

## THE BIG READ (25)

### Jesus in Genesis

#### A. Introduction

1. Every book of the Bible has one dominating theme – Jesus is the Christ.

“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”  
(Luke 24:45-47)

Jesus is the Christ who will suffer and die.

Jesus is the Christ who will rise from the dead on the third day.

Jesus is the Christ who will forgive the sins of all who repent.

Jesus is the Christ who will be preached to the nations.

2. We’ve just spent the last 2 years looking at the Bible Jesus never had – the 27 books of the New Testament.

The only Bible Jesus knew is what we call the Old Testament.

3. The Old Testament Jesus read contained the same 39 books we find in the Old Testament part of our Bibles.

But these books were arranged in a different order – the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44)

The Law (of Moses) contains the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

The Prophets contains the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings (Former Prophets) and Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the book of the Twelve (Latter Prophets).

The Writings (or Psalms) contains Ruth, Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Chronicles.

4. Our journey through the Old Testament begins with the first book of the Old Testament, and the first book in the Law part of the Old Testament, Genesis.

The book’s name comes from the opening three words “In the beginning”.

It is a book all about beginnings – the beginning of creation, humanity, work, family, sin, death, salvation, the promises of God, and the nation of Israel.

#### B. Getting Started with Genesis

1. Genesis was the first book of the Law of Moses.

It generally agreed that the author of these five books, including Genesis, is Moses.

“Be very strong, be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left.” (Joshua 23:6)

“This Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given.” (Ezra 7:6)



"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." (Genesis 1:1-3)

"And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17)

The Fall: Humans sinned and rebelled against God's Word and were removed from God's presence, but were given the promise that a Saviour will come.

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." (Genesis 3:6)

"So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life." (Genesis 3:23-24)

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

The Flood: God punishes sin with a flood, but graciously saves the one who trusts His Word and his family.

"The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time... So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth." (Genesis 6:5, 7)

"But Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD." (Genesis 6:8)

"But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark – you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you." (Genesis 6:18)

The Tower of Babel: A new start for humans won't work – what they need is a Saviour.

"Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4)

"That is why it was called Babel – because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:9)

4. In the second section the four defining promises are: the promise of a people, the promise of a land, the promise of blessing, and the promise of protection.

God promises Abraham that He would make him into a great nation.

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you." (Genesis 12:2)

"He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (Genesis 15:5)

"I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore." (Genesis 22:17)

"That night the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham." (Genesis 26:24)

"Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south." (Genesis 28:14)

"With the two sons who had been born to Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob's family, which went to Egypt, were seventy in all." (Genesis 46:27)

God promises Abraham that his descendants will have a land of their own.

"The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." (Genesis 12:7)

"The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God." (Genesis 17:8)

"I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying." (Genesis 28:13)

"So Ephron's field in Machpelah near Mamre – both the field and the cave in it, and all the trees within the borders of the field – was legally made over to Abraham as his property in the presence of all the Hittites who had come to the gate of the city." (Genesis 23:17-18)

"His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites." (Genesis 25:9-10)

"So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them: They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham had bought as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite, along with the field." (Genesis 50:12-13)

"Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." (Genesis 50:24-25)

God promises Abraham that all peoples on earth will be blessed through him (the promise of a serpent crusher cf. Genesis 3:15).

"...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:3)

"...and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed." (Genesis 22:18)

"All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring." (Genesis 28:14)

God promises to protect His promise.

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse." (Genesis 12:3)

"But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" (Genesis 12:17-19)

"Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised." (Genesis 21:1)

"For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be ploughing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance." (Genesis 45:6-7)

## **D. Jesus in Genesis**

1. Jesus is the Word that creates bringing light to the world.

"And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." (Genesis 1:3)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:1-3)

2. Jesus is the true image of God.

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image." (Genesis 1:27)

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." (Colossians 1:15)

3. Jesus is the serpent crusher who destroys the devil's work.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." (1 John 3:8)

4. Jesus is the ark that keeps people safe from God's judgment.

"So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood." (Genesis 6:13-14)

"Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" (Romans 5:9)

5. Jesus is the one who is given a Name.

"Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4)

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)

6. Jesus is the offspring that brings blessing to all the nations of the world.

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:3)

"...and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed." (Genesis 22:18)

"The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds", meaning one person, who is Christ." (Galatians 3:16)

7. Jesus is the miraculous son God promised.

"Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him." (Genesis 21:1-2)

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called Son of God." (Luke 1:34-35)

8. Jesus is the Son the Father loves.

"Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." (Genesis 22:2)

"And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."  
(Matthew 3:17)

9. Jesus is the ladder to heaven.

"He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it." (Genesis 28:12)

"He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (John 1:51)

10. Jesus is the brother who is rejected by His own but is raised to rule and offers salvation to all who trust in Him.

"And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world." (Genesis 41:57)

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

11. Jesus is the King from the tribe of Judah who will rule the nations.

"The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his." (Genesis 49:10)

"Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." (Revelation 5:5)