

Week 1

(January 1 – January 7)

Old Testament Begins

Featured Book: Genesis,
and a few passages from 1 Chronicles Chapter 1

Contents:

- Week 1 Peek at the Week / Chronological Notes 1-2
- Week 1 Daily Study Lesson Pages 1-3 to
1-32
- Bible Book Intro to Genesis 1-3
- Chart Bible Tidbits 1-21
- Chart Antiquities of the Jews: Testimony of
the Pillar of Salt by Flavius Josephus,
First Century Jewish Historian (37–100 AD) 1-29
- Chart Josephus' Life and Works 1-31

Peek at the Week

Date	Key Events	Find Jesus
Jan. 1	God Creates Everything	Jesus' Role in Creation
Jan. 2	God decides to destroy mankind	Jesus' Family Tree from Adam
Jan. 3	God's Covenant with Noah and his family	Jesus Family Tree from Noah
Jan. 4	From all Nations to Abram	Jesus is the Final King of Peace
Jan. 5	God's Covenant with Abraham	Jesus and Israel's Return to the Promised Land
Jan. 6	Lot's Plight	Moabite in Jesus' Family Tree
Jan. 7	Isaac	Isaac's Sacrifice a "Type" of Jesus' Sacrifice

Chronological Notes

*Timetable	Key Events
Undated	God Created the Heavens and Earth
Undated	Adam and Eve Sin
Undated	God Sends the Flood
Undated	Noah's Sons Re-Populate Earth, Languages Separate People
2166 (or 2000) BC	Abram's Birth (<i>Abraham</i>)
2091 (or 1925) BC	Abram's Call
2080 (or 1914) BC	Ishmael's Birth
2066 (or 1900) BC	Isaac's Birth
2026 (or 1860) BC	Isaac Marries Rebekah

**All dates are approximate, with uncertainties from Bible scholars leading to early and late dates for some events, such as timing of the exodus.¹*

Intro to Genesis

Key Word
Beginnings

Key Chapters
12

Title

“Genesis” means “Beginnings.” This key word describes the book’s theme.

Summary

Genesis shows the good, bad, and ugly of the “beginnings” of all things in quick start fashion:

- In the beginning, God executes a good plan, putting mankind in a good position in life.
- Then, the first man (Adam) and first woman (Eve) fall for the deceptive trick of the crafty serpent, transitioning mankind into a bad position of death.
- This bad position is confirmed as brother kills brother, multiplying into a pattern of wickedness in the earth. This becomes so ugly in God’s eyes...
- ...God decides to destroy every living thing He has created.

But Noah finds grace (favor) in God’s sight. When God sends a worldwide flood to destroy all living things, Noah’s family is preserved in an ark of safety, along with their animal companions. Mankind begins again from the descendants born to Noah’s three sons and their wives.

Sin, still present in the heart of mankind after the flood, is evident as seen in the wrong attitudes that lead to construction of the Tower of Babel. Eventually one descendant of Noah’s son Shem stands out from the crowd. God chooses Abraham, who chooses to follow Him as the one True and Living God. **Through Abraham, an opportunity to restore the good that God originally planned for mankind begins.**

- Timetable:** *All dates approximate with early and late dates to account for uncertainties recorded by Bible scholars, such as timing of the exodus.¹*

Key Events

	<u>*Date</u>
• God Created the Heavens and Earth	Undated
• Adam and Eve Sin	Undated
• God Sends the Flood	Undated
• Noah’s Sons and Wives Populate Earth	Undated
• Abram’s Birth (<i>Abraham</i>)	2166 (or 2000) BC
• Abram’s Call	2091 (or 1925) BC
• Isaac’s Birth	2066 (or 1900) BC
• Isaac Marries Rebekah	2026 (or 1860) BC
• Jacob’s Birth	2006 (or 1840) BC
• Joseph at Seventeen years old	1898 (or 1732) BC
• Jacob and Family of Israel Move to Egypt	1876 (or 1710) BC
• Jacob Blesses His Sons	1859 (or 1692) BC

❑ **Author: Most Likely Moses**

Moses was a writer:

God is the author of the entire Bible, as all scripture was written as inspired by Him (2 Timothy 3:16). God used select men to write down His message for all mankind's benefit. The Holy Spirit of God guided these men to write God's Word as God intended (2 Peter 1:20-21).

From ancient times, the authorship of Genesis has been attributed to Moses, as with all the first five books of the Bible (Pentateuch). Here are some scriptures that support Moses' authorship: Exodus 17:14; 24:4-7; 34:27; Leviticus 4:1; 6:1, 8; Numbers 1:1, 19; Deuteronomy 17:18-20; 30:10; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Chronicles 23:18; 34:14; Nehemiah 8:1; Matthew 8:4; 19:7-8; Mark 7:10; 12:26; Luke 16:29, 31; 24:44; John 1:45; 5:46; 7:19

Some modern scholars believe there were other authors who helped either write or compile the Pentateuch and at different times in Israel's history. To review a detailed discussion on these points of view, as well as strong arguments in support of Moses' authorship and the date of writing, read: "Chapters VII and VIII" in ***Prophecy and History in Relation to the Messiah*** by Alfred Edersheim. For a brief overview on this topic, review "Transition: Book of Genesis" in the ***Chronological Study Bible, p. 3***.²

❑ **Date of writing: ~1405 BC**

Many Bible scholars believe Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible during the time he led the children of Israel (Abraham's descendants) in the wilderness. You will be introduced to Moses in the book of Exodus.

❑ **Major Events in Genesis:**

Creation of Heavens, Earth and Mankind (Chapters 1-11)		Creation of God's Chosen People (Chapters 12-50)	
Creation	(1-2)	Abraham	(12-23)
Fall	(3-5)	Isaac	(24-26)
Flood	(6-9)	Jacob => Israel	(27-36)
Nations	(10-11)	Joseph	(37-50)

Historical Locations: Genesis events occur in Middle East area of the world

See Maps on Events in Genesis

Middle East: Then (Ancient Times)	Middle East: Now (Modern Times)
Egypt	Egypt
Sinai Peninsula	Suez
Canaan (Israel)	Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon
Mesopotamia	Syria
Assyria, Babylonia, Sumer (Ur)	Iraq (Baghdad)
Hittites	Turkey
Media, Persia, Susa	Iran
Arabian Desert	Saudi Arabia
Cush	Sudan, Ethiopia

First Man > Adam

January 1

**Reading Assignment:
Genesis 1:1–3:24**

I. Lesson Exercise

God Creates Man and Woman

God takes the empty, formless, dark earth and a) gives it light, b) gives it form, and c) fills it with good things. Like a loving parent who prepares for the birth of their child, God first puts everything in place to satisfy mankind's every need. Then, God creates the first man Adam, followed some time later by the first woman Eve.

Made In God's Image...

In Genesis 1:26–28, we read how mankind, both male and female, were created in God's image. In John 4:24 (Sep. 28), Jesus explained that "God is a Spirit." So from these two passages we understand that mankind is a "spirit" being like God.

... Male

In Genesis 2:7, we read of two more steps God performed to finish creating the first male of mankind. Next God formed the male's body from the dust of the ground. Then God breathed into the body his breath of life. The man became a living person. Now he could think, walk, communicate spiritually with God; and use his five senses to understand the world. Man could see, hear, smell, talk and feel.

... Female

After giving the man Adam an awesome place to stay, an important job to do, and a simple command to obey, then God gave him the ideal companion to be his wife and share his wonderful life. From Genesis 2:21–22, we learn that God shaped the first female's body from a rib taken out of Adam, whom God had put in a deep sleep.

Because the first female was taken out of a man, Adam called her "woman", which means "female human being". From the female's womb, more humans would be born. Adam named her Eve, because she would be the mother of all people (Gen. 3:20).

- 1) In Gen. 1:28, when God blessed the male and female, what purpose did He give both of them for their general earthly activity? _____
- 2) After Adam and Eve sinned, how did their earthly roles change because of God's punishment? (Gen. 3:16–19) _____

First Woman > Eve

The Serpent in Genesis Revealed

In the last book of the Bible, the ancient serpent introduced in Genesis is mentioned. From Revelation 12:9 (Dec. 29), the true identity behind the talking serpent in Genesis is revealed. He is the devil, also known as satan, God's adversary. From Rev 12:9 we learn that in the beginning of time, the devil deceived Eve. But in the end of time, the devil will be successful in deceiving the whole world.

Where Is the Garden of Eden?

Where in the world is the Garden of Eden?

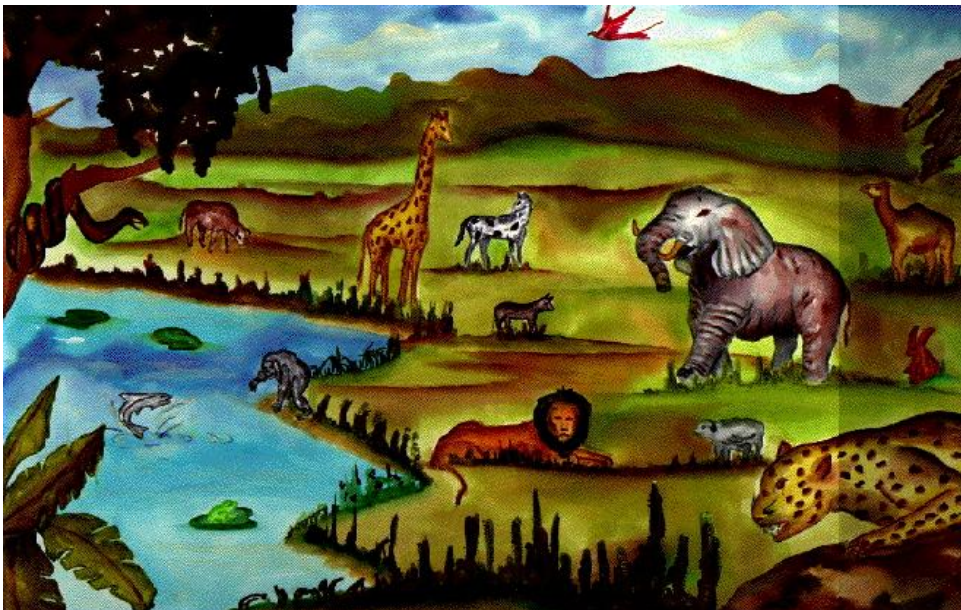
After Adam and Eve sinned, God banished them from the Garden of Eden forever. Eden was guarded by two mighty angels with a flaming sword, to prevent them from reentering and eating from the tree of life in their new sinful state (Gen 3:22–24).

Since their expulsion, the Garden of Eden has never been seen again, but Bible scholars try to guess its location.

Although the exact location of the Garden of Eden is unknown, Genesis 2:10 describes four rivers that flow out of Eden.

Two of these rivers, Tigris and Euphrates, are located in modern Iraq, which in Bible times was the land of Asshur.

Look for these rivers on the maps “Middle East: Then (BC) and Middle East: Now.”



II. Find Jesus in the Lesson: Jesus' Role in Creation

Throughout the Bible there are scriptures that talk about different parts of the creation story. Read New Testament scripture Colossians 1:15–17 (Dec. 8) to discover the role Jesus Christ played in creation.

3) What did Christ do in creation? (Col. 1:15–17) _____

Jesus, the Promised Conquering “Offspring” of Eve

In Gen. 3:15, God tells the serpent that the woman’s offspring (descendant) will strike (bruise, crush) the head of the serpent. Some Bible scholars explain this passage is a prophecy (foretelling) from God introducing the Messiah He would send. Messiah would conquer the devil, which is God and mankind’s adversary that worked through the serpent to deceive Eve.

God’s promise also gives insight that the offspring will be born of a woman. Bible scholars believe Gen. 3:15 points to the future virgin birth of Messiah.

- **In the book, *What the Rabbis Know About the Messiah*, Rachmiel Frydland refers to the writings of Rabbi David Kimchi, one of the greatest Jewish commentators from the 12th–13th century.** The Rabbi recognized Gen. 3:15 as a prophecy about Messiah’s redemption of mankind.³ Frydland believes the Jewish Messiah is Jesus Christ.
- **In the Hebrew-English New Covenant Bible, another ancient rabbinical source cites Genesis 3:15 as being a Messianic prophecy.** It records a quote by Rabbi Tanchuma on behalf of Rabbi Samuel from Midrash Rabbah 23.⁴ The writers of the Hebrew-English New Covenant Bible believe the Jewish Messiah is Jesus Christ.
- **In Appendix 9 of the book, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, the author Alfred Edersheim also cites ancient Jewish scholars who identify Genesis 3:15 as a Messianic passage.**⁵ Edersheim was a nineteenth-century Messianic Jewish Bible scholar.

Jesus Christ fulfills this promise, by...

- **Being born of Virgin Mary:** Matt. 1:18–25 (Sep. 25); Gal. 4:4 (Nov. 14); Heb. 2:14–15 (Dec. 17); 1 John 3:8 (Dec. 24)
- **And conquering the devil:** Rev. 12:7–17 (Dec. 29)

Prior to the “Intro to Genesis–Preparatory Study Material” section, there are several charts describing Jewish and Christian sources used to identify Messianic prophecies throughout KHW Bible Study. **Review the charts...**

- **Hebrew Bible/Old Testament**
- **The Messiah, Our Savior—Revealed from the Beginning**
- **Jewish Scholars Used as Resources for Find Jesus in the Lesson**
- **Find Jesus in the Lesson: Old and New Testaments**

III. Closing Thoughts

They Learned the Hard, Deathly Way:

- God told Adam he would “surely die” if he ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Gen. 2:16)
- Satan told Eve she and Adam would not die if they disobeyed God, but they would become like God knowing good and evil. (Gen. 3:4)
- Sadly, Adam and Eve learned the hard way that God was right.

Adam and Eve did not experience immediate **physical death** (this came later).

But, they experienced immediate separation from the relationship they had with God, which was **spiritual death**.

Also, their nature immediately changed from one of purity to one of wickedness (**moral death**), which spread to their descendants- all mankind. (Romans 5:12)

From Blessed to Cursed:

- Adam had to do hard labor to eat,
- Eve had to do hard labor to have children,
- And hatred and murder became members of the family.

What a tragic contrast to the paradise existence they first enjoyed. What is worse, God said Eve’s descendants and the serpent’s descendants would continue to be enemies.

Yet, God gave a promise of hope in Gen. 3:15 in the form of the first prophecy about the Messiah, mankind’s Savior and Deliverer.

God Gave a Promise of Hope in Genesis 3:15