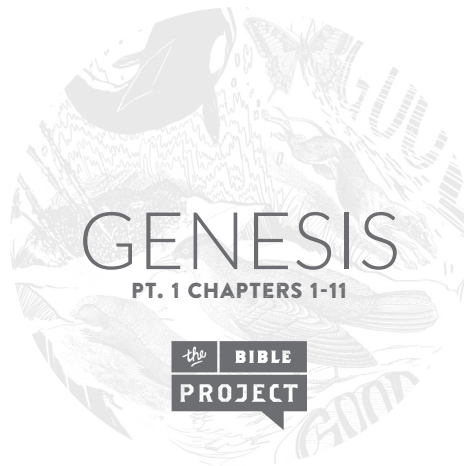
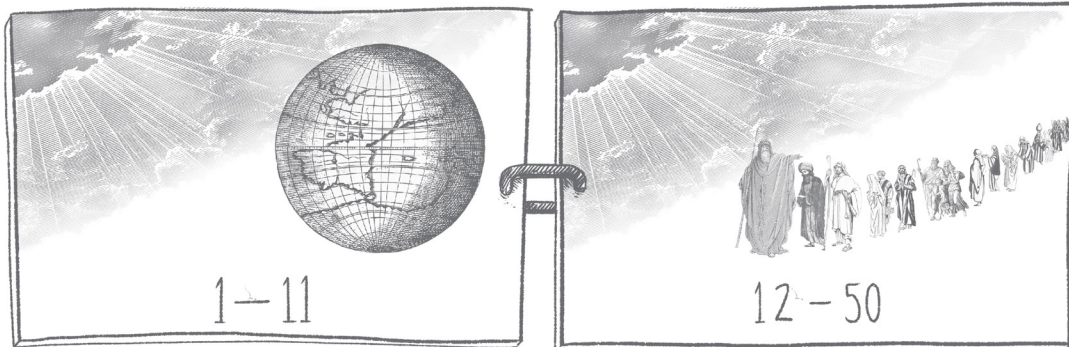


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THE BIG PICTURE



**CH 1-11
GOD AND THE WHOLE WORLD**

**1-2: GOD MAKES A GOOD WORLD
FOR HUMANITY**

**3-11: HUMAN SIN AND THE RUIN
OF GOD'S WORLD**

**CH 12-50
GOD AND ABRAHAM'S FAMILY**

12-25: ABRAHAM

26-27: ISAAC

28-36: JACOB

37-50: JOSEPH

**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 1-11**

KEY
THEME

1

Yahweh creates by bringing order and beauty out of chaos and darkness.

GEN 1

PARALLEL LITERARY STRUCTURES IN GENESIS 1

The literary ordering of Genesis 1 depicts God as creating ordered environments (Days 1-3) and then filling those with corresponding inhabitants (Days 4-6) and then taking up control of the world in his rest (Day 7)

ENVIRONMENTS

1. LIGHT (= DAY) vv. 3-5

2. DOME CEILING vv. 6-8
SKY vv. 6-7A
SEAS v. 7B

3. DRY LAND vv. 9-10
VEGETATION vv. 11-12

INHABITANTS

4. LIGHTS vv. 14-19

5. INHABITANTS vv. 20-23
BIRDS IN THE SKY
FISH IN THE SEAS

6. LAND ANIMALS vv. 24-25
HUMANS vv. 26-31

7. GOD'S REST

**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 1-11**

KEY
THEME

2

Humans are the divine
image bearers.

GEN 1:26-30

GEN 2:15

צלם

The Hebrew word for “image” (tselem) literally means “statue” and usually refers to idols. You see the same word in Amos 5:26; Ezekiel 7:20; Numbers 33:52; 1 Samuel 6:5. An “image” is a physical representation that points to some other person or deity.

In Genesis this means that humans are commissioned as actual representatives of God’s rule over the creation (Gen 1:26-30) and to steward and guard God’s good world on his behalf (Gen 2:15).

**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 1-11**

KEY
THEME

3

Human selfishness and sin lead to the fracturing of the divine-human relationship and the ruin of human relationships on all levels.

GEN 3-11

All of the stories in Genesis 3-11 offer different examples that explore the various facets of human sin and its results.

GEN 3, 4

**SUSPICION OF
GOD'S GOODNESS,
SELF-DECEPTION**

**QUEST FOR WISDOM
AND GOODNESS
APART FROM THE
CREATOR**

JEALOUSY, MURDER

**HUMANS ESTABLISH
CITIES WHICH ARE
CORRUPTED BY
SIN AND VIOLENCE**

GEN 6

**SPIRITUAL BEINGS,
"THE SONS OF GOD"
DEFY GOD'S GOOD
ORDER**

**HUMANS BECOME
MORALLY CORRUPT
AND RUIN GOD'S
WORLD AND EACH
OTHER**

GEN 11

**HUMAN ARROGANCE
AND DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE
FROM GOD**

**NAÏVE TRUST IN
TECHNOLOGICAL
PROGRESS**

**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 1-11**

KEY
THEME

4

Yahweh responds to human sin in two ways: He brings justice on rebellion and offers grace by promising future blessing for His world.

GEN 3-11

Notice the narrative pattern at work in these chapters. Every story of human sin is met with immediate consequences along with a response of divine grace.



GEN 1-3	REBELLION	▶	LAND CURSED	▶	PROMISE OF A REDEEMER
GEN 4-5	MURDER	▶	SOCIETAL BREAKDOWN, DEATH	▶	ENOCH & NOAH
GEN 6-8	LAND IS CORRUPTED	▶	FLOOD	▶	COVENANT WITH CREATION
GEN 9-11	TOWER OF BABYLON	▶	SCATTERING	▶	BLESSING TO ALL NATIONS

**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 1-11**

KEY
THEME

5

Yahweh initiates his plan to rescue
humanity through his covenant
with the family of Abram

GEN 12

Genesis 12:1-3 is a key moment in the unfolding of the biblical story: God responds to humanity's corruption by choosing Abraham's family as the means of restoring divine blessing to all nations



**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

1 **WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR HUMANITY TO BE CREATED
IN THE “IMAGE OF GOD”?** GEN 1:26-31

2 **WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE GOD CREATED A CHOICE
FOR THE HUMANS BY PLANTING THE TREE OF THE
KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL?** GEN 2:15-17
GEN 3:1-24

3 **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HUMANS ATTEMPT TO DEFINE
GOOD AND EVIL INDEPENDENTLY OF GOD, AND HOW
DOES SIN MANIFEST ITSELF THROUGHOUT THE FIRST
11 CHAPTERS OF GENESIS?** GEN 3:6-24

4 **WHY DID GOD DECIDE TO FLOOD THE EARTH?** GEN 6:9-9:17

5 **WHAT WAS THE SINFUL AMBITION OF THE PEOPLE AT
BABEL, AND WHY DID GOD SCATTER THE PEOPLE BY
CONFUSING THEIR LANGUAGE?** GEN 11:1-9

