



THE GREAT STORY BEGINS

INTRODUCTION

- THE BIBLE IS THE MOST AMAZING BOOK YOU WILL EVER READ. WHILE IT IS A COLLECTION OF MANY SMALLER BOOKS, IT IS A UNIFIED STORY OF GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE. THIS QUARTER PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS THAT WILL SERVE AS A FOUNDATION FOR THE QUARTERS TO FOLLOW.
- *NAME AS MANY FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE AS YOU CAN*
- SIXTY-SIX BOOKS TOTAL; THIRTY- NINE OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS; TWENTY-SEVEN NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS; WRITTEN BY MORE THAN FORTY PEOPLE OVER APPROXIMATELY 1,600 YEARS; LONGEST CHAPTER IS PSALM 119; SHORTEST CHAPTER IS PSALM 117; SHORTEST VERSE IS JOHN 11:35; THE BIBLE INCLUDES LAW, HISTORY, POETRY, PROPHETS, GOSPELS, AND EPISTLES. THE BIBLE IS THE BEST-SELLING BOOK OF ALL TIME, AND IT TAKES ABOUT SEVENTY-FIVE HOURS TO READ.

MORE INTRO

- OVERVIEW THE STORY OF THE PLAN OF GOD FROM THE BEGINNING UNTIL THE TIME OF THE MESSIAH.
- THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN BY MORE THAN FORTY PEOPLE OVER ABOUT 1,600 YEARS. YET WITHIN ITS DIVERSITY IS UNITY OF THEME AND PURPOSE. THE BOOK OF GENESIS FORMS THE STARTING POINT FOR WHAT FOLLOWS THROUGHOUT THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS. MANY OF THE GREAT DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE ARE INTRODUCED IN GENESIS.
- THE THEME OF GENESIS REFLECTS THE THEME OF SCRIPTURE: THE REDEMPTION OF HUMANITY FROM SIN AND THE EFFECTS OF THE FALL. IT ESTABLISHES GOD AS THE SOLE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS, THEN PROCEEDS WITH THE STORY OF GOD'S INTERACTION WITH HIS CREATION.

GOD THE LOVING CREATOR

- IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE UNIVERSE
- [GEN 1:1-31 KJV] 1 IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH. 2 AND THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID; AND DARKNESS [WAS] UPON THE FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD MOVED UPON THE FACE OF THE WATERS.

GOD THE LOVING CREATOR

- GOD'S WORK IN CREATION IS ORDERLY AND PURPOSEFUL
- [GEN 1:3-31 KJV] 3 AND GOD SAID, LET THERE BE LIGHT: AND THERE WAS LIGHT. 4 AND GOD SAW THE LIGHT, THAT [IT WAS] GOOD: AND GOD DIVIDED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. 5 AND GOD CALLED THE LIGHT DAY, AND THE DARKNESS HE CALLED NIGHT. AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIRST DAY. 6 AND GOD SAID, LET THERE BE A FIRMAMENT IN THE MIDST OF THE WATERS, AND LET IT DIVIDE THE WATERS FROM THE WATERS. 7 AND GOD MADE THE FIRMAMENT, AND DIVIDED THE WATERS WHICH [WERE] UNDER THE FIRMAMENT FROM THE WATERS WHICH [WERE] ABOVE THE FIRMAMENT: AND IT WAS SO. 8 AND GOD CALLED THE FIRMAMENT HEAVEN. AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE SECOND DAY. 9 AND GOD SAID, LET THE WATERS UNDER THE HEAVEN BE GATHERED TOGETHER UNTO ONE PLACE, AND LET THE DRY [LAND] APPEAR: AND IT WAS SO. 10 AND GOD CALLED THE DRY [LAND] EARTH; AND THE GATHERING TOGETHER OF THE WATERS CALLED HE SEAS: AND GOD SAW THAT [IT WAS] GOOD. 11 AND GOD SAID, LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH GRASS, THE HERB YIELDING SEED, [AND] THE FRUIT TREE YIELDING FRUIT AFTER HIS KIND, WHOSE SEED [IS] IN ITSELF, UPON THE EARTH: AND IT WAS SO. 12 AND THE EARTH BROUGHT FORTH GRASS, [AND] HERB YIELDING SEED AFTER HIS KIND, AND THE TREE YIELDING FRUIT, WHOSE SEED [WAS] IN ITSELF, AFTER HIS KIND: AND GOD SAW THAT [IT WAS] GOOD. 13 AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE THIRD DAY. 14 AND GOD SAID, LET THERE BE LIGHTS IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVEN TO DIVIDE THE DAY FROM THE NIGHT; AND LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS, AND FOR SEASONS, AND FOR DAYS, AND YEARS: 15 AND LET THEM BE FOR LIGHTS IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVEN TO GIVE LIGHT UPON THE EARTH: AND IT WAS SO. 16 AND GOD MADE TWO GREAT LIGHTS; THE GREATER LIGHT TO RULE THE DAY, AND THE LESSER LIGHT TO RULE THE NIGHT: [HE MADE] THE STARS ALSO.

CONTINUED GEN 1:3-31

- [GEN 1:3-31 KJV] 17 AND GOD SET THEM IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVEN TO GIVE LIGHT UPON THE EARTH, 18 AND TO RULE OVER THE DAY AND OVER THE NIGHT, AND TO DIVIDE THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS: AND GOD SAW THAT [IT WAS] GOOD. 19 AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FOURTH DAY. 20 AND GOD SAID, LET THE WATERS BRING FORTH ABUNDANTLY THE MOVING CREATURE THAT HATH LIFE, AND FOWL [THAT] MAY FLY ABOVE THE EARTH IN THE OPEN FIRMAMENT OF HEAVEN. 21 AND GOD CREATED GREAT WHALES, AND EVERY LIVING CREATURE THAT MOVETH, WHICH THE WATERS BROUGHT FORTH ABUNDANTLY, AFTER THEIR KIND, AND EVERY WINGED FOWL AFTER HIS KIND: AND GOD SAW THAT [IT WAS] GOOD. 22 AND GOD BLESSED THEM, SAYING, BE FRUITFUL, AND MULTIPLY, AND FILL THE WATERS IN THE SEAS, AND LET FOWL MULTIPLY IN THE EARTH. 23 AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIFTH DAY. 24 AND GOD SAID, LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH THE LIVING CREATURE AFTER HIS KIND, CATTLE, AND CREEPING THING, AND BEAST OF THE EARTH AFTER HIS KIND: AND IT WAS SO. 25 AND GOD MADE THE BEAST OF THE EARTH AFTER HIS KIND, AND CATTLE AFTER THEIR KIND, AND EVERY THING THAT CREEPETH UPON THE EARTH AFTER HIS KIND: AND GOD SAW THAT [IT WAS] GOOD. 26 AND GOD SAID, LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS: AND LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, AND OVER THE FOWL OF THE AIR, AND OVER THE CATTLE, AND OVER ALL THE EARTH, AND OVER EVERY CREEPING THING THAT CREEPETH UPON THE EARTH. 27 SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS [OWN] IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD CREATED HE HIM; MALE AND FEMALE CREATED HE THEM. 28 AND GOD BLESSED THEM, AND GOD SAID UNTO THEM, BE FRUITFUL, AND MULTIPLY, AND REPLENISH THE EARTH, AND SUBDUE IT: AND HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, AND OVER THE FOWL OF THE AIR, AND OVER EVERY LIVING THING THAT MOVETH UPON THE EARTH. 29 AND GOD SAID, BEHOLD, I HAVE GIVEN YOU EVERY HERB BEARING SEED, WHICH [IS] UPON THE FACE OF ALL THE EARTH, AND EVERY TREE, IN THE WHICH [IS] THE FRUIT OF A TREE YIELDING SEED; TO YOU IT SHALL BE FOR MEAT. 30 AND TO EVERY BEAST OF THE EARTH, AND TO EVERY FOWL OF THE AIR, AND TO EVERY THING THAT CREEPETH UPON THE EARTH, WHEREIN [THERE IS] LIFE, [I HAVE GIVEN] EVERY GREEN HERB FOR MEAT: AND IT WAS SO. 31 AND GOD SAW EVERY THING THAT HE HAD MADE, AND, BEHOLD, [IT WAS] VERY GOOD. AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE SIXTH DAY.

GOD USED A CHOSEN PEOPLE TO CARRY OUT HIS PLAN

- **ABRAHAM FOLLOWED GOD'S DIRECTION**

- [GEN 12:1-3 KJV] 1 NOW THE LORD HAD SAID UNTO ABRAM, GET THEE OUT OF THY COUNTRY, AND FROM THY KINDRED, AND FROM THY FATHER'S HOUSE, UNTO A LAND THAT I WILL SHEW THEE: 2 AND I WILL MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS THEE, AND MAKE THY NAME GREAT; AND THOU SHALT BE A BLESSING: 3 AND I WILL BLESS THEM THAT BLESS THEE, AND CURSE HIM THAT CURSETH THEE: AND IN THEE SHALL ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.

GOD USED A CHOSEN PEOPLE TO CARRY OUT HIS PLAN

- **GOD DID THE MIRACULOUS TO ADVANCE HIS PLAN**

- [GEN 21:1-7 KJV] 1 AND THE LORD VISITED SARAH AS HE HAD SAID, AND THE LORD DID UNTO SARAH AS HE HAD SPOKEN. 2 FOR SARAH CONCEIVED, AND BARE ABRAHAM A SON IN HIS OLD AGE, AT THE SET TIME OF WHICH GOD HAD SPOKEN TO HIM. 3 AND ABRAHAM CALLED THE NAME OF HIS SON THAT WAS BORN UNTO HIM, WHOM SARAH BARE TO HIM, ISAAC. 4 AND ABRAHAM CIRCUMCISED HIS SON ISAAC BEING EIGHT DAYS OLD, AS GOD HAD COMMANDED HIM. 5 AND ABRAHAM WAS AN HUNDRED YEARS OLD, WHEN HIS SON ISAAC WAS BORN UNTO HIM. 6 AND SARAH SAID, GOD HATH MADE ME TO LAUGH, [SO THAT] ALL THAT HEAR WILL LAUGH WITH ME. 7 AND SHE SAID, WHO WOULD HAVE SAID UNTO ABRAHAM, THAT SARAH SHOULD HAVE GIVEN CHILDREN SUCK? FOR I HAVE BORN [HIM] A SON IN HIS OLD AGE.

[GEN 32:22-30 KJV] 22 AND HE ROSE UP THAT NIGHT, AND TOOK HIS TWO WIVES, AND HIS TWO WOMENSERVANTS, AND HIS ELEVEN SONS, AND PASSED OVER THE FORD JABBOK. 23 AND HE TOOK THEM, AND SENT THEM OVER THE BROOK, AND SENT OVER THAT HE HAD. 24 AND JACOB WAS LEFT ALONE; AND THERE WRESTLED A MAN WITH HIM UNTIL THE BREAKING OF THE DAY. 25 AND WHEN HE SAW THAT HE PREVAILED NOT AGAINST HIM, HE TOUCHED THE HOLLOW OF HIS THIGH; AND THE HOLLOW OF JACOB'S THIGH WAS OUT OF JOINT, AS HE WRESTLED WITH HIM. 26 AND HE SAID, LET ME GO, FOR THE DAY BREAKETH. AND HE SAID, I WILL NOT LET THEE GO, EXCEPT THOU BLESS ME. 27 AND HE SAID UNTO HIM, WHAT [IS] THY NAME? AND HE SAID, JACOB. 28 AND HE SAID, THY NAME SHALL BE CALLED NO MORE JACOB, BUT ISRAEL: FOR AS A PRINCE HAST THOU POWER WITH GOD AND WITH MEN, AND HAST PREVAILED. 29 AND JACOB ASKED [HIM], AND SAID, TELL [ME], I PRAY THEE, THY NAME. AND HE SAID, WHEREFORE [IS] IT [THAT] THOU DOST ASK AFTER MY NAME? AND HE BLESSED HIM THERE. 30 AND JACOB CALLED THE NAME OF THE PLACE PENIEL: FOR I HAVE SEEN GOD FACE TO FACE, AND MY LIFE IS PRESERVED.

GOD PRESERVED HIS PEOPLE AND HIS PLAN

- **JOSEPH'S TRIALS WERE PART OF GOD'S PLAN**

- [GEN 45:1-8 KJV] 1 THEN JOSEPH COULD NOT REFRAIN HIMSELF BEFORE ALL THEM THAT STOOD BY HIM; AND HE CRIED, CAUSE EVERY MAN TO GO OUT FROM ME. AND THERE STOOD NO MAN WITH HIM, WHILE JOSEPH MADE HIMSELF KNOWN UNTO HIS BRETHREN. 2 AND HE WEPT ALOUD: AND THE EGYPTIANS AND THE HOUSE OF PHARAOH HEARD. 3 AND JOSEPH SAID UNTO HIS BRETHREN, I [AM] JOSEPH; DOTH MY FATHER YET LIVE? AND HIS BRETHREN COULD NOT ANSWER HIM; FOR THEY WERE TROUBLED AT HIS PRESENCE. 4 AND JOSEPH SAID UNTO HIS BRETHREN, COME NEAR TO ME, I PRAY YOU. AND THEY CAME NEAR. AND HE SAID, I [AM] JOSEPH YOUR BROTHER, WHOM YE SOLD INTO EGYPT. 5 NOW THEREFORE BE NOT GRIEVED, NOR ANGRY WITH YOURSELVES, THAT YE SOLD ME HITHER: FOR GOD DID SEND ME BEFORE YOU TO PRESERVE LIFE. 6 FOR THESE TWO YEARS [HATH] THE FAMINE [BEEN] IN THE LAND: AND YET [THERE ARE] FIVE YEARS, IN THE WHICH [THERE SHALL] NEITHER [BE] EARING NOR HARVEST. 7 AND GOD SENT ME BEFORE YOU TO PRESERVE YOU A POSTERITY IN THE EARTH, AND TO SAVE YOUR LIVES BY A GREAT DELIVERANCE. 8 SO NOW [IT WAS] NOT YOU [THAT] SENT ME HITHER, BUT GOD: AND HE HATH MADE ME A FATHER TO PHARAOH, AND LORD OF ALL HIS HOUSE, AND A RULER THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT.

GOD PRESERVED HIS PEOPLE AND HIS PLAN

- **EVEN EGYPT WAS PART OF GOD'S PLAN**

- [GEN 46:1-7 KJV] 1 AND ISRAEL TOOK HIS JOURNEY WITH ALL THAT HE HAD, AND CAME TO BEERSHEBA, AND OFFERED SACRIFICES UNTO THE GOD OF HIS FATHER ISAAC. 2 AND GOD SPAKE UNTO ISRAEL IN THE VISIONS OF THE NIGHT, AND SAID, JACOB, JACOB. AND HE SAID, HERE [AM] I. 3 AND HE SAID, I [AM] GOD, THE GOD OF THY FATHER: FEAR NOT TO GO DOWN INTO EGYPT; FOR I WILL THERE MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION: 4 I WILL GO DOWN WITH THEE INTO EGYPT; AND I WILL ALSO SURELY BRING THEE UP [AGAIN]: AND JOSEPH SHALL PUT HIS HAND UPON THINE EYES. 5 AND JACOB ROSE UP FROM BEERSHEBA: AND THE SONS OF ISRAEL CARRIED JACOB THEIR FATHER, AND THEIR LITTLE ONES, AND THEIR WIVES, IN THE WAGONS WHICH PHARAOH HAD SENT TO CARRY HIM. 6 AND THEY TOOK THEIR CATTLE, AND THEIR GOODS, WHICH THEY HAD GOTTEN IN THE LAND OF CANAAN, AND CAME INTO EGYPT, JACOB, AND ALL HIS SEED WITH HIM: 7 HIS SONS, AND HIS SONS' SONS WITH HIM, HIS DAUGHTERS, AND HIS SONS' DAUGHTERS, AND ALL HIS SEED BROUGHT HE WITH HIM INTO EGYPT.

[EXO 3:6 KJV] 6 MOREOVER HE SAID, I [AM] THE GOD OF THY FATHER, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB. AND MOSES HID HIS FACE; FOR HE WAS AFRAID TO LOOK UPON GOD.