



## Study in GENESIS

### INTRODUCTION

As we enter this study of Genesis, we do so with presuppositions or certain assumptions. For our study in Genesis, the following assumptions are made.

1. **The Bible is the Word of God.** God has revealed Himself and His plans through the written word. He has not revealed everything about Himself, but He has given us enough so that we may understand His ways and obey Him. (Deuteronomy 29:29) The original writings of Scripture are totally accurate and without error. (2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 1:10-12, 2 Peter 3:14-16) We do not have the original manuscripts, but what we do have is very accurate and reliable. We can use several translations such as the New American Standard Bible, the New International Version, the King James, the New King James and other good translations to help us understand the Scriptures. The first five books of the Bible, called the Pentateuch, were written in Hebrew, but since most of us don't understand Hebrew, we will depend on the English translations to help us understand the book of Genesis.
2. **The first five books of the Bible**, from Genesis to Deuteronomy, **are a five volume set.** The label used for these books is called the Pentateuch. They should be treated as a whole, but can be studied as individual books.
3. The book of Genesis reveals much about the world we live in and gives us insight into all of mankind. However, its main emphasis **concerns the plan of God** and how He brought about a nation from which the Promised One, the Messiah, the Christ, would come. The main focus is on the nation of Israel and God's plan for them.

4. **Deuteronomy 4:32-36 is a key verse** in understanding Genesis. It reads: *“Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testing, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other.”* This is the basis for our study in Genesis: how God took for Himself a nation out of other nations. (See Acts 17:22-28) In order for us to understand how God did that, we need to go back to the beginning . . .

This study will allow you to **CULTIVATE, PLANT, HARVEST** and **PARTAKE** of the Scriptures. We will divide the study into specified Scripture passages, but it should be studied and understood in the light of the rest of Scripture. Some parts of Genesis are confirmed or given greater meaning because of their relation to other Scriptures. Having said that, Genesis is basic to understanding Scripture as a whole. For example, much of Scripture rests on the truth that God is the Creator. (It would be interesting to do a word study on God as the Creator to see how all of Scripture relates to that truth.)

# GENESIS 1:1



## CULTIVATE

*Read over this passage of Scripture and write down one or two things that stick out, or something you did not notice from previous readings.*

See also Psalm 102:25-27 and Isaiah 40:21-31

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## PLANT

*Read the passage again. Think of a couple questions beginning with the words “who, what, where, when, how” and write them down.*

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## HARVEST

*Along with answering questions from the PLANT category, write down your answers to the following questions.*

Genesis speaks of the beginning of what?

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What does Genesis 1:1 tell us about God?

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What is the reason there is no attempt to prove God's existence in this verse?

(See Job 12:7-9, Psalm 14:1, Acts 17:22-25 for further insight.)

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According to Psalm 19:1 and Revelation 4:11, what is a reason God creates things?

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COMMENT: Genesis 1:1 tells us several things about God.

- There is only one God, not many gods. He created it all and preexisted it all.
- It tells us God is unique, He is God of ALL things.
- It tells us that the physical world is not the only reality, that there is a spiritual reality as well.
- Because God created everything, His existence gives importance to life, to meaning, and to morality.
- This verse changed history, because it began history.
- Science and atheism have no answer to the question, "what is the reason there is anything?" Only a Creator God can answer this question, only a Creator God can explain the reason there is something rather than nothing.

Two created things are mentioned, what are they?

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What is the reason the earth is mentioned separate from the heavens?

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## **PARTAKE**

*What part of this study can be applied to your life and how would you put that into practice? What characteristic of God is seen in this passage and how does that enhance your worship of Him?*

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## **GENESIS 1:2-31**

This is a large section so we will break it down into smaller portions to study. However, each section should be studied in connection with all of Genesis 1. As you read this section, notice what God used to interact with creation: He *created, said, made, called, formed, set in place* and *blessed* creation.

## **GENESIS 1:2-10**



## **CULTIVATE**

*Read over this passage of Scripture and write down one or two things that stick out, or something you did not notice from previous readings.*

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## PLANT

Read the passage again. Think of a couple questions beginning with the words "who, what, where, when, how" and write them down.

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## HARVEST

Along with answering questions from the PLANT category, write down your answers to the following questions.

What is the difference between creating, making and forming something? (The Hebrew word for "create" is "bara", for "make" is "asa", and for "form" is "yasa" seeming to indicate there is a difference between these actions. NOTE: the word "bara" is used only with reference to God because only God can create from nothing. Humans "make" things by taking from what already exists and make something from it.)

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What does it mean when it says the Spirit of God was hovering or moved over the surface of the deep?

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What comes to mind when you read that the earth was formless and empty?

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What did God use to create the heavens and the earth?

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What happened when God spoke?

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Was there any resistance to the words God spoke?

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What is the reason the writer mentions “and there was evening, and there was morning” in these verses?

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What living things are mentioned in these verses?

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Read Jeremiah 5:22 and Job 38:4-11. Compare these verses with Genesis 1:9. What does God say concerning the boundaries of the seas?

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## **PARTAKE**

*What part of this study can be applied to your life and how would you put that into practice? What characteristic of God is seen in this passage and how does that enhance your worship of Him?*

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## **GENESIS 1:11-26**



## **CULTIVATE**

*Read over this passage of Scripture and write down one or two things that stick out, or something you did not notice from previous readings.*

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## PLANT

*Read the passage again. Think of a couple questions beginning with the words "who, what, where, when, how" and write them down.*

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## HARVEST

*Along with answering questions from the PLANT category, write down your answers to the following questions.*

On day three (Genesis 1:9-13), God did two things. What are they?

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On day four (1:14-19), purpose is given to what was created. What was the purpose for the created things on this day?

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How do the created beings of 1:20-23 differ from the created beings of 1:24-25?

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And how is the created beings of 1:26 differ from the rest of creation?

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What is the purpose of the created beings mentioned in 1:26?

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## **PARTAKE**

*What part of this study can be applied to your life and how would you put that into practice? What characteristic of God is seen in this passage and how does that enhance your worship of Him?*

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## **GENESIS 1:27-31**



## **CULTIVATE**

*Read over this passage of Scripture and write down one or two things that stick out, or something you did not notice from previous readings.*

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## **PLANT**

*Read the passage again. Think of a couple questions beginning with the words “who, what, where, when, how” and write them down.*

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## **HARVEST**

*Along with answering questions from the PLANT category, write down your answers to the following questions.*

What designation did God give man that He did not make with the rest of creation?

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What does it mean to be created in God’s image? See Romans 8:29; 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10; and James 3:9-10.

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In what ways are we different from God?

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**PARTAKE**

*What part of this study can be applied to your life and how would you put that into practice? What characteristic of God is seen in this passage and how does that enhance your worship of Him?*

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