



## **A GENERIC LOOK AT GENESIS**

**Basically, our study will be a synopsis of Genesis with major emphasis on Creation and the Abrahamic Covenant.**

*“I’m sure I’m not the only one who has ever used “Cliff Notes” to study for a test. “Cliff Notes” is a summary of a number of various subjects from American History to the Books of the Bible. I remember frantically running to the book store to purchase Cliff Notes for a subject on which I failed to study prior to a test the next day. In lieu of reading a book, I would hope (and pray) that the summary of the book might get me through the test or help me answer questions by the teacher or professor who knew the subject book, poem, etc. backward and forward. Sometimes the “Cliff Notes Emergency Syndrome” did not help my ignorance of the subject. The only out I had...was there were many others who were walking in my shoes in the same class (the shoes didn’t fit).*

*I don’t want you to think that I am trying to get out of being able to answer questions from our short synopsis on the Book of Genesis. It is not my desire or intention to short-cut or cheat my way of teaching the wonderful book of Genesis. The reason for a “Cliff Note” teaching is for us to study a general overview of this meaningful and important book of the Bible.*

**The Bible is all one Story—The last part in the last book reads like the close of the story in the first part of the first book.**

**First Words in Genesis**

*“In the Beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.” Genesis 1:1*

*“The gathering together of waters He called the Sea.”  
Genesis 1:10*

*“The Darkness He called Night.”  
Genesis 1:5*

**First Words in Genesis**

*“God made the two great Lights “ (Sun and Moon) Genesis 1:16*

**Almost the Last Word in Revelation**

*“I saw a new Heaven and a new earth. (Revelation 21:1)*

*“And the sea is no more.”  
Revelation 21:1*

*“There shall be no night there”  
Rev. 21:25*

**Almost the Last Words in Revelation**

*“The city has no need of the Sun nor the Moon.”  
Rev. 21:23*

*"In the Day you Eat thereof  
you shall surely die." Genesis 2:1  
(First recorded death, Genesis 4:8)*

*"Death shall be no more."  
Revelation 21:4*

*Genesis shows the beginning of the curse  
(3:15-18)*

*Revelation shows the curse lifted (Rev. 22:3)*

*Genesis shows how man lost his chance  
To eat of the tree of life (3:22-24)*

*Revelation shows man will eat of that tree (22:3)*

*Genesis introduces the devil for the first  
Time as the tempter of men (3:1-18)*

*Revelation shows the final doom of Satan (20:10)*

*Genesis reveals the tragic sorrow that  
Results from sin (chapters 3 and 4)*

*Revelation promises, "God shall wipe away all  
tears from their eyes." (Revelation 21:4)*

***Man did not plan the order of the books of the Bible...God did!  
God is never under legitimate scrutiny to prove the Bible...His authority  
and order is the proof!***

## **THOUGHTS TO BEGIN WITH AS WE STUDY THE BIBLE...ESPECIALLY GENESIS.**

### **1. We come to the Bible knowing there is a God.**

- *There are many good and strong philosophical and logical reasons to believe in God. Yet the Bible does not make elaborate arguments for the existence of God. However, it does tell us how we can know God exists.*
- *The Bible tells us we can know God exists because of what we see in the created world.*

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. (Psalm 19:1-4)*

*"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)*

- *This is an example of the theological argument for the existence of God. It is the understanding that there must be a purposeful intelligence Who created this world, because the world shows both purpose and intelligence. In the view of many Biblical scholars, this argument of purpose and design remains unanswered by the atheist or the agnostic.*

**2. We come to the Bible believing it is the place where God has spoken to man, perfectly and comprehensively.**

- *We believe 2 Timothy 3:16-17: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*
- *We can study God, but we can’t put Him under a microscope or test Him in a laboratory. We can only confidently know about Him what He chooses to reveal to us. We are also confident that what He chooses to tell us is profitable and useful for us.*
- **We believe the Bible must be understood literally, that is, as straightforward and true according to its literary context.**
  - *The Bible is much more than a book; it is a library of books, and books written in different literary forms. Some portions of the Bible give a historical account, others are poetic, and some are prophetic.*
  - *We must understand the Bible literally according to its literary context. For example, when David wrote in Psalm 6:6 “All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears,” he used a poetic literary form. We understand he didn’t literally mean he cried so much that he flooded his room and set his bed afloat. Psalm 119:128 says, “Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right.” With great confidence, the Psalmist proclaimed the inerrancy of God’s word. It was right, not wrong; and it was right concerning all things.*
  - *When the Bible gives us history, it is right and true; the events actually happened as described.*
  - *When the Bible gives us poetry, it is right and true; the feeling and experiences were real for the writer and ring true to human experience.*
  - *When the Bible gives us prophecy, it is right and true; the events described will come to pass, just as it is written.*
  - *When the Bible gives us instruction, it is right and true; it truly does tell us the will of God and the best way of life.*
  - *When the Bible tells us of God, it is right and true; it reveals to us what the nature and heart and mind of God is, as much as we can comprehend.*

*NOTE: If we don't approach the Bible this way, then we can only come to it with how we feel about the text, and we decide what is true or false about the text — making ourselves greater than the text itself. Though the teachings of Scripture have many applications, they only have one true interpretation. Sometimes the interpretation is easy to discern and sometimes not, but God meant something with the text revealed to mankind.*

- **We believe the Bible is not a book of science; yet where it touches science, it speaks the truth.** After all, if the Bible is false in regard to science or other things that we can prove, then we cannot regard it as reliable in regard to spiritual matters that we cannot prove.
- **We come to the Bible knowing the copies we have in our hands are reliable duplicates (though not perfect duplicates) of the exact writings, which God perfectly inspired.**
  - We can know this about the Old Testament by seeing the incredible care and reliability of the ancient Jewish scribes, demonstrated by the Dead Sea Scroll discoveries.
  - We can know this about the New Testament by knowing that because of earlier manuscripts, and a greater number of ancient manuscripts, the New Testament is by far the most reliable and exhaustively crosschecked ancient document we possess. Really, no more than one one-thousandth of the New Testament text is in question.

**With that said...“The only proper way to interpret Genesis 1 is not to ‘interpret’ it at all. That is, we accept the fact that it was meant to say exactly what it says.” (Morris)**

## **6. We come to the Bible knowing the unique importance of the Book of Genesis.**

- The Bible would be incomplete and perhaps incomprehensible without the Book of Genesis. It sets the stage for the entire drama of redemption, which unfolds in the rest of the book.
- Almost all important doctrines and teachings have their foundation in the Book of Genesis: the doctrines of sin, redemption, justification, Jesus Christ, the personality and personhood of God, the kingdom of God, the fall, Israel, the promise of the Messiah, and more.
- Genesis shows us the origins of the universe, order and complexity, the solar system, the atmosphere and hydrosphere, the origin of life, man, marriage, evil, language, government, culture, nations, religion. It is

*precisely because people have abandoned the truth of Genesis that society is in such disarray.*

- *Genesis is important to the New Testament. There are at least 165 passages in Genesis either directly quoted or clearly referred to in the New Testament; many of these are quoted more than once, so there are at least 200 quotations or allusions to Genesis in the New Testament.*
- *Jesus declared the importance of believing what Moses wrote: “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” (John 5:46-47) We can’t say we believe in Jesus if we don’t believe in the Book of Genesis.*

*“I beg and faithfully warn every pious Christian not to stumble at the simplicity of the language and stories that will often meet him there [in Genesis]. He should not doubt that, however simple they may seem, these are the very words, works, judgments, and deeds of the high majesty, power, and wisdom of God.” (Luther)*

- *According to the New Testament, Moses wrote the Book of Genesis (Luke 24:27, Luke 24:44). We can surmise that he did this with help from actual written records from the past God had preserved. There are indicators of where these records begin and end. Note the phrasing of Genesis 2:4, 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 11:27, 25:12, 25:19, 36:1, 36:9, 37:2.*

*“Thus it is probable that the Book of Genesis was written originally by actual eyewitnesses of the events reported therein. Probably the original narratives were recorded on tables of stone or clay, in common practice of early times, and then handed down from father to son, finally coming into the possession of Moses. Moses perhaps selected the appropriate sections for compilation, inserted his own editorial additions and comments, and provided smooth transitions from one document to the next, with the final result being the Book of Genesis as we have received it.” (Morris)*

*So... We begin the beginning of Scripture... The Beginning of Mankind!*

*“Let us understand that God made man in the likeness of Himself. Let us be careful and not let man try to make God in the likeness of ourselves.”  
Gerald Cumby*