

THE
AMAZING
COLLECTION™

SAMPLE

THE
PENTATEUCH

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THE
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THE PENTATEUCH

GENESIS, EXODUS, LEVITICUS,

NUMBERS, AND DEUTERONOMY

SET 1

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THE AMAZING COLLECTION™

Welcome to The Amazing Collection

The Bible, Book by Book

It is amazing how a love letter arriving at just the right time can gladden the heart, refresh the soul, and restore the passion of the beloved. When lovers are separated by distance and can communicate only through the written word, that word becomes the lifeline of their love.

The greatest love letter ever written often sits on our shelves unopened as we go about our lives, sometimes fearful, burdened, anxious, in pain, and in doubt, not knowing that on its pages we can find all we need to live the life we have always wanted.

In this love letter we will discover God, and through Him we will receive hope, assurance, freedom from fear, guidance for everyday life, wisdom, joy, peace, power, and above all, the way to salvation. We will find the life we have always longed for — *abundant* life.

The Bible is simply a love letter compiled into sixty-six books and written over a period of sixteen hundred years by more than forty authors living on three continents. Although the authors came from different backgrounds, there is one message, one theme, one thread that runs throughout the entire Bible from the first book, Genesis, to the last book, Revelation. That message is God's redeeming love for mankind — a message that is as relevant for us today as it was two thousand years ago.

God has written the Bible so that men and women might enter into an intimate relationship with Him and see His character, His works, His power, and His love. It would be tragic to read these books and never come to know your God! Therefore, as you go through this study, listen to the lectures, read the Scripture, and do your daily homework. Make it your heart's desire to know God intimately. Read each page of the Bible as if it were a love letter written by the hand of God to you personally. Bask in His great love, stand in awe of His mighty power, bow before His majesty, and give thanksgiving and adoration to the One who is all-present, all-knowing, all-merciful, and all-loving. He is on every page, and He is speaking to you.

The Bible is a book inspired by God Himself. It is His story, His love letter, His invitation to you to become His child through His Son, Jesus Christ. It is the Word of God . . . indeed, the most Amazing Collection.

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WORKBOOK GUIDE

The Amazing Collection is a study of the Bible, book by book. This study focuses on the first five books of the Bible known as The Pentateuch. The following will acquaint you with the design of this series.

One book of the Bible will be studied each week through a teaching video and a written study. The teaching video includes music to stir the heart, graphics to enlighten the mind, and a personal testimony to bring the theme of that particular book to life.

The workbook contains:

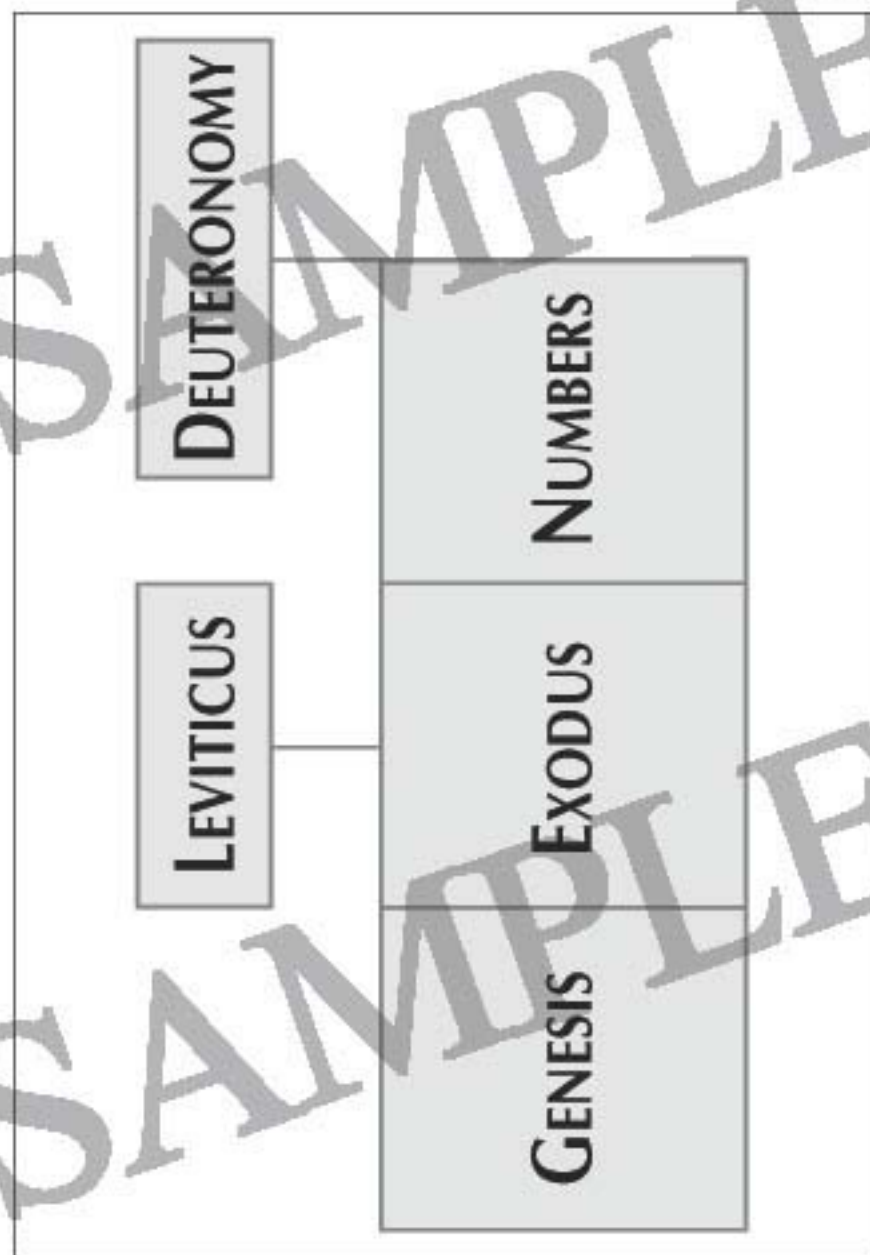
1. An introduction to summarize each book.
2. Outlines to be used while watching each of the teaching videos. The answers to the outline blanks are given during the videos and can also be found in the key at the back of your workbook.
3. *Learning for Life* discussion questions to be used after viewing the videos. (If your group is large, we recommend forming small discussion groups.)
4. Five daily lessons of homework for each book.
5. A memory verse for each book.
6. Various maps, charts, and diagrams.
7. A review at the end of each week to refresh your memory. The answers to the review are found in the *Review It!* sections in the margins at the end of the lessons for Day One through Day Four. The fifth review question is a review of the memory verse.

Before you begin the homework, ask God to show you how to apply the truths of Scripture to your own life. At the beginning of each day's lesson in the workbook, there are two choices for the daily reading. The *Complete Read* enables you to read one entire book of the Bible each week. During busy times, the *Quick Read* allows you to read a few key chapters or verses from that book. The daily lesson will require a small amount of time each day to complete. Of course, feel free to extend that time with additional study.

One of the incredible things about the Word of God is that you can read the same Scripture at different times in your life and gain new insights with each reading. God's Word is inexhaustible, and it is living; it has the power to produce life-changing results.

Our prayer for you as you begin your journey through *The Amazing Collection* is that you will learn for life the purpose, main characters, geography, and time period of every book in the Bible. But above all, we pray that you will come to know more intimately the God of the Bible, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

THE PENTATEUCH AT A GLANCE



To see how these books fit into the chronology of the Old Testament books as a whole, see the chart on page 156.

OVERVIEW OF THE PENTATEUCH

The following pages provide an overview of each of the books you will be studying in this set. They are designed to be cut out and used as quick reference cards with the main facts of the book on the front and the memory verse on the back.

You might find it helpful to laminate them and carry them with you on a ring or keep them in a card holder in a place where you'll be able to refer to them often.

It is our hope that this will be a tool that will help you truly learn these books for life.

GENESIS

The Book of Beginnings

WHO:	WHAT:	WHERE:
Adam	Earth Created	Garden of Eden
Noah	Man Sinned	Ur
Abraham	Earth Flooded	Canaan
Isaac	Israel Conceived	Egypt
Jacob		
Joseph		

Time Covered: 2,200 Years

EXODUS

The Book of Deliverance

WHO:	WHAT:	WHERE:
Moses	10 Plagues	Egypt
	Israel Birthed	Mount Sinai
	Red Sea	
	10 Commandments	
	Tabernacle	

Time Covered: 400 Years

LEVITICUS

The Book of Holiness

WHO:	WHAT:	WHERE:
Moses	Israel Received	Mount Sinai
Aaron	Religious Instruction	

Time Covered: 1 Month

GENESIS
The Book of Beginnings

*I will establish My covenant between Me and you
and your descendants after you.*

GENESIS 17:7

EXODUS
The Book of Deliverance

*I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of
the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

EXODUS 20:2

LEVITICUS
The Book of Holiness

You shall be holy, for I am holy.

LEVITICUS 11:45

NUMBERS

The Book of Unbelief

WHO:

Joshua

Caleb

WHAT:

2 Censuses

12 Spies

Israel Rebelled
Against God

40 Years Wandering

WHERE:

Mount Sinai

Wilderness

Kadesh-barnea

Plains of Moab

Time Covered: 40 Years

DEUTERONOMY

The Book of Obedience

WHO:

Moses

WHAT:

Israel Prepared to
Enter the Land

Religious Instruction
Repeated

WHERE:

Plains of Moab

Time Covered: 1 Month

NUMBERS

The Book of Unbelief

*Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs . . .
and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see
the land which I swore to their fathers.*

NUMBERS 14:22-23

DEUTERONOMY

The Book of Obedience

*I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse.
So choose life in order that you may live.*

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

INTRODUCTION TO THE PENTATEUCH

This may be the first time you have come across the word *Pentateuch*, and so you may already feel like you are behind in the study. Well, take courage! This big word is derived from two Greek words that have a simple meaning. *Penta* means "five" and *teuch* means "scroll" or "book." So all together, it means "five books."

The Pentateuch was most likely written by one man, Moses. It consists of the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy and is also known as the Law, the Torah (Hebrew for "Law"), or the Law of Moses. These books are the first five books of the seventeen Historical Books of the Old Testament and are foundational for the rest of the Bible. One book easily flows into another, developing biblical history from Creation to about 1500 BC as well as the history of Israel from the call of Abraham through the death of Moses. Here you will meet Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons, Moses, Aaron, and Joshua. You will travel from the Garden of Eden to Ur, Haran, Canaan, and Egypt, through the Red Sea, and on to Mount Sinai.

But the center of every book in The Pentateuch is God Almighty. Your adventure with Him will begin in the first sentence of the first book, and from there on it is a wild ride as He intervenes on behalf of men and women throughout history. You will witness His awesome power in Genesis, His desire to bring His children into liberty in Exodus, His perfect holiness in Leviticus, His justice in Numbers, and His faithfulness in Deuteronomy. You will be humbled by His mercy, awed by His compassion, frightened by His wrath, and wooed by His loving-kindness. And in every book you will come to see that Jesus Christ is concealed, ready to be revealed in the New Testament.

So hang on! It is going to be quite a study as we open the Bible, God's Amazing Collection, to the first five books: The Pentateuch.

SAMPLE

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GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]

ONE

*I will establish My covenant between Me and you
and your descendants after you.*

GENESIS 17:7

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]

INTRODUCTION

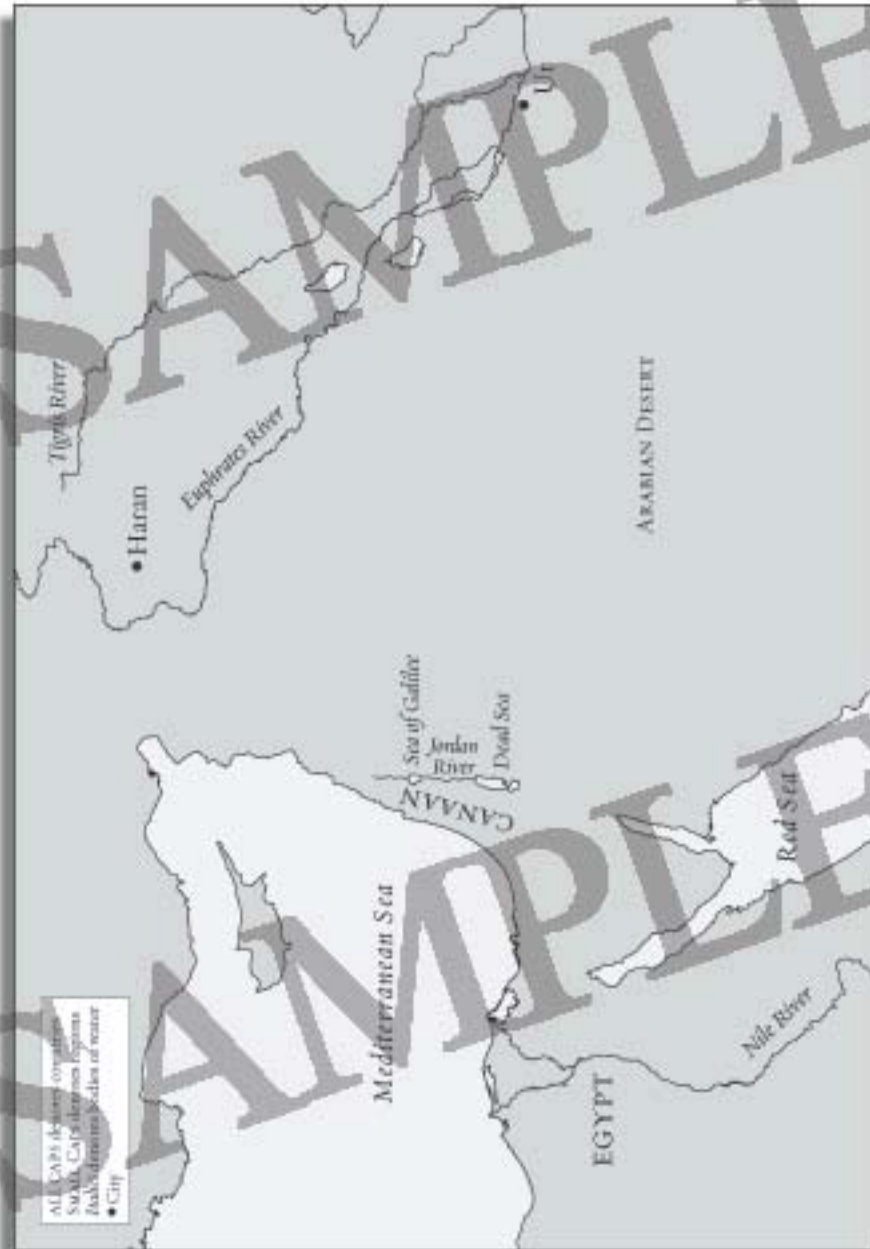
Did you ever wonder how everything began? Genesis, the first book in the Bible, answers this question with startling news. It all began with the Creator, who has such power that He merely spoke and heaven and earth appeared. The plan was a good one. All creation was to live in perfect harmony — free from death, disease, violence, and fear.

Yet the first man and woman decided to disobey the very One who created them, the One who gave them the whole world except for the fruit of a single tree. With this first act of disobedience, sin entered the world and life became a constant battle as men and women suffered the consequences.

However, God in His great goodness developed a strategy to win back His children. He chose one man (Abraham) to begin a nation (Israel) that could be an example to all nations of a people living life in harmony with God. In the book of Genesis, you will meet a few of the men and women who lived during the first two millennia. You will read about their struggles and their challenges, their anguish and their joy. And above all, you will be introduced to the majesty of God, your Creator.

GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]



GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]

OVERVIEW

WHO:	Author: Moses Main Characters: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
WHAT:	The book of beginnings
WHEN:	Abraham was born approximately 2100 BC
WHERE:	Garden of Eden, Ur, Canaan, Egypt
WHY:	This was the beginning of man's evil heart and of the nation God established as a solution

I. THE BEGINNING OF THE HUMAN RACE (GENESIS 1–11)

- A. The _____ was the beginning of the universe and people (Genesis 1–2). Adam and Eve were the first man and woman. God provided a garden for them to live in perfect harmony with nature, one another, and Him.
- B. The _____ (sin) was the beginning of separation from God and physical death (Genesis 3). Eve was tempted by Satan, ate the only fruit that was off-limits, gave some to Adam, and together they rebelled against God.
- C. The _____ was the result of violence in the land that brought the judgment of God (Genesis 6–10). Noah was a righteous man who found favor with God. God instructed him to build an ark, and when the flood came, Noah and his family were saved.
- D. The beginning of languages at the Tower of Babel was the beginning of _____ (Genesis 11). God confused their language when they tried to build a monument to their own greatness.

II. THE BEGINNING OF THE CHOSEN RACE (GENESIS 12–50)

God chose one man to become the father of a nation (Israel) that would love and worship God and be an example and a blessing to all the nations of the world.

- A. God made a _____ promise to Abraham (Genesis 12).
 - 1. Abraham's family would become a great _____.

2. All the families of the earth would be blessed by his _____.

3. His descendants would be given _____.

B. God's Chosen People: The Patriarchs of Israel (Genesis 21–26)

1. The son of Abraham was _____ (Genesis 21–26).

2. The two sons of Isaac were _____ and Esau (Genesis 27–36). Jacob was the son chosen by God to carry on the blessings of the covenant.

3. Jacob had _____ sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 30–35).

4. Jacob's favorite son was _____ (Genesis 37–50). Jacob's sons were jealous of their brother Joseph and sold him into slavery. Because God was with him, Joseph was eventually elevated to second in command in Egypt.

Joseph saved Jacob's family of seventy people from famine in Canaan by inviting them to live with him in the land of Egypt. At the end of Genesis, Jacob and Joseph had died, and the people were living in prosperity and peace in the land of Goshen in Egypt.

APPLICATION

God has created each one of His children for a unique purpose, and we are valuable in His eyes. What were you created for?

GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]

LEARNING FOR LIFE

1. Retell the story of Genesis (group effort).
2. What are some of the amazing facts you learned about the Bible today?
3. As you look around, how do you see that the Fall has affected mankind? Give as many examples as you can.
4. Abraham's family was a dysfunctional family in many ways. Describe some of the ways. How did God use them in spite of their problems and weaknesses?
5. In what way was Jesus involved in the creation of the world? (See John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:13-17.)
6. What were you created for? How can your gifts and talents, circumstances, and environment prepare you to serve God?

INTERESTING!
Genesis introduces activities we still do today, such as hunting and playing musical instruments.

The very same Holy Spirit who led these men to write, longs to lead us today so we can understand.
—GEORGE SWEETING,
author and former
president and chancellor
of Moody Bible Institute

GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]

DAY ONE

COMPLETE READ: Chapters 1–11

QUICK READ: Chapters 1–2

THE BIG PICTURE

Imagine opening your Bible and reading Exodus 1:1 as the very first words from God to you: “Now these are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob; they came each one with his household.”

You would feel as if you had been dropped into a swirling sea of unknowns. Who is Jacob? Why does this story start in Egypt? Who are the sons of Israel and where did they come from? And that’s only the book of Exodus!

Without Genesis you would wander aimlessly through the Scriptures not knowing where you had come from or where you were going. Genesis is the compass that sets us in the right direction and keeps us on course for the rest of the journey.

Based on your present knowledge of the book of Genesis, take a few moments to jot down what you wouldn’t know if the Bible completely omitted Genesis and began with the book of Exodus instead.

Genesis is not only the first book of the Bible and of the Old Testament; it's also the first of the Pentateuch, which is the first five foundational books (Genesis through Deuteronomy). The Pentateuch begins with Creation (Genesis 1–2) and ends with the people of Israel preparing to enter the land God has promised them (see Deuteronomy 34).

The following chart shows the Pentateuch in relation to the other sections of the Old Testament.

HISTORICAL		POETICAL	PROPHETICAL	
PENTATEUCH Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy		Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	MAJOR Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	
KINGDOM Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings	POST-EXILIC 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther		EARLY MINOR Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah	LATER MINOR Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

The name *Genesis* means “beginning” and comes from the very first verse: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Moses authored Genesis, as well as the rest of the Pentateuch. Because events in the Pentateuch occurred centuries before Moses lived, he undoubtedly relied on written records and oral traditions passed down from generation to generation — and, most important, on revelation from God. The Holy Spirit superintended this monumental undertaking (see 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16).

Moses most likely wrote Genesis between 1440 and 1400 BC as he led the Israelites through the wilderness on their circuitous journey from Egypt to the promised land of Canaan. Moses wrote the story of Genesis to encourage and remind the wandering, despairing Israelites that God had always been faithful to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would also be faithful to them.

DID YOU KNOW?

We know very little about the history of the world in Genesis 1–11.

We know much more about it in Genesis 12–50.

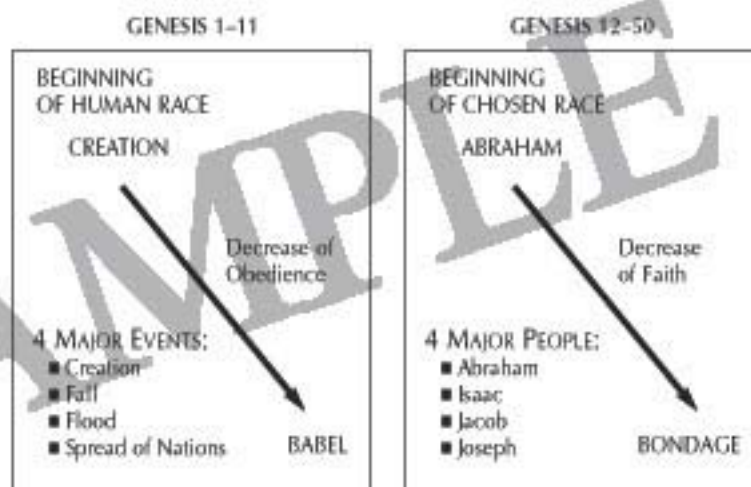
The great majority of men are bundles of beginnings.

—RALPH WALDO

EMERSON, nineteenth-century American essayist and poet

DID YOU KNOW?
The oft-mentioned three fathers of the Hebrew nation—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—are named together for the first time in Genesis 50:24.

The chart that follows indicates two natural sections of the book of Genesis.



As you will see over the next four days, extremely significant events take place in each of these sections. Even today we live with both the negative consequences and the positive favor of these events. The book of Genesis is not only first; it is also foundational and determinative. It establishes the beginning of blessing for all families of the earth.

In the Quick Read for today, you read the Creation account in chapters 1 and 2. Chapter 1 presents a chronological and structured description of each day of Creation. By contrast, chapter 2 presents a topical and very relaxed portrayal of the creation of man and woman.

What impressed you about God in these two chapters?

What can be more foolish than to think that all this rare fabric of heaven and earth could come by chance, when all the skill of science is not able to make an oyster!
—JEREMY TAYLOR, author and professor

Take time to praise Him in your own way for who He reveals Himself to be in these chapters. You may want to jot down some of your thoughts, create a poem, or write a prayer. Make this very personal.

*Wonder is the basis
of worship.*

—THOMAS CARLYLE,
nineteenth-century
Scottish theologian

MEMORY VERSE

I will establish My covenant between Me and
you and your descendants after you.

GENESIS 17:7

REVIEW IT!

The theme of Genesis
is the book of
beginnings. Genesis is
the beginning of
blessing for all the
families of
the earth.

INTERESTING!
Methuselah is the
oldest man we know
of, living 969 years
(Genesis 5:27)

*God cannot give us
happiness and peace
apart from Himself,
because it is not there.
There is no such thing.*

—C. S. Lewis, British
author and professor

GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]

DAY TWO

COMPLETE READ: Chapters 12–21

QUICK READ: Chapter 3

A CRUCIAL CHAPTER

Stuart Briscoe, a pastor, author, and Englishman, writes,

When an old lady in the Deep South asked me whether we have a Fourth of July in England, my immediate response was, “No, Madam, we go straight from the third to the fifth!” I learned my history in England, and when I came to this country, I knew so little about the events of 1776 that I wouldn’t have recognized a Declaration of Independence if I’d tripped over it. But times have changed. Now I know that the Declaration of Independence says man has three inalienable rights: “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” But I have often wondered why there are so many unhappy people in a country where freedom to pursue happiness is one of the most cherished rights.¹

Our Crucial Chapter will answer this question and also explain why unhappiness is rampant not only in America, but across the globe. We will see why William Shakespeare wrote, “Life is as tedious as a twice-told tale”² and why Oscar Wilde wrote, “There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it.”³

Imagine Adam and Eve in Genesis 1 and 2. They were in paradise—in perfect harmony and community with God, themselves, each other, and nature. Can you fathom a conversation like the one that follows?

Adam: "I am so unhappy with life in this garden."

Eve: "There seems to be no way out of this humanity thing!"

Adam: "I guess we just need to grin and bear this ludicrous existence."

Not a chance. Happiness defined their existence. There was no dilemma, no trace of a farce. But in Genesis 3, tragedy struck and man lost who he was created to be, becoming instead a sinner needing redemption. And God spent the next 2,000 years, one generation at a time, preparing the way for the Messiah — and for redemption — to come.

The horrible consequences of chapter 3 saturate the soul of every person born since Adam and eventually demand the death of God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ.

Read Genesis 3:1-5 and describe in your own words the serpent's temptation.

Sin isn't simply a one-dimensional deed. That's what makes it so tricky. Read Genesis 3:6 and write down the different dimensions of sin pictured there. Read 1 John 2:16 and compare the characteristics of sin portrayed there with those in Eve's experience.

AMAZING!

What a father-son duo!

Enoch never died

(Genesis 5:24), and

Methuselah was the

oldest man ever

(Genesis 5:27).

*The voice of sin may
be loud, but the voice
of forgiveness is louder.*

—D. L. MOODY,
nineteenth-century
evangelist

DID YOU KNOW?
Job was most likely a
contemporary of
Abraham.

What consequences of Adam and Eve's sin do you see in
Genesis 3:7-13?

God pronounced judgment on all three participants in this his-
tory-changing event. Describe the judgment on each one given
in Genesis 3:14-19.

The Serpent:

The Woman:

The Man:

*Thank God for that
"fine linen, clean
and white, the
righteousness" with
which Christ covers our
wounded nakedness. It
becomes ours, though
no thread of it was
wrought in our looms.
—ALEXANDER MACLAREN,
nineteenth-century
British preacher*

But when God pronounces judgment, He also offers salvation. God is a God of redemption, of reclaiming, of saving. In Genesis 3:15, He gave the first hint of the One who would someday defeat Satan and provide hope for fallen, sinful man. Jesus Christ's heel would be bruised; He would die on the cross but rise from the grave — *alive!* And Satan's head would be crushed; he would eventually be defeated, never to rise to power again — *dead!*

In Genesis 3:21, God symbolically pictured salvation for Adam and Eve. Explain what He did.

*Salvation is from
God only.
—Latin proverb*

What has been the most insightful thought for you in this chapter?

MEMORY VERSE

I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you.

GENESIS 17:7

REVIEW IT!

Chapter 3 is a Crucial Chapter in its description of man's first sin and God's first promise of salvation.

INSIGHT

Canaan was the most backward and depraved of the three major civilizations of Abraham's day.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.

—MARTIN LUTHER,
sixteenth-century
German reformer

GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]

DAY THREE

COMPLETE READ: Chapters 22–31

QUICK READ: Chapters 12:1–9; 13:14–18; 15:12–21; 17:1–8

A PROMINENT PLAYER

Picture this: A family is deeply rooted in their culture and community. All their relatives live close by, a pattern that has been followed for generations. They are happy and successful, honored and respected by their neighbors. Contentment and security is all they know. Then one day, the husband and father announces that the family will pull up stakes and move. The family is shocked! One family member after another legitimately asks, “Where are we going? Why are we moving?” But all the father can say is, “I don’t know.”

Seems a bit strange and insensitive and perhaps even stupid. But that’s just what happened about four thousand years ago. The man was Abram; his wife was Sarai. Their story is recorded in Genesis 12:1–9 and expanded a bit in Acts 7:2–5. Read these two passages and describe how this move occurred.

When Abram left Ur he left a 2000 BC lap of luxury. The city’s population numbered 250,000. Its culture was extremely advanced in the arts and sciences. They’d been writing for over 1,000 years! Its standard of living was high, with the average middle-class home having 10 to 20 rooms and well over 2,000

square feet.⁴ To leave this life to go who knows where says much about Abram. And his obedience to and faith in God proved to be the hallmark of his life.

The call of Abram by God is a watershed event not only in the book of Genesis but in the history of mankind. God made a covenant, an agreement, with this man that is still playing out today — and will continue to do so until the final curtain of history. There is no question that Abraham is a Prominent Player!

This covenant is detailed for us in Genesis 12:1-3. The agreement included three major components:

1. God chose one man, Abram, whom He promised to bless and make great.
2. From this one man, God would make a great nation, Israel. Those who bless Israel will be blessed; those who curse Israel will be cursed.
3. Through Abram and his seed, God would bless all the families of the earth.

God restated the covenant to Abram a number of times, each time adding a little more information. Briefly investigate the following passages and list the specifics each one adds to the covenant.

Genesis 13:14-18

Genesis 15:12-21 (especially verses 18-21)

Genesis 17:1-8

The original covenant indicated that all the families of the earth would be blessed through Abraham and his descendants (his "seed").

NOTE

An eclipse of the sun was observed by the Chinese seventy years before Abraham was born.

God is the God of promise. He keeps His word, even when that seems impossible; even when the circumstances seem to point to the opposite.

—COLIN URQUHART, pastor

He is the changeless One. His love never fluctuates; His mercy is inexhaustible; His wisdom cherishes all that is truly good; His power can always be trusted to act redemptively. The supreme wonder and unrivalled glory is that He is all that He is unchangeably. God is always God.

—ALBERT EDWARD DAY,
The Captivating Presence

Compare Genesis 15:5 and 17:7 with Galatians 3:13-16. What is Paul's ultimate conclusion about the blessing of Abraham on all the families (Gentiles) of the earth?

God's covenant with Abraham has endured for over four thousand years! As promised, Abraham *was* blessed and his name *did* become great. In fact, three major religions of the world—Islam, Judaism, and Christianity—hold him in high esteem. As promised, God built a great nation, Israel, as his posterity. As promised, the families of the earth are *still* being blessed through his descendant, Jesus Christ—the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the One who provides the way back to God after the devastating results of sin in Genesis 3.

Describe your experience in being blessed as a result of this covenant with Abraham.

REVIEW IT!

Abraham is a Prominent Player because God chose him to be the father of the nation that would bring blessing to all the families of the world.

MEMORY VERSE

I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you.

GENESIS 17:7

GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]

DAY FOUR

COMPLETE READ: Chapters 32–41

QUICK READ: Chapter 38

A NOTABLE FEATURE

Henry Vaughn writes,

And here in dust and dirt, O here
The lilies of His love appear.⁵

The Quick Read for today most likely left you feeling as if you were wandering in dust and dirt. The chapter appears to be simply a gross portrayal of sin — and for what? It's not the kind of passage you would choose for early morning reflection. But it is in the Bible — and for good reason. And that reason leads to our Notable Feature of the book of Genesis.

When we think of God's people, Israel, and the geographical places associated with them, we think of Canaan, Palestine, Israel, and Judah. But we don't want to overlook another place significant in the building of Israel as a nation (the second part of the covenant we studied yesterday).

Begin by reading Genesis 15:12–16. This is one of the restatements of the covenant by God to Abraham. As you read, answer the following questions.

What land is God talking about in verse 13? (Hint: What land will Moses lead the people out of?)

WOW!
Egypt was so advanced that the pyramids were built six hundred years before Abraham lived.

Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.

—VICTOR HUGO,
nineteenth-century writer

DID YOU KNOW?

By the time of Abraham, the Egyptians had drawn out the human circulatory system on papyrus.

Nothing, therefore, happens unless the Omnipotent wills it to happen: He either permits it to happen, or He brings it about Himself.

—SAINT AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, fourth-century bishop in northern Africa

Summarize the flow of what will happen to Abraham's descendants. (Amorites is another name for Canaanites.)

In Abraham's day, God declared that His people would be subjected to slavery in Egypt for about four centuries. Isn't it logical to ask, "Why?" If they were in the land of promise during Abraham's time and that was the land God intended them to have forever, why go to the trouble of this four-hundred-year hiatus? This is where the "dust and dirt" of chapter 38 comes into play. For God's people to be a blessing to all the families of the earth, they needed to remain holy, pure, unique, and separate from the nations to whom they would be a blessing. Recall Abraham's desire and plan for Isaac not to marry a Canaanite woman (Genesis 24:1-4).

With that in mind, what does chapter 38 tell us about Judah, a great-grandson of Abraham and a representative of the people God was building into a nation to bless the earth? What does it show us about the Canaanites?

We've got double trouble here. God's people (illustrated in Judah) were being drawn to the Canaanite culture and lifestyle, and the Canaanites were gladly accepting and assimilating them. Chapter 38 shows us why God needed to remove His people from Canaan while He developed them into a great nation. But why did He choose Egypt?

Genesis 43:32 gives us significant insight. Joseph, who had been sold into slavery by his brothers, was now second in command in Egypt. A worldwide famine was in progress and his brothers had come to Egypt to buy grain, unaware that it was Joseph

they were dealing with. Read Genesis 43:26-32. What does verse 32 say about Egypt that explains why God chose it?

Being a segregationist culture, Egypt was the perfect place for God to forge a separate and distinct people. Unlike Canaan, Egypt would allow God's people to be (in New Testament terms) "in the world, but not of the world." In the dust and dirt of chapter 38, God in His sovereignty caused the lilies of His love to appear. Judah's life began to change from that moment on, and soon Jacob's entire family was on their way to safety in Egypt. God showed that in the midst of sin, He still works for His glory and for His people's good.

Recall a time in your life when it was obvious that in the dust and dirt, the lilies of God's love appeared.

Help me, God, to trust you even when I can't see clearly what you are doing. Help me to hope even when I cannot feel the conviction of your triumph. In the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

—EUGENE PETERSON,
author and pastor

MEMORY VERSE

I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you.

GENESIS 17:7

REVIEW IT!

The Notable Feature of the book is God's sovereignty in choosing Egypt as the place to develop His nation.

JUST A THOUGHT
Joseph's "coat of many
colors" was probably
white, possibly with
colored fringe.

*I do not want merely to
possess a faith; I want a
faith that possesses me.*
—CHARLES KINGSLEY,
nineteenth-century
British writer

GENESIS *[The Book of Beginnings]*

DAY FIVE

COMPLETE READ: Chapters 42–50

QUICK READ: Chapter 22

A TIMELESS PRINCIPLE

After a long day at work, the young man simply wanted to go home and relax. But on his way to the elevator he heard screaming and saw smoke and flames billowing from the hallway. Panic gripped him: "I'm on the sixth floor. I'll never make it down." The hallway was engulfed in flames, but he remembered the windows in his office. When he reached them he could see nothing but smoke. He heard people yelling for him to jump, but fear smothered him. Over a loudspeaker a fireman shouted, "The only way you'll survive is to jump. We've spread a net; you'll be safe." But his courage fled. He couldn't see the net. Then he heard another voice: "It's okay son, you can jump." It was his dad — and his fear vanished. The relationship of love they had built over the years gave him the courage to trust his dad for what he could not see.⁶

Trust. Faith. It's not a leap into the unknown, not a shot in the dark, not a hope-so attitude. Rather, it's "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It's certainly a Timeless Principle — and graphically displayed in the life of Abraham in Genesis 22.

By the time we reach Genesis 22, Isaac is a teenager. But Abraham had waited twenty-five years for this promised son to be born! And for most of those twenty-five years God had been silent. It is not difficult to imagine what Abraham felt for that son once he finally arrived. Deep love, intense pride, unspeakable delight, and

fatherly protection must have ruled his heart. And then he was faced with the devastating words of chapter 22, the supreme test of Abraham's life.

Read Genesis 22:1-2. If you were Abraham, what would you feel at this point?

THINK ABOUT IT
God gave language to
man to bring order. At
the Tower of Babel,
God used that same gift
to bring disorder.

Did you notice that God answered five of the six basic questions?

Who?

Your son, your only son, Isaac.

When?

Now.

Where?

The land of Moriah on a mountain I will show you.

What?

Sacrifice him.

How?

As a burnt offering.

Why?

*Belief is a truth held in
the mind, faith is a fire
in the heart.*

—JOSEPH NEWTON,
twentieth-century
Baptist minister

No reason given. Just the command to go.

REMEMBER
Faith is the Timeless
Principle pictured
clearly in God's
command to Abraham
to sacrifice Isaac.

Read Genesis 22:3-7. What would have been going through your mind after Isaac asked a question like that?

Read Genesis 22:8 and compare it with Hebrews 11:17-19. What do these verses say about Abraham? Was this an easy task for him?

Read Genesis 22:9-12. Finally, the "why" question was answered. It's in verse 12. In your own words, describe that answer.

A. W. Tozer, in his book *Pursuit of God*, writes,

God let the suffering old man go through with it up to the point where He knew there would be no retreat, and then forbade him to lay a hand upon the boy. To the wondering patriarch He now says in effect, "It's all right, Abraham. I never intended that you should actually slay the lad. I only wanted to remove him from the temple of your heart that I might reign unchallenged there. . . . Now I know that thou fearest God, seeing that thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me."

Trust. Faith. Taking God at His word. But remember, this isn't trust and faith in a principle — it's trust and faith in a person, God Himself. It's about trusting the love relationship with a Father who says it's okay to jump.

Quickly scan the following verses again, emphasizing the words *God*, *He*, and *Lord* as they appear: Genesis 22:1-3, 8-12.

*The more we depend
on God the more
dependable we find
He is.*
—CLIFF RICHARD

Describe a time when you trusted God in a very difficult situation.

What were the challenges?

What do you think enabled you to trust Him?

How are you different because of the experience?

MEMORY VERSE

I will establish My covenant between Me and
you and your descendants after you.

GENESIS 17:7

*May there fall upon me
now, O God, a great
sense of Thy power and
Thy glory, so that I may
see all earthly things in
their true measure. I am
content, O Father, to
leave my life in Thy
hands. I am content to
give over my will to
Thy control.*

—JOHN BAILIE,
A Diary of Private Prayer

GENESIS

[The Book of Beginnings]

REVIEW

1. The theme of Genesis is the book of _____.
2. Chapter 3 is a Crucial Chapter in its description of man's first sin and God's first promise of _____.
3. _____ is a Prominent Player because God chose him to be the father of the nation that would bring blessing to all the families of the world.
4. The Notable Feature of the book is God's _____ in choosing Egypt as the place to develop His nation.
5. "I will establish My _____ between Me and you and your descendants after you."

GENESIS 17: _____