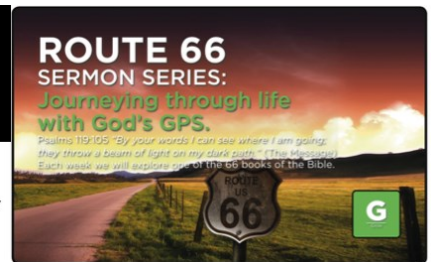




New Life Vineyard Church

# Genesis: God as Creator



**Memory Verse:** Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

## Background

Jewish tradition, other biblical authors, and Jesus Himself (in John 5:45-47) name Moses as the author of the Pentateuch - the first five books of the Bible. Moses, raised in Pharaoh's home, would have been well-educated and have had access to any and all historical records. Moses lived in the early 1400s BC, which is when Genesis was written. However, the events recorded in the book of Genesis date back to the very beginning of time and cover over 2,000 years of man's history.

The title “Genesis” is a Greek word that means “beginning,” “origin,” or “generation.” This is a foundational theme throughout the entire book of Genesis.

“Moses wrote Genesis for the people of Israel, whom he led out of slavery in Egypt back to the land of their forefathers. Genesis provides a history of those forefathers—their origins, their journeys, and their covenants with God. Because the events contained in the rest of the Pentateuch are responses to the promises of God found in Genesis, such a history of God's interaction with their ancestors would have provided encouragement and inspiration to the former slaves seeking freedom and prosperity in the Promised Land.” (Charles R. Swindoll)

## The Short Story

God creates the world, chooses a people to call His own, and makes provisions for humanity's salvation through Jesus Christ.

## What's the Big Idea?

In Genesis, we see the intimate relationship that God desires with the people He has created. However, we also see how sin caused that relationship to be broken and Adam and Eve expelled from the Garden of Eden. Nevertheless, God had a plan for the redemption and restoration of people to Himself. In Genesis 3:15, the first prophecy pertaining to Christ is given.

Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament. *Testament* is another word for *covenant*, and it is in Genesis that we see God establishing His plan for redemption, restoration, and blessing through covenants, first with Abraham (Genesis 12:1–5), reaffirmed with Isaac (26:1–35), then with Jacob (28:1–22). Genesis, the very beginning of the Bible, reveals God's eternal promises to His people, as well as His plan to save the world through Jesus Christ.

## Why is this book so important? What was God's purpose for the book?

Genesis is the book of beginnings. In this book, we see the beginning of the universe, life, mankind, the Sabbath, marriage, sin, death, family, language, sacrifice, redemption, and prophecy. Genesis sets the stage for the rest of the Bible. In Genesis, we learn about ancient history, geography, and important people and events that have impacted our lives even today. Genesis answers the question “Where did I come from?” Knowing where you came from and Who created you can have a significant bearing on how we see ourselves and the world in which we live.

Genesis not only reveals much about humans, but it also reveals much about God and His character. Genesis reveals the power and creative nature of God, the holiness of God that will not tolerate sin, the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises, and the vast love and mercy of God who would carry out a plan to save His people from their sins and give them eternal life in His Kingdom.

*\*Material taken from various sources.*

## Teaching Text

Genesis 1:1-3 "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 the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said "let there be..."

## Sermon Based Discussion Questions

- What are some truths you know about God?
- When have you felt hopeless in your life? How did God respond to you in that moment?
- Why would God want you to see His Nature of being the creator?
- In Genesis we know God spoke. What is God saying to our world? Our culture? Our church?
- Have you ever felt the "hovering" of God's spirit over your life?

## Practical Application

- What has God created in your life that is "good" and you are grateful for?
- Where do you need God to speak into your life this week?
- What are three areas of your life where you need some hope and God's help to hold it together?
- Where does God want to use you in the recreation of others?
- Where do you need God to create new opportunities in your life?

## Hitting the Highpoints

- Prophecy of Jesus Genesis 3:15, "...he will crush your head and you will strike his heel"
- Adam & Eve, the Garden, and the Fall - Gen. 1-3, "Because you have done this...cursed is..."
- Noah and the Flood - Genesis 7-8 "Go into the ark you and your family ..."
- Abraham's Test of Faith - Genesis 22:1-19, "Take your son...sacrifice him as a burnt offering..."
- Jacob's Dream - Genesis 28:10-22, "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go..."
- Joseph's Grace to His Brothers - Genesis 50:19, "You intended to harm me but God intended..."

## Bonus Features

Where is Jesus? In Colossians 1:15–16 "*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*" Jesus is the firstborn over all creation, and all things were created by him and for him. The creation was made by the Lord, for the Lord. In verse 17 "*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*" After Paul tells us that Jesus created all things in the beginning, he says Jesus is doing something else, right now. Jesus is holding all things together. The stars continue to shine and plants continue to grow because Jesus holds everything together.

## Personal Takeaways and Notes

A large, empty rounded rectangular box intended for personal takeaways and notes.