

Bible Study: The Book of Genesis

Introduction: Genesis means “beginning”. God is revealed as Creator with absolute power to speak things into existence. What God commanded came to pass as shown in **Genesis 1:3**: “And God said, let there be light, and there was light.” The creation of the heaven and the earth has been shown in **Psalms 33:6**: “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth” and in **Psalms 33:9** which says: “For he spoke, and it was (done); he commanded, and it stood fast.”

Genesis begins with the creation story. The opening words being: “In the beginning” which gives support to the truth that until God had spoken nothing had existed. **Hebrews 11:3** expresses this view in saying: “through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Secondly, **John 1:1-3** says: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him and without him was not any thing made that was made.” God can create things out of nothing (ex nihilo). Men can only make something out of something else that exists. Men are manufacturers but God alone is the Creator.

It is the author’s view that the six days of creation are the twenty-four-hour days we know today, and not long time periods that some people believe. Adam was the first man to be created by God and Eve the first woman. What God had created was very good. It was in **Genesis 3:1-24** that sin and death came into the world because of Adam’s rebellion against God in eating the forbidden fruit passed on to him by Eve who had been deceived by the devil in the form of the serpent to eat the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. That perfect relationship between man and God had been broken and led to man being expelled from the Garden of Eden.

The Book of Genesis lays the foundations of God’s plans and purposes for men. In this book the divine sovereignty of God has been shown in the events of the creation (**Chapters 1&2**), the fall (**3:1-24**), the flood (**6:5-8:24**) and the Babel crisis (**11:1-9**). God’s sovereignty continued in the chosen nation of Israel revealed to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and then continued further through Joseph who was taken to Egypt to be sold as a slave. After a time in prison, Joseph became prime minister to Pharaoh, king of Egypt. During a famine Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt where Joseph revealed himself to his brothers on their second visit. As a result, the entire family came to Egypt as shown by the Lord to Jacob to settle in Egypt for a time. The growth of Israel as a nation took place in Egypt for over 400 years. Then Israel was brought out of Egypt by God to possess the Promised Land. Such a deliverance from Egypt was revealed to Abraham and his descendants (**15:13-16**).

Additional Note: The author is aware of the Gap Theory suggested in **Genesis 1:2**. This is the belief in a pre-Adamic world created by God and then destroyed to show the earth without form in **Genesis 1:2**. When God spoke there were six days of a re-creation of the world in **Genesis 1:3-31**, i.e. a ruin restoration exegetical interpretation of **Genesis 1:1-2**.

This is not the view of the author who sees **Genesis 1:2** as part of the first day of creation; the earth being not much more than 6000 years old and hence a young earth. **Genesis 1:2** follows on from **Genesis 1:1** showing the state of the earth on the first day before God spoke to have light and darkness and then continued for six 24-hour days to create what was very good.

The author believes the Gap Theory has to introduce death before the six days of (re)creation because of the destruction of a pre-Adamic world. Scripture clearly shows the six days of creation was very good and death only came about when Adam rebelled against God in eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (**Genesis 2:17; 3:6**). Further scripture endorses death only came into the world through the sin of Adam (**Romans 5:12-17**). In **Revelation 21:1** it says “And I (John) saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the FIRST heaven and the FIRST earth were passed away: and there was no more sea”. A pre-Adamic world that was destroyed would make the so-called recreated heaven and earth the second one! The evidence the author believes he has shown from scripture does not support a Gap Theory.

Suggested way of attempting the bible study

The author has no intention with these bible study notes on Genesis to give a lengthy exposition and interpretation of the book or indeed with any other books in the bible. The main focus is on provoking everyone interested in reading the relevant scriptures and to think about the text. Time spent with others in a small group of about ten to fifteen people can be of immense value when there is a willingness to really study the scriptures. Asking questions and giving views should be encouraged from everyone present in the small group. Bible studies should be interactive in allowing dialogue between everyone present.

It is encouraged by the author to have someone leading the bible study who can guide the study possibly giving a short introduction up to fifteen minutes and adding questions to provoke discussion where necessary. A concluding summary can be helpful to finish the study. Alternatively, when no one feels able to lead the group, where there is real interest to study the scriptures such a group may function perfectly well without a recognised leader. In this situation a group may benefit from reading a portion of scripture together and then allow a short time maybe up to ten minutes to allow people to think about what they have read before sharing views and comments. Try to avoid just giving only views and opinions but attempt to see what the Lord is revealing to you as a group during the bible study. You may wish to be selective in which questions you want to study.

Starting the bible study with prayer and worship can be very encouraging to help stimulate studying the scriptures together. Concordances and other relevant materials can be of value in contributing to the study. It can be helpful to know the scriptures to study beforehand to give everyone time for preparation so that there is opportunity for each person to contribute effectively to the bible study.

May the Lord direct each group in how to study this precious book of Genesis.

Bible Study Questions on the Book of Genesis

Section 1: Chapters 1-3.

Chapters 1&2: Creation was in six 24-hour days. All living things were created after their own kind. Man was created in the image of God, the first man being Adam with Eve, the first woman created for man.

Chapter 3: There was the fall of man when Adam ate the forbidden fruit having rebelled against God. Death came on the entire human race.

Questions on Chapters 1-3

- 1) Show what was created on each day from the first to the sixth day. Read **1:3-31**.
- 2) How did God create on each day? See **1:3,6,9,14,20,24,25,26,28**.
- 3) What was known of the relationship between Adam and God and secondly between Adam and Eve before the fall? See **2:7-25**.
- 4) Look at **2:8-17**. What was known about the Garden of Eden?
- 5) Show that marriage between a man and a woman has been divinely ordained. See Genesis **2:18,21-25**; **Matthew 19:3-6**; **Mark 10:6-9**; **1Corinthians 11:8,9**.
- 6) How did the devil in the form of a serpent manage to deceive Eve into eating the forbidden fruit? See **3:1-6**.
- 7) Does the relationship change after the fall in **Genesis 3:1-24**?
- 8) Is there evidence that God showed mercy to Adam and Eve in **Genesis 3:14-21**?
- 9) What do you understand from **Genesis 3:15**?
- 10) What is significant about the clothing God gave to Adam and Eve in **Genesis 3:21**?
- 11) What were the results of the Fall? Make a list using **Genesis 3:7-24**. Compare with **Romans 5:12-19**.
- 12) Why were Adam and Eve not able to continue in the Garden of Eden? See **3:22-24**.

Section 2: Chapters 4&5

Chapter 4:1-24: Adam and Eve have two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain murdered Abel. Descendants of Cain have been shown to Lamech.

Chapter 4:25-5:32: Genealogy through Adam's son Seth (means "appointed, compensation, substitute, to replace") to Noah.

Questions on Chapters 4&5

- 1) What lessons can be learnt from looking at A) The life of Cain **4:1-17; 1John 3:11-12.**
B) The life of Abel. See **Genesis 4:2-10; Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:47-51; Hebrews 11:4.**
- 2) Why did God reject Cain's offering in **4:5**?
- 3) What was known of Cain's descendants? See **4:17-24.**
- 4) How did sin grow on the earth in **Genesis chapter 4**?
- 5) What was significant about Seth? See **4:25-26; 5:3-8 and Luke 3:23-38.**
- 6) What can we learn from the genealogy in **5:1-32**? Compare **Luke 3:36-38.**
- 7) What was known of Enoch? It is helpful to look up the meaning of his name. See **Genesis 5:21-24; Hebrews 11:5-6; Jude 14-15.**

Section 3: Chapters 6-9

Chapters 6,7,8: The wickedness of men was judged by God in a worldwide flood but Noah, a righteous man, was saved with his family.

Chapter 9: God made a covenant with Noah. There was a blessing upon Shem and Japheth but a curse on Ham.

Questions on Chapters 6-9

- 1) Who were the sons of men referred to **Genesis 6:1-4**?
- 2) What is meant by "his days shall be an hundred and twenty years" (**Genesis 6:3**)?
- 3) What was God's attitude to sin in **Genesis chapter 6**?
- 4) What was the state of the world just before the flood? See **Genesis 6:1-13; Matthew 24:36-39; Romans 1:18-32; 1Peter 3:20; 2Peter 2:5.**
- 5) What was God's part in saving Noah and what was Noah's part in being saved? See **Genesis 6:22; 7:5; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:12-13; 1Peter 1:5.**
- 6) Is it possible that more people could have been saved than just Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives? See **1Peter 3:20; 2Peter 2:5.**
- 7) In view of **2Peter 2:5**, is it true to say that Noah continually warned men of the coming flood?
- 8) What evidence proved that the flood was worldwide? See **Genesis 7:21&22; 9:15; Job 22:15-16; 2Peter 3:6.**
- 9) Look carefully at **7:10-12,17,24; 8:2-5,6-10,11-14.** Can you find out the duration of the flood from when the rain started to fall (**7:10**) until the earth was dried (**8:14**)?
- 10) Can you see any spiritual principles illustrated by the raven and the dove? See **8:7-12.**
- 11) What was the significance of Noah's devotion to God? See **Genesis 8:20; Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 13:15-16.**
- 12) What did God command Noah and his sons to do and to show what was strictly forbidden in **9:1-7**?
- 13) What were the promises that God made to Noah and his sons in **Genesis 9:8-17**?
- 14) Did Noah deliberately intend to be drunk? See **9:20-21.**
- 15) What is the attitude of the sons of Noah towards his drunkenness? See **9:18-27.**
- 16) What spiritual lessons can we learn from Noah's life? See **Genesis 6:8-22; 7:1-6; 8:15-22; 9:20-29; Hebrews 11:7; 1Peter 3:20; 2Peter 3:20.**

Section 4: Chapters 10&11

Chapter 10: Descendants of Noah's three sons: Japheth **10:2-5**; Ham **10:6-21**; Shem **10:22-31**.

Chapter 11:1-9: The attempt of men to establish a one world system in building the tower of Babel was destroyed by the Lord.

Chapter 11:10-32: Descendants of Shem to Abram (Abraham).

Questions on Chapters 10&11

- 1) What was known of Nimrod? See **10:6-12**.
- 2) What can we learn from the origins of the nations in **Genesis 10:1-20** and in their relationship to one another and to God? See also **Acts 17:26** and **Romans 3:29**.
- 3) What can we learn from Shem's descendants in **10:21-33** & **11:10-26**?
- 4) What does it mean that in Peleg's "*days was the earth divided*"? See **Genesis 10:25** and **1Chronicles 1:19**.
- 5) Look carefully at **Genesis 11:1-9** and show why men were rebelling against God?
- 6) What is known of Terah? Why did he remain in Haran rather than go to the land of Canaan? See **Genesis 11:24-32**; **Joshua 24:2**; **1Chronicles 1:26**.

Section 5: Chapters 12&13

Chapter 12:1-9: Abram was called out of his father's house to a land chosen by God and given to his descendants.

Chapter 12:10-20: Abram journeyed into Egypt.

Chapter 13:1-4: Abram returned to the chosen land near Bethel.

Chapter 13:5-18: Abram and Lot separate. Abram moved to Hebron.

Questions on Chapters 12&13

- 1) Look at the scriptures that show God speaking to Abram. Can you see the promises God is making and whether they are relevant today in **12:1-3,7** and **13:14-18**. See also **Acts 7:1-8**.
- 2) Read **12:10-20**. Do you think Abram made a mistake going to Egypt?
- 3) Show how Pharaoh treated Abram when he knew Sarai was his wife? See **12:17-20**.
- 4) What do we know about Lot in **13:5-13**? Did he make a wise choice in going to the plain of Jordan?
- 5) Read carefully **13:1-4**. Consider what we can learn from Abram's return to Bethel.
- 6) Do you think the separation between Abram and Lot was significant? See **13:14-18**.

Section 6: Chapters 14-19

Chapter 14:1-24: After a war leading to Lot being taken captive, Abram rescued him. He gave tithes to Melchizedec, king of Salem.

Chapter 15:1-21: Abram was reassured by the Lord of many descendants and of a chosen land with definite boundaries.

Chapter 16:1-16: The birth of Ishmael was through Hagar, an Egyptian maid to Sarai, who was given to Abram to be his wife.

Chapter 17:1-27: The everlasting covenant of circumcision was shown by the Lord to Abram. Abram had his name changed to Abraham.

Chapter 18:1-22: Abraham received three men for a meal who foretell Sarah giving birth to a son before they continued their journey to Sodom.

Chapter 18:23-33: Abraham has a conversation with the Lord.

Chapter 19:1-29: Lot and his family were brought out of Sodom being allowed to go to Zoar before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone (sulphur).

Chapter 19:30-38: Lot and his two daughters lived in a cave.

Questions on Chapters 14-19

- 1) What do we understand of the first war recorded from scripture? See **14:1-12**.
- 2) In view of the events in **Chapter 14** what further revelation was known of Abram's character?
- 3) What was known of the king of Sodom from **14:2-4,8-11,17,21-24**?
- 4) Why did Abram refuse the goods offered to him by the king of Sodom after a victorious battle? See **14:17-24** and **Esther 9:5-16**.
- 5) Who is Melchizedek? See **14:17-24**. Is it true to consider him as a type of Christ? It is helpful to read **Hebrews 5:5-10; 7:1-28**.
- 6) What principle of the gospel of Jesus Christ has been shown in **15:1-6**? See also **Romans 4:1-25; Galatians 3:1-29; James 2:23**.
- 7) Can you suggest why God spoke to Abram the words "*Fear not, Abram; I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward*" in **15:1**?
- 8) What did God clarify in making a covenant with Abram in **15:7-21**?
- 9) Is it true to say Abram made a mistake by having a son through Hagar? See **16:1-6**.
- 10) Why did Sarah treat Hagar so badly? See **16:4-6**.
- 11) What did Hagar come to realise about who God is? See **16:7-14**.
- 12) How did God want Hagar to be a servant to Sarah? See **16:9** and **1Peter 2:18-20**.
- 13) What was known of Ishmael? See **16:4-16; 21:9-21; 25:12-18** and **Galatians 4:22-31**.
- 14) What were the characteristics of the covenant that God made with Abram? See **17:9-22**.
- 15) What were the blessings Abram would receive as a result of this covenant? See **17:1-22**.
- 16) What did Abraham have to do to ensure the covenant was kept? See **17:23-27**.
- 17) What do we know of the three men that came to Abraham? See **18:1-15**.
- 18) How can we learn from the way Abraham gave hospitality to the three men? See **18:2-8**.
- 19) Did Abraham know whom he was giving hospitality to? See again **18:1-15**.
- 20) In receiving these three men what did Abraham gain for himself? See **18:9-15**.
- 21) Is it known from the text that Abraham knew the purpose of the visit of the two men to Sodom? See **18:16-22**.
- 22) Does this example of Abraham help us to receive the Lord as our guest, to enjoy fellowship with him and to become his friends? See **Genesis 18:17; 2Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; John 15:13-15; Hebrews 13:2; James 2:23; Revelation 3:20**.
- 23) What can we learn about prayer from Abraham's conversation with the Lord? See **18:23-33; 19:29**. It is helpful to read **Luke 18:1-8** and **Jonah 3:9-10; 4:1-2**.
- 24) Did Sarah show that she was a woman of faith? See **18:9-15** and **Hebrews 11:11**.
- 25) What was known of Lot's character? See **13:10-13; 19:1-11,17-22,30-38** and **2Peter 2:6-9**.
- 26) What was known of Sodom and Gomorrah and why were they destroyed by God? See **13:10-13;14:2,8,10-12,17,21-22; 18;16-22;19:1-38; Luke 17:28-32; Ezekiel 16:49-50**.
- 27) Can you see the spiritual significance of Zoar (means "little one"), where Lot fled to with his family? Do you think it was unwise of Lot to go there? See **19:17-26,30**.
- 28) What benefits did Lot gain for himself and his family by living in Sodom? Can you see how Lot should be a warning to us? See **19:1-38**.

Section 7: Chapters 20-23

Chapter 20:1-18: Abraham dwelt in Gerar where he lied to Abimelech in saying Sarah was his sister.

Chapter 21:1-34: Sarah gave birth to Isaac (**vs1-8**). Hagar and Ishmael were sent away by Abraham (**vs9-21**). Abraham and Abimelech made a covenant at Beersheba (**vs22-34**).

Chapter 22:1-19: Abraham was told by God to offer Isaac as a sacrifice in the land of Moriah.

Chapter 22:20-24: The family of Nahor, Abraham's brother has been listed.

Chapter 23:1-20: The death of Sarah led to Abraham purchasing a burial place.

Questions on Chapters 20-23

- 1) Show how God dealt with Abimelech in **chapter 20**.
- 2) How did Abimelech respond to God's word to him? See **20:3-10,13-16**.
- 3) In what ways had Abraham sinned in **chapter 20**?
- 4) How did God show his mercy and honour to Abraham despite having lied to Abimelech? See **20:7,14-18**.
- 5) Why did Abimelech give Sarah his reproof? See **20:16**.
- 6) Show how Abraham and Sarah respond to the birth of their son Isaac. See **21:1-8, Hebrews 11:11**.
- 7) Show how God had been faithful to Sarah in **21:1-2**.
- 8) Why was it necessary to remove Ishmael and Hagar from Isaac? See **21:9-12 and Galatians 4:22-31**.
- 9) Is it true that Ishmael was blessed by God? See **21:13-21 and 25:12-18**.
- 10) What did Abimelech understand about Abraham's testimony to God? See **21:22-24**.
- 11) What was significant about the place Beersheba? See **21;25-34; 22:19**.
- 12) What can we learn from the faith of Abraham when he was willing to sacrifice Isaac in **22:1-14** and how was he rewarded? See also **Hebrews 11:17-19; James 2:21-23**.
- 13) What was significant about the place of sacrifice? See **22:2 and 2Chronicles 3:1**.
- 14) How does Isaac respond when he realised that he was the sacrifice? See **22:9-10 and 2Chronicles 3:1**.
- 15) In what way was the sacrifice of Isaac a type of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for sin? See **22:2,13; John 1:29;3:16;10:17-18; Philippians 2:5-10; 2Corinthians 5:21**.
- 16) Why is Nahor's family recorded in scripture in **22:20-24**?
- 17) What covenant (promise) did God renew with Abraham when he was at Mount Moriah? See **22:15-18**.
- 18) What can we learn of Abraham's character in how he came to bury his wife, Sarah? See **23:1-20 and Hebrews 11:8-16**.

Section 8: Chapters 24-26

Chapter 24:1-67: Abraham sent his eldest servant to bring a bride for Isaac.

Chapter 25:1-10: Abraham died after being married to Keturah.

Chapter 25:12-18: Descendants of Ismael.

Chapter 25:11,19-34: Isaac was blessed. His wife Rebekah gave birth to Esau and Jacob.

Chapter 26:1-32: Isaac lived in Gerar where he was blessed. He made a covenant with Abimelech. The Lord appeared to Isaac.

Chapter 26:33-34: Esau married two Hittite women.

Questions on chapters 24-26

- 1) List the characters in **Genesis 24** and consider whether any of them are types. For example: The servant can be a type of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Why did Abraham want to obtain a wife for Isaac from his own kindred? See **24:2-4,10; 1Corinthians 7:39; 2Corinthians 6:14**.
- 3) Is it true to say that Abraham was confident that his servant would bring a wife for Isaac? See **24:5-9,37-41**.
- 4) Consider how God worked in **24:10-52**. Does prayer make a difference in what took place?
- 5) What do we know of Rebekah's character? See **24:15-20,45-46,53-67**.
- 6) Show that Rebekah's family recognised that God had been at work to release Rebekah to go and marry Isaac. See **24:50-60**.
- 7) How did Isaac respond when he met Rebekah? See **24:62-67**.
- 8) What is known of Abraham's remaining years from taking Keturah to be his wife? See **25:1-10**.
- 9) What was known of the sons of Ishmael? See **25:12-18; 17:20; Hebrews 11:8-9**.
- 10) What was significant about the prophetic word given to Rebekah before giving birth to two sons? See **25:21-26**.

Questions on chapters 24-26 (continued)

- 11) What was known of Esau's character in **25:21-34** and **26:34-35**?
- 12) What was known of Jacob's character in **25:27-34**?
- 13) What can we learn from Esau's attitude towards his birthright?
See **25:29-34; Matthew 16:26; Mark 8:36-37; Hebrews 12:14-17.**
- 14) Why did Isaac fail in lying to the Philistines regarding Rebekah? See **26:6-11.**
- 15) Why was Isaac blessed? See **26:12-16.**
- 16) What can we learn from the way Isaac and his servants behaved when facing opposition over the wells? See **26:17-23; Matthew 5:9; 1Peter 2:23.**
- 17) Show from the scriptures the relationship Isaac had with God. See **25:11,21; 26:2-5,24-25.**
- 18) Why did Isaac and Rebekah disapprove of Esau's Hittite wives? See **26:34-35.**

Section 9: Chapters 27&28

Chapter 27:1-46: Jacob received the blessing from his father Isaac that he had intended to give to Esau.

Chapter 28:1-22: God revealed the Abrahamic covenant to Jacob.

Questions on chapters 27 & 28

- 1) What was the blessing Jacob received from his father, Isaac? See **27:27-29,33,37.**
- 2) What did Isaac reveal to Esau regarding his future? Did Esau receive any blessing from Isaac? See **27:1-4,30-40.**
- 3) What family problem was shown in the way Jacob received the blessing from his father Isaac? See **25:28; 27:5-30,41-46.**
- 4) Is it true to say that Rebekah had put a self-imposed curse upon herself in **27:13**?
- 5) Knowing the birthright was promised to Jacob, in what way could Rebekah and Jacob have approached Isaac regarding a blessing?
- 6) What was known about Esau in **chapters 27 & 28**? Read particularly **27:41-45; 28:6-9.**
- 7) Look carefully at the nature of Esau's grief in **27:34,38.** Did it show any evidence of repentance? See also **Hebrews 12:14-17** and **2Corinthians 7:10.**
- 8) Why did Jacob need to go to Padan-aram? See **27:41-45; 28:1-7.**
- 9) What is the significance of Jacob's encounter with God in a dream?
Look carefully at **28:10-22.**

Section 10: Chapters 29-31

Jacob stayed in Padan-aram working for his Uncle Laban for twenty years where he married Leah and Rachel, Laban's daughters and had eleven sons before he returned home.

Questions on chapters 29-31

- 1) Show that Jacob had a desire to serve Laban? See **29:15-30.**
- 2) List the sons of Jacob born in **29:31-35** and **30:1-24.** Can you find the meaning of the names from the text? It is helpful to use resource material available on meanings of names.
- 3) Is it true to say from **29:31-35** and **30:14-21** that Leah longed to be loved by Jacob?
- 4) Show the respect Leah had for God by looking carefully at the birth of each son.
See **29:32-35; 30:17-30; 31:16.**
- 5) Is it true to say that Jacob outwits Laban when he agreed to stay longer in **30:25-43**?
- 6) What evidence was shown from **31:1-16** that Laban was unfair in his wages to Jacob?
- 7) What was known of Laban's character in **chapters 29-31**?
Read particularly **29:21-30; 30:25-43** and **31:19-55.**
- 8) Which wife of Jacob proved to be the ancestress to our Lord Jesus Christ?
See **29:35; Matthew 1:2,3; Hebrews 7:14.**
- 9) Is there evidence that Jacob was more aware of God at work in his life? See **31:3-13,42.**
- 10) What is meant in **31:53** "*And Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac*"? See also **31:42.**
- 11) Is it true to say that Laban and his family were idol worshippers? See **31:17-19,31-35.**
- 12) Look carefully at chapter 31. Show how God worked in dealing with Jacob and Laban.
How do you think Jacob should have left Padan-aram to go home?

Section 11: Chapters 32-36

Chapter 32:1-32: Jacob prepared to meet his brother Esau. He met with God at Penuel and after much prayer his name was changed to Israel.

Chapter 33:1-16: Jacob and Esau were reconciled.

Chapter 33:17-20; 34:1-30: Jacob continued his journey to Shechem where his two sons, Simeon and Levi, put to death all the males during their recovery period from circumcision.

Chapter 35:1-20: Jacob and family journeyed to Bethel and then on the way to Ephrath where Rachel died giving birth to Benjamin.

Chapter 35:21-29: The sons of Jacob recorded and the death of Isaac.

Chapter 36:1-43: Esau's descendants which brought about the nation of Edom.

Questions on chapters 32-36

- 1) Do you think reconciliation was complete between Jacob and Esau and show how they were reconciled. Read carefully **32:3-8,13-23; 33:1-15; 35:27-29**.
- 2) Read carefully **33:18-20**. Do you think Jacob had made a mistake? Go on to read **chapter 34**. Can you see the problems of settling at Shechem?
- 3) Can you see any changes in Jacob's life leading to his return to Bethel? See **32:1-2,9-12,24-32; 35:1-5,9-15**.
- 4) Who acted more honourably in **34:6-31**: Shechem and his father or the sons of Jacob?
- 5) How do you think Jacob should have taken action regarding his daughter Dinah? Is there evidence that he did not interfere over his sons' actions (Simeon and Levi) except in showing what he was chiefly concerned about? Read carefully again **34:6-31**.
- 6) What is known of Esau's descendants in **chapter 36**?

Section 12: Chapter 38

Judah left his brothers to marry a Canaanite woman having three sons, Er, Onan and Shelah and later two sons, Pharez and Zerah through his daughter-in-law, Tamar.

Questions on chapter 38

- 1) Why do you think Judah left his brothers?
- 2) In what way had Judah acted foolishly in marrying a Canaanite woman?
- 3) Why did the Lord put Er and Onan to death? See **38:7-10**.
- 4) Why did Tamar act as a prostitute? See **38:11-26**.
- 5) What prevented Judah from having Tamar burnt? See **38:24-26**.
- 6) Does God show mercy to Judah? It is helpful to read **38:27-30; 46:12; 49:8-12; 1Chronicles 2:1-17; Matthew 1:3-16; Luke 3:23-33**.

Section 13: Chapters 37,39-45

Chapter 37:1-36: Joseph had two dreams from the Lord which he made known to his father and his brothers. He was hated by his brothers being sold into slavery to go into Egypt at the age of seventeen.

Chapter 39-45: Joseph was brought in to Egypt where he became a trustworthy servant to Potiphar, a high-ranking military officer to Pharaoh. He suffered injustice in being put in prison but God was with him to eventually become prime minister to Pharaoh in Egypt when he was 30. He was reconciled to his brothers whilst they were seeking food during the seven-year famine.

Questions on chapters 37, 39-45

- 1) How did Jacob love Joseph more than his other brethren and can you think why this was so? See **37:3-4,34-35**.
- 2) What caused the brothers of Joseph to hate him so much and as a result of such hatred what further sins did they commit against Joseph? See **37:1-11,18-28,31-32**.
- 3) Do you think Joseph understood his dreams in **37:5-11** and was he wise to share his dreams with his brethren at that time?

Questions on chapters 37, 39-45 continued

- 4) What was Jacob's attitude to Joseph's dreams? See **37:10-11**.
- 5) What is the interpretation of Joseph's dreams? See **37:5-11 and 42:6-9**.
- 6) Is it true to say that the Lord had brought the Ishmeelites at the right time? See **37:25-28,39; 39:1**.
- 7) In view of what is written in **chapters 37 & 38**, is there evidence of Jacob's family being a divided house?
- 8) What was known of Joseph's character in Potiphar's house? See **39:1-12 and Acts 7:9**.
- 9) What is known of Potiphar's wife? See **39:7-20**.
- 10) How did God use Joseph's experiences in prison to work out all things for good and what qualities did Joseph show whilst in prison? See **39:21-23; 40:1-23; 41:1-13**.
- 11) Why could none of the magicians or wise men interpret Pharaoh's dreams? See **41:8,14-16,24-32**. Compare with **Daniel 2:1-11,19-23,26-45; 5:5-9,13-17,25-28**.
- 12) What had convinced Pharaoh and his servants that Joseph had the ability to be prime minister of Egypt? See **41:14-57**.
- 13) Why did Joseph not reveal himself immediately to his brethren? It is helpful to read carefully **42:6-28; 43:26-34; 44:18-34**.
- 14) What enabled Jacob to change his mind in consenting to Benjamin going along with the other brethren to Egypt? See **42:36-38 and 43:1-14**.
- 15) Read carefully **42:1-4,21; 43:1-10; 44:18-34**. Do you think Judah's life has changed in turning back to God in repentance in view of what we know of his life in **chapter 38**?
- 16) When Joseph revealed himself to his brethren, what did he tell them of God being at work? See **45:1-8**.
- 17) Show the evidence of reconciliation between Joseph and his brothers and the blessings that came upon them as a family? See **45:1-28**.

Section 14: Chapters 46-50

Jacob and his family came to Egypt to settle in Goshen. Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim. He then spoke prophetically to his twelve sons before he died. Joseph reassured his brothers of his forgiveness to them.

The book of Genesis ends with Joseph, just before he died, having spoken prophetically of God taking his people out of Egypt to the land that He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Questions on chapters 46-50

- 1) What did God reveal to Jacob in **46:1-4**?
- 2) Why is the family of Jacob mentioned fully in **46:7-27**?
- 3) What was known about the land of Goshen? See **45:10-11; 46:28-34; 47:1-6, 11-12,27**.
- 4) Show the distinction between the children of Israel and the Egyptians. See **46:32-34**.
- 5) What do we know of Jacob's character in his remaining years in Egypt? See **46:28-31; 47:7-10,29-31; 48:1-12;49:28-30**.
- 6) Show how Joseph provided for his family in **46:31-34 and 47:1-12**.
- 7) What can we learn from the way Joseph dealt with the famine in Egypt? See **47:13-26**. It is helpful to look back at **41:46-49,55-57**.
- 8) Show the faith Jacob had for his two grandsons in **48:13-20**. Is it true that God had given Jacob some foreknowledge of his grandsons' future? See also **Hebrews 11:21**.
- 9) Why did Jacob request being buried in Canaan? See **47:29-31; 49:29-32; 50:5-6**.
- 10) Study carefully the prophetic words of Jacob upon his twelve sons. Which one received the birth right? See **49:1-27**.
- 11) What respect did the Egyptians give to Jacob after he died? See **50:1-13**.
- 12) How did Joseph reassure his brothers that they were forgiven for what they had done to him? See **50:15-21**.
- 13) What significant prophecy did Joseph give to his brethren at the time of his death? See **50:22-26; Exodus 13:19; Hebrews 11:22**.

Miscellaneous Questions on the Book of Genesis

1) What does the Book of Genesis tell us of who God is? The following scriptures are helpful in this study: **1:1,26,27; 2:7; 3:22; 12:1-3,7; 14:20; 15:1; 17:1,2; 18:14; 22:14,16,17,18; 24:3,7,12,26,52; 26:2-4,24; 28:3,13; 30:17,22 31:3,5,42,53; 35:5,11-13,15; 38:7,10; 39:21,23; 41: 51,52; 45:5,7; 46:3; 48:3,4,15; 50:20.**

2) Study the lives of the following characters that appear in the Book of Genesis. What spiritual qualities did they have that we can learn from them? You may find it helpful to make a list.

i) Abel: See **4:1-11; Matthew 23:34-35; Luke 11:49-51; Hebrews 11:4.**

ii) Enoch: See **5:21-24; Hebrews 11:5; Jude 14-15.**

iii) Noah: See **6:5-9:29; Hebrews 11:7; 2Peter 2:5.**

iv) Abraham: See **12:1-25:10; 2Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; Romans 4:1-25; Galatians 3:1-29; Hebrews 11:8-10,17-19; James 2:23.**

v) Isaac: See **21:12; 22:1-19; 24:61-67; 25:11,19-28; 26:1-35; 27:1-46; 28:1-9; 35:17-19; Hebrews 11:21.**

vi) Jacob: See **25:21-34; 27:1-46; 28:1-35:29; 37:1-11,32-35; 42:1-2; 43:1-14; 45:25-28 46:1-34; 47:1-12,27-31; 48:1-22; 49:1-33; Hebrews 11:21.**

vii) Joseph: See **37:1-36; 39:1-50:26; Hebrews 11:22.**

3) Look carefully at the life of Joseph in **chapters 37,39-50 in Genesis.** Can you see how he is a type of Christ? It is helpful to make a list of the parallels.

4) Show from the scriptures that the following characters were ungodly men.

i) Cain: See **4:1-24; 1John 3:11-12.** ii) Nimrod: See **10:8-12; 1Chronicles 1:10.**

iii) Esau: See **25:21-34; 26:34-35; 27:1-46; 28:6-9; 32:1-8; 33:1-17; 36:1-43; Joshua 24:4; 1Chronicles 1:34-35; Hebrews 12:12-17; Malachi 1:1-5.**

5) How did God speak to men in the Book of Genesis? Look carefully at each text throughout the book.

6) Study the prophetic passages of Genesis. What promises did God make.

i) To Noah: See **6:18-19; 8:20-22; 9:1-17.** ii) To Abraham: See **12:1-3,7; 13:14-17; 15:1-6,18-21; 17:1-8; 22:15-18; 24:7.** See also the promises shown to Isaac in **26:2-5,24; 28:3,4** and to Jacob in **28:13-15; 35:9-12; 46:3.**

7) What can be understood about creation in **Genesis 1:1-2:7** and from scriptures such as **Exodus 20:11; 31:17; Job 38:1-41:34; Psalm 33:6,9; Isaiah 45:18; Jeremiah 32:17; John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 11:3.**

8) Using the genealogies in Genesis starting with Adam created in the Year "0" can you work out the date of the flood and the dates when Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were born? See **5:1-32; 9:28-29; 11:10-26,32; 17:1,15-17; 25:19-26.**

9) How do we know the Book of Genesis is a revelation from God? See **Psalm 33:6,9; Matthew 24:36-39; Luke 17:26-30; John 1:1-3; Acts 1:1-17; Romans 4:1-25; 5:12-19; Galatians 3:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-22.**

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The list of resources available will be helpful in finding out more about the Book of Genesis. Please note that the author does not necessarily agree with the views held by the writers of the reading material.

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