protect Cain, scripture says he went out/away from the presence of the Lord, and lived/dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

What three things happened/accrued next?

1. made love to his wife
2. gave birth to Enoch
3. building a city

And Cain knew/made love/sexual relations with his wife (Genesis 4:17):

In Genesis 5:4 it says Adam had other sons and daughters. Cain obviously married his sister. Though marrying a sister was against the law of God according to Leviticus 18:9, 18:11, 20:17, and Deuteronomy 27:22 (which even prohibits the marrying of a half-sister), this was long before God spoke that law to Moses and the world.

Here, necessity demanded that Adam’s sons marry his daughters. And at this point, the gene pool of humanity was pure enough to allow close marriage without harm of inbreeding. But as a stream can get more polluted the further it flows from the source, there came a time when God decreed there would no longer be marriage between close relatives because of the danger of inbreeding.

Even Abraham married his half-sister Sarah (Genesis 20:12). God did not prohibit such marriages until the time of Moses (Leviticus 18:9). Marrying a brother or sister was not forbidden until God forbade it.

6. (Gen.4:20) What was the two things that Jabal was the father of/first of?

1. father of those who live in tents
2. and raise livestock

7. (Gen. 4:21) Jabal had a brother named Jubal. He was the father of all who played which two instruments?

1. stringed instruments
2. pipes

8. (Gen. 4:22) Another descendant of Cain was Tubal-Cain. What was he known for?

forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron.

Understanding Genesis 4:23

Lamech, six generations removed from Cain, demonstrates that he shared Cain’s anger, violence, and arrogance—and then some. In this speech, continuing into the following verse, he brags about his sin in an almost unbelievable way.

He announces to his two wives that he has killed a man in revenge for wounding and/or striking him. We obviously don’t know the whole story. However, Lamech’s response indicates that his action was out of proportion with what was done to him. The Hebrew word used for “kill” here is from the root word *hā’rag*, the same used to describe the murder of Abel in Genesis 4:8 and Moses’ murder of the Egyptian in Exodus 2:14.

He sounds proud and arrogant, and even more so in light of the following verse. The fact that he specifically directs this confession of murder to his wives can be interpreted in several ways. One prominent possibility is that this is meant to be a threat: “look what happens to people who cross me.”

9. (Gen. 4:25) After Adam's wife gave birth to another son what did she say God had granted her?

"God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."

Understanding Genesis 4:26

The next chapter will detail the descendants of Seth all the way through to Noah. Judging by Lamech's story, Cain's legacy seems to be one of productive work and innovation, but also of arrogance and violence. Seth's line though, includes several examples of people who were overtly faithful to God.

We will learn that Seth was 105 years old when his son Enosh was born. These first generations after the garden had extraordinarily long lifespans (and reproductive years) by our standards.

We're told that starting around the time of Enosh's birth, people began to call on or proclaim the name of the Lord. This may well have been a direct response, and certainly a contrast, to the descendants of Cain. As shown in prior verses, his offspring were deeply sinful. And, that sin would eventually spread to pollute almost the entire human race (Genesis 6:5).

Following Eve's example, the people of Seth apparently expressed their dependence on God and perhaps worshiped Him publicly.

Verse to remember from this lesson:

Then God said,
"Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness"

Genesis 1:26a NKJV

For some understanding of Genesis 1:26, please read John 1:1
Your thoughts on this?
