

GENESIS - A STUDY GUIDE

THE CENTRAL QUESTION:

What does this book/story say to us about God?

This question may be broken down further as follows:

- a. Why did God do it/allow it?
 - b. Why did He record it for our study?
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1. What picture of God would you have if the only evidence you had was the book of Genesis? Genesis is the only record we have for several millennia—one-half or more—of this world’s history. Does this seem adequate?
2. What kind of God would create Lucifer—and this earth—if He had foreknowledge of sin, the flood etc.? Why did He give Solomon wisdom, (1 Kings 3:5-9; 2 Chronicles 1:7-12; Matthew 12:42), and Samson strength? (Judges 13:25; 16:28)
3. What were Satan’s charges against God at the very beginning? (Compare Genesis 3:1-5; Job 1 & 2; Revelation 12:7-12; Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:1-6,12-15) Do you think it is significant that this planet became the center of the great controversy almost immediately after it was created?
4. What does the creation story say about God? Does the story seem too childish or simple? Is this story more about geology or theology? (Genesis 1 & 2) What difference would it make? Why did God take seven days to create planet earth when He no doubt could have done it in an instant? When He had finished His work, He “rested.” If God doesn’t get tired what does this mean?
5. Why did God put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the midst of the garden near the tree of life? (Genesis 2:9; 3:3) Was that fair to Adam and Eve? To Satan? God said they would die if they ate of the tree (Genesis 2:17) and Satan said they wouldn’t. Who appeared to be right? When did man first see that ultimate death that God had spoken about in Eden?
6. What was Eve’s sin? What does her experience with the serpent tell us about our situation and what we need to be aware of? What would you understand is so bad about what she did? Whose sin was worse, Eve’s or Adam’s? (1 Timothy 2:14) Was God being unfairly harsh in this experience? Shouldn’t we desire to be like God as Eve tried to be?
7. What kind of God would expel Adam and Eve on their very first offense? Would you still be alive if your parents had treated you like this? Why is God apparently so arbitrary?
8. When God came down to talk to them, why did He call out, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9) Didn’t He know? Compare the story of Babel (Genesis 11:5), Abraham and Sodom. (Genesis 18:20)
9. How do you think Adam felt as he tried to kill that first lamb? With a stone?
10. What kind of a God would destroy all but eight in a flood? Could you have destroyed all: women, children, babies, animals? What do you think would have happened if God had not stepped in? Would He have lost contact with man completely? Why didn’t He just let everything go bad and self-destruct at the time of the flood? Why didn’t God just send His Son at that point? Don’t you think the Pharisees, in the time of Christ, prayed for a flood to destroy all the “wicked people” (especially Romans) so they could control the world?
11. Does the flood tell us that God is not forgiving? Was this God the Father? Who was the God of the Old Testament? (1 Corinthians 10:4) In what way was God pleased by the odor of Noah’s sacrifice? (Genesis 8:21) What was the final result of the flood? (See the Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9) What had they learned from this experience? What had God demonstrated? What did the on-looking universe learn from this? Why has God apparently done almost nothing for so many millennia since then? (Compare 2 Peter 3:8,9)
12. Did Ham’s behavior really result in the destruction of his descendants, the Canaanites? (Genesis 9:23) Is this fair? (See Exodus 20:4-6; 34:6,7; Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 5:9,10; 7:9,10. Contrast Ezekiel 18:20)

13. In light of the flood, what does it say about God that He continues to wait now? Does it bother us that He continues to wait, especially for the last 150 years since we have been announcing His soon return? (Compare Jonah, Esther)
14. What was God's original purpose in calling Abraham? Was God partial in picking Abraham's family? Why do you think God called Abraham? (Compare Melchizedek, Jethro) Isn't God a vegetarian? (Genesis 18:8) Why did He wait for Abraham to cook meat for Him when He could have created anything for their meal? Did God really need a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch to pass between cut pieces of animal to confirm His relationship with one of His best friends? (Genesis 15:17)
15. Would you dare to say to God, "Shouldn't the Judge of all the earth do what is right?" (Genesis 18:25) Would this conversation with God qualify as prayer? Did Abraham represent God well? Would you dare to talk to God as Abraham did? (Compare Moses [Exodus 32:9-14]; Peter [Acts 10:13-17]; David [Psalms 51]) What do you think of his conversation with God over Sodom? Was the heavenly reporting system inadequate? (Genesis 18:20,21. Compare Eden [3:9], Babel [11:5-7]) Isn't God omniscient? Couldn't He believe what He heard?
16. Why did both Abraham and Sarah laugh when God told them they were going to have a baby? (Genesis 17:17; 18:11-15) Why would God ask Abraham to sacrifice the son of the promise? Did Abraham ask any questions? (Hebrews 11:19; PP 148-155) Shouldn't we say, "If God has said it, I believe it and that is all there is to it?" Pay special attention to what this story says to the on-looking universe. (1 Peter 1:12)
17. What does it mean for God to say He has confidence in Abraham? (Genesis 15:6) How could Abraham be credited with trusting God, when he lacked the faith even to tell the truth about his wife? (Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-13) Please note that Isaac did the same. (Genesis 26:1-11) If God had foreknowledge what is the meaning of "confidence?"
18. Why did God give them the rite of circumcision, when He foreknew that it would eventually lead to so much conflict and misunderstanding? (Genesis 17:11-12; PP 364.2)
19. What kind of a God would turn Lot's wife into a pillar of salt just because she glanced back? (Genesis 19:26) Why would Lot offer his virgin daughters to that crowd instead of the angels? (Genesis 19:7) If Lot is to be considered a "just man" (2 Peter 2:8,9) isn't his first duty to his daughters?
20. Why would the chosen man of God offer nose rings and bracelets to a potential wife for Isaac? (Genesis 24:22) Would Peter (1 Peter 3:3) and Paul (1 Timothy 2:9) condemn this?
21. How do you think God regarded Jacob's several wives, and their stealing from and deceiving their own relatives as they departed? (Genesis 31:19-21)
22. If God chose the tribe of Judah as the future kings of Israel, why is He killing off Judah's sons? (Genesis 38:1-30) Why do you think God chose Judah and Tamar (a Canaanite teen-age bride, one time prostitute) as the ancestors of Christ? (Compare Rahab and Ruth. [See Joshua 2 and Ruth 4]) Why did He choose to mention them specifically by name? (Matthew 1:3)
23. What is the purpose of all the genealogies? Were these just for the benefit of the Israelites? Why are so few women mentioned in these genealogies?

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