

AUTHOR: MOSES
AUDIENCE: PEOPLE OF ISRAEL
DATE: 1450–1410 B.C.
SETTING: THE AREA NOW KNOWN AS THE MIDDLE EAST

OT.1

ESSENTIALS OF

Genesis

Genesis (meaning “origin”) outlines the beginnings of human history. Filled with dramatic stories and characters, it’s an easy book to read devotionally. You’ll find God intimately involved in this book. He’s the Creator, director and participating player in the drama of life. As you walk through this book, focus on God’s incredible work of creation, as well as his interaction with each person. Let the stories you read speak to you about his nature. As you read and reflect, you’ll experience the promise, “Come near to God and he will come near to you” (James 4:8).

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN GENESIS:

- :: GOD’S CREATION OF A PERFECT WORLD
- :: WHO FAILED AND WHY
- :: NOAH’S WILLINGNESS TO TRUST AND OBEY GOD
- :: THE TESTING OF ABRAM’S FAITH
- :: GOD’S PROMISES TO HIS PEOPLE
- :: GOD’S ASSURANCE OF HOPE TO THOSE WHO SUFFER
- :: WHY GOD IS WORTH KNOWING AND TRUSTING

THE BEGINNING

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was^a formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷So God made the expanse and separated the water

under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the expanse “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed

^a2 Or possibly *became*