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# HOLY BIBLE



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# Genesis

## Introduction:

The word Genesis means “beginnings.” The book of Genesis is about many beginnings — the beginning of the universe, the beginning of man and woman, the beginning of human sin, the beginning of God’s promises and plans for salvation, and the beginning of a special relationship between Abraham and God. Genesis tells us about God’s special people and his plan for their lives. Some of these people are: Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph and his brothers.

Genesis is the first book in the Pentateuch — a word that means five books, and includes the first five books of the Bible. These books are also known as the books of the law because they contain God’s instructions and laws for the people of Israel. Genesis is included because it tells the history of how Israel became God’s special people. These five books were most likely written by Moses, except for the last chapter of Deuteronomy which tells about Moses’ death.

## Outline of contents:

The universe, the earth and human beings (1:1–2:25)

The Fall and the results of sin (3:1–5:32)

The story of Noah (6:1–9:29)

The scattering of the human race (10:1–11:32)

The life of Abraham (12:1–25:18)

Isaac and his family (25:19–26:35)

Jacob and his sons (27:1–37:1)

The life of Joseph (37:2–50:26)

## The Beginning

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

<sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and

- <sup>20</sup> Deliver me from the sword,  
my precious life from the  
power of the dogs.
- <sup>21</sup> Rescue me from the mouth of  
the lions;  
save me from the horns of  
the wild oxen.
- <sup>22</sup> I will declare your name to my  
people;  
in the assembly I will praise  
you.
- <sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise  
him!  
All you descendants of Jacob,  
honor him!  
Revere him, all you  
descendants of Israel!
- <sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or  
scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted  
one;  
he has not hidden his face  
from him  
but has listened to his cry for  
help.
- <sup>25</sup> From you comes the theme of  
my praise in the great  
assembly;  
before those who fear you<sup>a</sup> I  
will fulfill my vows.
- <sup>26</sup> The poor will eat and be  
satisfied;  
those who seek the LORD  
will praise him —  
may your hearts live  
forever!
- <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth  
will remember and turn to  
the LORD,
- and all the families of the  
nations  
will bow down before him,  
<sup>28</sup> for dominion belongs to the  
LORD  
and he rules over the  
nations.
- <sup>29</sup> All the rich of the earth will  
feast and worship;  
all who go down to the dust  
will kneel before him —  
those who cannot keep  
themselves alive.
- <sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be  
told about the Lord.
- <sup>31</sup> They will proclaim his  
righteousness,  
declaring to a people yet  
unborn:  
He has done it!

## Psalm 23

*A psalm of David.*

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I  
lack nothing.
- <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in  
green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet  
waters,
- <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right  
paths  
for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,<sup>b</sup>  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;

<sup>a</sup> 25 Hebrew *him*      <sup>b</sup> 4 Or *the valley of the shadow of death*

immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### Jesus Heals the Sick

<sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup>News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. <sup>25</sup>Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis,<sup>a</sup> Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

### Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

**5** Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them.

### The Beatitudes

He said:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the  
earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who  
hunger and thirst for  
righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown  
mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called  
children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are  
persecuted because of  
righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### Salt and Light

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in

<sup>a</sup> 25 That is, the Ten Cities