

## Introduction to the Book of Genesis

I believe that one of the biggest problems in the Church today is biblical illiteracy. Research shows that less than 10 % of Christians have read the entire bible. Why is that? Many would say they just don't have time to read. Others say that they just aren't "readers". Honestly, I believe the main reason is that people see the bible as boring and don't believe that it applies to their life today.

I will admit that portions of the Old Testament can be very dry and monotonous. But the bible isn't written as a novel to be read just for entertainment.

Listen what the Lord says:

**Pro 2:1** My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,  
**Pro 2:2** Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding;  
**Pro 2:3** For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding;  
**Pro 2:4** If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures;  
**Pro 2:5** Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God.

The creator of the universe wrote everything in one book that He wanted to share with his children.

If you were God and you had just one shot at filling a book with information to reveal yourself to your children, wouldn't you design in a way that there would be more to it than just the story on the pages?

Once people realize that the bible was written outside the constraints of time or space, and that the information between the words is often more interesting than the words themselves, I believe that people will genuinely fall in love with the bible. So much of the Old Testament laws, traditions and ceremonies begin to make sense when you look at the bigger picture and realize that the Old Testament is basically a picture book foretelling what is to come in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus said:

**Joh 5:39** "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

Starting with the book of Genesis, I would like to begin a journey through the bible to try to dig a little deeper into the living Word of God and try to find some of the hidden treasures that are promised to us.

We may spend extra time in Genesis because it is very condensed (approximately 1600 yrs. Of history in the 1<sup>st</sup> 8 chapters)

What does the word Genesis mean? Beginnings or Origins  
So then in the book of Genesis, we would expect to see the beginnings of many things;

It deals with the beginning of:

Creation

World

Human history

Family and marriage

The nation Israel

Sin

Death

Salvation

But not the beginning of God!

Genesis was written by Moses approx. 1450 B.C.

I often wondered how Moses could have known all the information about creation and the flood which were before he was born. It is possible that this was all revealed to him while he was on the mountain for 40 days.

There are 7 major sections or themes in Genesis. (notice the “7” sections which represents perfection or completeness)

1. Creation
2. Adam & family
3. Noah & flood
4. Abraham--
5. Isaac----- Patriarchs
6. Jacob-----
7. Joseph

Just a reminder before we begin: This is not designed to be an exhaustive study of any parts of the bible, just some thoughts to try to encourage more people to have more of a desire to read and get excited about the bible!