

# Creation & Covenant

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. As an ancient text, it still provides the best explanation of all the beauty and tragedy in our world.

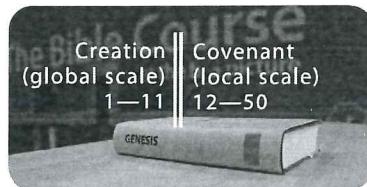
## Session 2

# Introducing Genesis

## Genesis

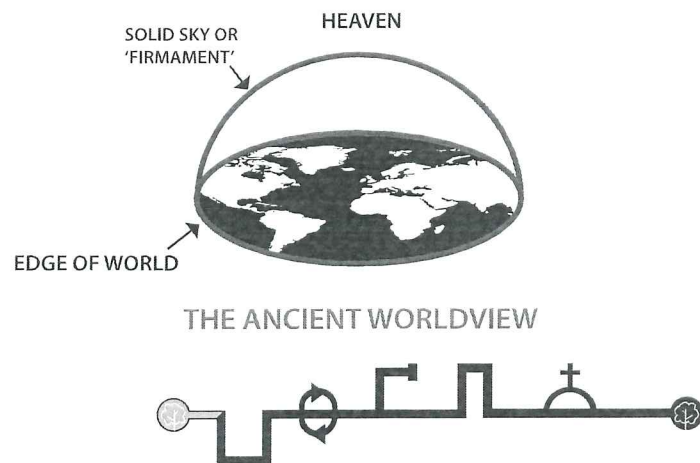
Means  
'beginnings'  
or 'origins'.

Genesis is a book of two halves



MY NOTES 

Genesis is an ancient text



# Is Genesis compatible with modern science?

Christians have been at the forefront of scientific progress



*'The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome. He can be worshipped in the cathedral and in the laboratory. His creation is majestic, awesome, intricate and beautiful.'*

Francis Collins  
Former head of the Human Genome Project

Modern science focuses on HOW questions:

- *How old is the universe? How has life developed?*

The Bible focuses on WHY questions:

- *Why am I here? Why is there good and evil?*

# Creation

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep ... And God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light.*

Genesis 1.1–3, NIV

## Days of creation

God brings form	God brings fullness
Day 1 Separation of light and darkness	Day 4 The creation of the lights to fill the day and night
Day 2 Separation of the waters to form the sky and the sea	Day 5 The creation of the birds and fish to fill the sky and sea
Day 3 Separation of the sea from the dry land and creation of plants	Day 6 The creation of the animals and humans to fill the land
Day 7 The heavens and the earth were finished and God rested	

MY NOTES 

# Humanity

## Human beings are the climax of creation

*God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ...' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God ... said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.'*

Genesis 1.26–28

## What does it mean to be made in the 'image of God'?

- For relationship with each other
- For a relationship with God
- To be God's representatives and co-workers

*'You made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts will always be restless until they find their rest in thee.'*

Saint Augustine (354–430 AD)

## Ruach

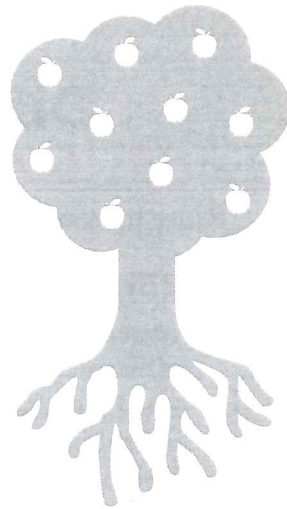
*A Hebrew word meaning 'breath', 'wind' or 'spirit'. In Greek the word is pneuma – the root of words like 'pneumatic'.*

# The Fall

## The forbidden fruit

*The serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.'*

Genesis 3.4–5



## Temptation and doubt

- Is God a kill-joy, keeping us from fulfilment?

## Judgement and mercy

- **God is just**, so he banishes humanity from paradise
- **God is merciful**, so he promises a saviour to restore all things

*The LORD God said to the serpent ... 'I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers. He shall crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'*

Genesis 3.14–15

# The Flood



Rough location of garden of Eden in Mesopotamia

*And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.'*

Genesis 9.1

## Adam and Eve leave Eden

- Humanity spreads across the known world ('the cradle of civilisation')
- Humanity descends further into evil

## Noah and the ark

- God sent a flood of judgement
- God saves Noah's family
- God sends a rainbow of promise
- The flood gives the world a fresh start
- Noah is like a new Adam
- See Genesis 5—10

MY NOTES 

# The Tower of Babel

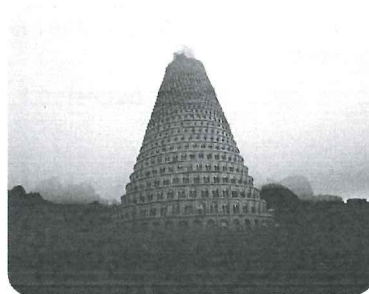
## Babel

Means  
'confusion' and  
resembles our  
word 'babble.'

*Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves...' And the LORD said, '... Let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.'*

Genesis 11.4, 6–7

- The Tower of Babel – inspired by a ziggurat, an ancient terraced structure built for protection and pagan worship
- God has to go down, even to see this 'great tower'
- Humanity fragments into competing groups – the origin of racism, wars and multiple languages



The Tower of Babel

# Discussion Time

Pause the video for 25 minutes.

## Read Genesis 1.26–27

- What do these verses reveal about the original status and purpose of human beings?
- In the video, Andrew said: 'We are made for a relationship with God and to represent God in the world.' How should this shape the way we live our lives?

## Read Genesis 11.1–9

- What does verse 4 reveal about the fallen nature of the human heart? How does this same attitude surface in our society and our own hearts today?



**Restart the video and move on to PART 2.**

## PART 2

# The call of Abraham

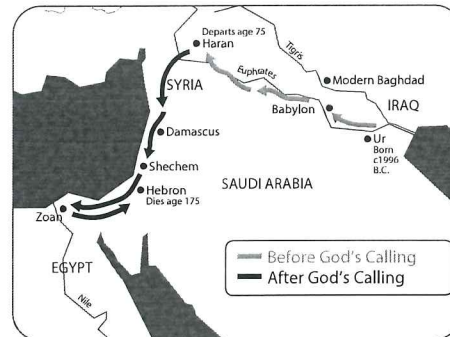
*Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.'*

Genesis 12.1–2

### God's promises to Abraham

- **Great nation:** Abraham means 'Father of many'
- **Promised land:** Canaan, modern-day Israel, the Holy Land
- **Global blessing:** all families on earth will be blessed

MY NOTES 



Abraham's journey:  
Ur to Canaan

## Abraham

### Key References

Genesis 12—22; Romans 4; Hebrews 11

### Context

- Born c. 1800 BC in Ur of the Chaldees (Iraq)
- Nomadic existence living in tents and tending flocks

### Bio

- Originally known as Abram
- Called to the land of Canaan
- God made a covenant with him
- God blessed him so that his family could bring blessing to the whole world
- 'Abraham' means 'father of many nations'
- Married Sarah. Sons called Ishmael and Isaac

*[God said to Abraham] 'Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them ... So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*

Genesis 15.5–6





*A formal agreement between two parties. The Bible is structured by the two covenants or testaments – Old and New.*

**ADAM/NOAH**  
CREATION

**ABRAHAM**  
FAITH

**MOSES**  
LAW

**DAVID**  
KINGDOM

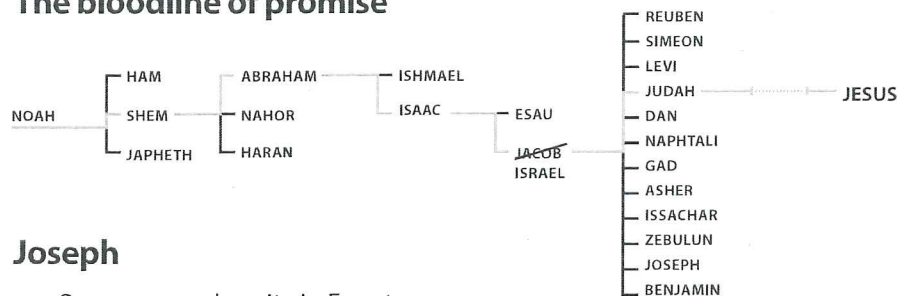
**JESUS**  
GRACE

- **Seal:** Formal relationship between two parties
- **Sacrifice:** The blood-path ceremony
- **Sign:** Outward mark of being in covenant relationship

### 1 Corinthians 11.25

# Abraham's family tree

## The bloodline of promise



## Joseph

- Overcomes adversity in Egypt
- Becomes a saviour figure in a global crisis

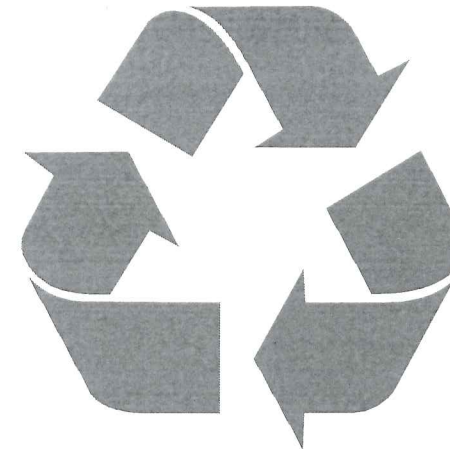
*When the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe.*

Genesis 41.56–57

## Judah

- Screws up and gets things wrong (Genesis 38)
- But Judah became the chosen tribe from which the Messiah would come

*The God of the Bible  
is into recycling.*





## Personal Reflection

Suggested: 10 minutes

Take a moment to reflect on this verse:

*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

**2 Corinthians 5.17**

Write down something from this verse or the session that has inspired you ...

Write down something that has challenged you ...

Why not share your reflections with others and pray to finish.

## Daily Bible Readings: Week 2

**Read each passage through carefully. Then consider:**

**WHAT?** *What did this passage mean in its context?*

**NOW WHAT?** *Now what does this passage mean for my life today?*

- Write down a key verse or phrase that stands out.
- Pray it through, asking God to help you live in this truth.

**Day 1** Exodus 1.1–22 and Exodus 2.1–10  
Egypt and slavery – God's people in trouble

**Day 2** Exodus 2.11–25 and Exodus 3.1–15  
Wilderness, the bush and the name – the call of Moses

**Day 3** Exodus 12.1–50  
Final plague, Passover and exodus – the way of freedom

**Day 4** Exodus 19.1–25  
Mountain and covenant – God meets his people

**Day 5** Exodus 20.1–21  
Commandments and lightning – God lays down the law

**Day 6** Numbers 13.1–33 and Numbers 14.1–9  
Grapes, giants, decisions – brink of the Promised Land