

BU 1303

Introduction to Genesis



The Pentateuch

- From the Greek words Penta (Five) and Teuchos (Scrolls)
- The Hebrew name for the Pentateuch is the *Torah*, which means "Teachings"
- In Joshua 8:31 they are called the "Teachings (Torah) of Moses."
- The blessing of Joshua 1:8 is tied directly to the Torah



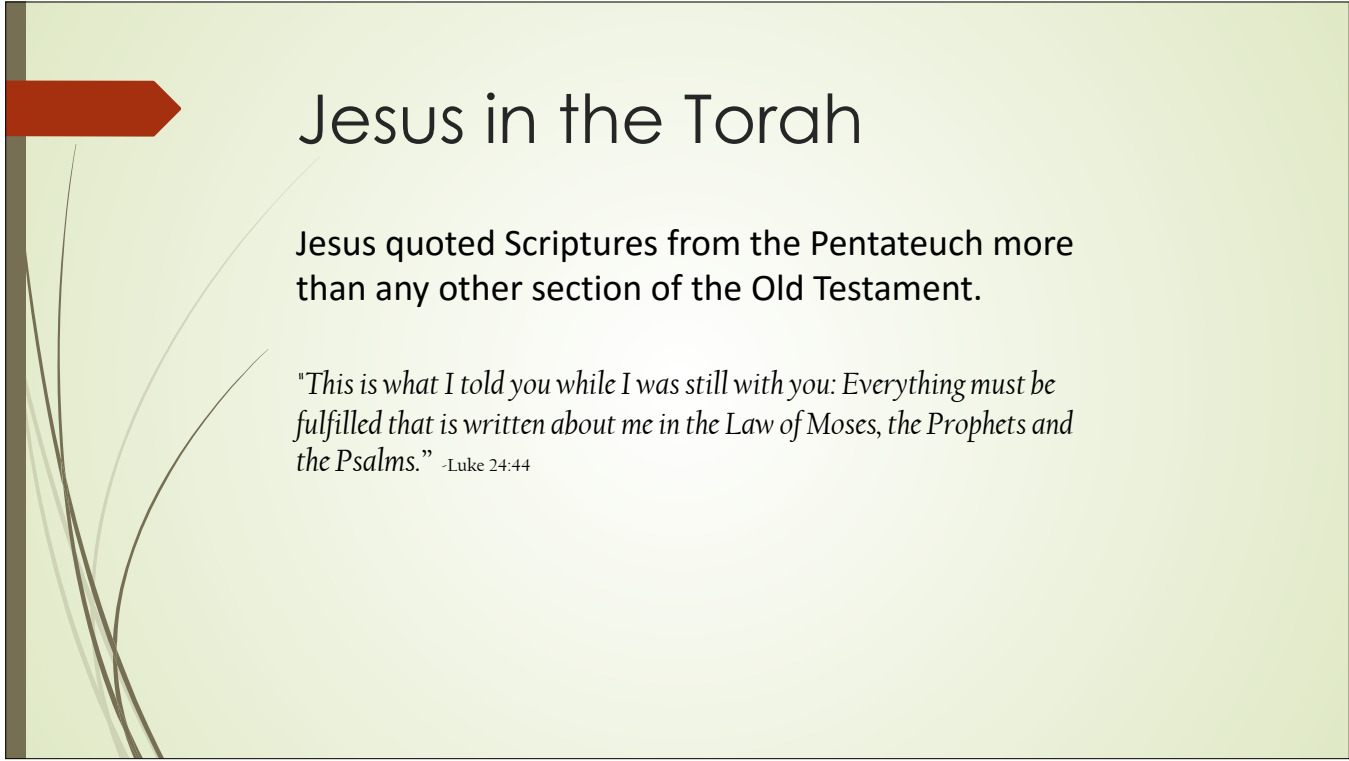
In the Torah, the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are all combined into one large scroll.
*They are still hand-written today, in accordance with scribal laws (like we discussed last time)

It takes a Jewish scribe about a year to hand-copy the 304,805 letters found in the Torah, the exact same way it's been written since the time of Moses.

Orthodox Jews read through the entire Torah every year, beginning at Rosh Hashanah (which is the Jewish New Year...this year it's September 20th). To protect the scroll, the Torah is read with a hand-shaped pointer, called a Yad [Yahd] (the Hebrew word for hand).

A Torah scroll can weigh between 20 and 50 pounds. According to Jewish tradition, if someone accidentally drops a scroll in the Synagogue, everyone present must fast 40 days for purification.

[Torah replica]



Jesus in the Torah

Jesus quoted Scriptures from the Pentateuch more than any other section of the Old Testament.

"This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." -Luke 24:44


CLASS DISCUSSION:

Why should we, as Christians, study the Torah?

(Origins, Source of Sin & Death, Character of God, History of Israel, Salvation)

THE LAW:

Even though Jesus FULFILLED the Law of Moses, we can still learn a LOT from the Law. We don't live by the LETTER of the LAW, but we can certainly learn from the LESSONS of the Law.



Jesus in the Torah

Prophecies about Jesus:

- "He shall bruise your head" (Genesis 3:15)
- All nations will be blessed through Abraham (Genesis 12:3)
- The Messiah will come from the Tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
- God will send a star and raise up a great King out of Israel (Numbers 24:17)
- God will raise up a prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15)

Star


According to tradition, the prophet Daniel taught the Persian Magi that a Star would be the sign of the Messiah. But the ORIGIN of that prophecy goes all the way back to the Torah. The Prophecy of Balaam (Numbers 24:17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.")

Prophet like Moses=significant.

In Judaism, there is no prophet who compares to Moses.

Deut. 34:10 "Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face"

Stephen's address in Acts 7, he tells the Sanhedrin "Jesus was the One that Moses prophesied of"



Jesus in the Torah

Foreshadows of Jesus:

- God provided the first sacrifice for sin (Genesis 3)
- Abraham tithed to Melchizedek (Genesis 14)
- God provided the ram on Mt. Moriah instead of Isaac (Genesis 22)
- The Blood of the Lamb saved people from death (Exodus 12)
- God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus 16)

Melchizedek, King of Salem (Prince of Peace)

Melchizedek means “King of Righteousness” and the Bible says that He was a priest without beginning or end. (Theophany)

The fact that Abraham, the Father of the Faith, paid tithes to Melchizedek, is significant. Jesus is a Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7)

Mt. Moriah

God tested Abraham and said, “I want you to sacrifice your only son.”

We know the story...in the last minute, God stopped Abraham and He provided a Ram for the sacrifice.

That was same mountain in Jerusalem where God’s only son, Jesus Christ, would be crucified.

Passover Lamb

Jesus was crucified at Passover. 1 Corinthians 5:7 calls Jesus “our Passover Lamb.”

Manna

Manna was DAILY bread, could not be preserved. Jesus said in John 6:35 “I am the Bread of Life.”



The King and the Torah

“When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,’ you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.” -Deuteronomy 17:14-15

“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.” -Deuteronomy 17:18-20



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu writes the final letters of a Torah scroll dedicated to Israel's fallen soldiers. (Photo: Kobi Gideon/GPO)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu writing the final letters of a Torah scroll.



Genesis

Facts about the Book of Genesis:

- Hebrew name: Bereshith (In the Beginning)
- Greek name: Genesis (Origin) from the Septuagint
- Written down by Moses
- Covers the history of humanity from Creation (before 4000 BC) to the death of Joseph in Egypt (1806 BC)
- Genesis tells us the origin of: mankind, sin, sickness, the diversification of people and languages, etc.

HEBREW NAME

In Hebrew, the books of the Bible typically get their name from the first word of the Book. In fact, all the Books of the Pentateuch are named after the first word of the book.

WRITTEN...

A lot of scholars call Moses the EDITOR of the Book of Genesis, because the genealogies and stories were handed down from generation-to-generation. Ultimately the Holy Spirit guided Moses as he wrote down these events.

COVERS...

Genesis covers more time than any other Book of the Bible (more than 2,000 years)

*Joseph was the only Israelite on record to be mummified. He was given a royal burial in Egypt.

Genesis 1:1

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ
EARTH THE AND -EVEN THE --- GOD CREATED BEGINNING THE IN

Remember that Hebrew is read RIGHT-to-LEFT:
Bereshit bara Elohim - Hasmayim ve'et ha'aretz

- *Notice that there is a missing word: the 4th word of Genesis 1:1
- Non translatable word.
- Used in Hebrew for clarification of grammar
- Hebrews scholars agree that the word is not needed in Genesis 1:1
- They can't remove it from the Bible, but they don't know why its there.

Alef-Tav

Genesis 1:1

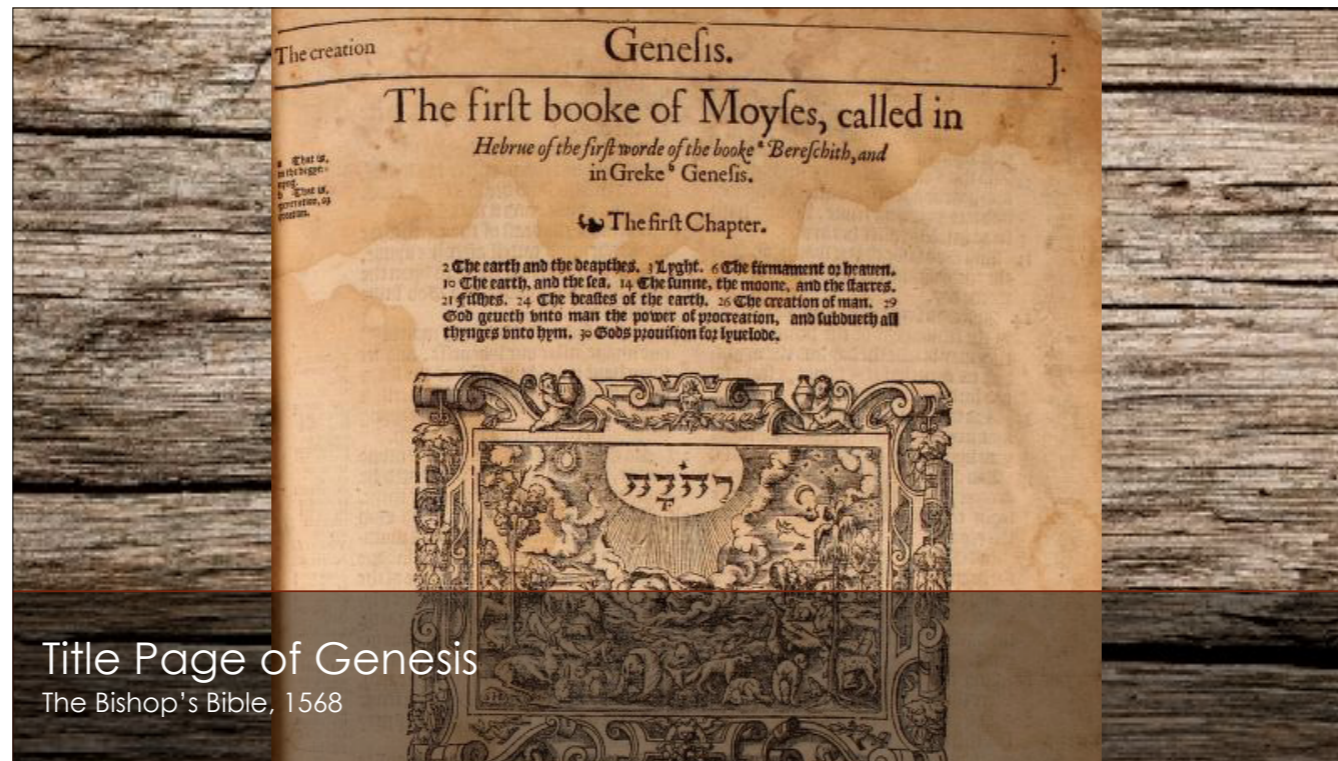
ārētz hā ʾet vā shāmayim hā ʾet ʾĒlōhēm bārāh b'rāh-sheat ←read!

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

earth the & 2-heavens the ΑΩ Elohim/God He creates beginning in ←read!
Rev 1:8 [through Yeshua/Jesus] Rev 1:8 [through Yeshua/Jesus] [masculine-singular]

The Alpha and Omega

“By Him all things were created” John 1

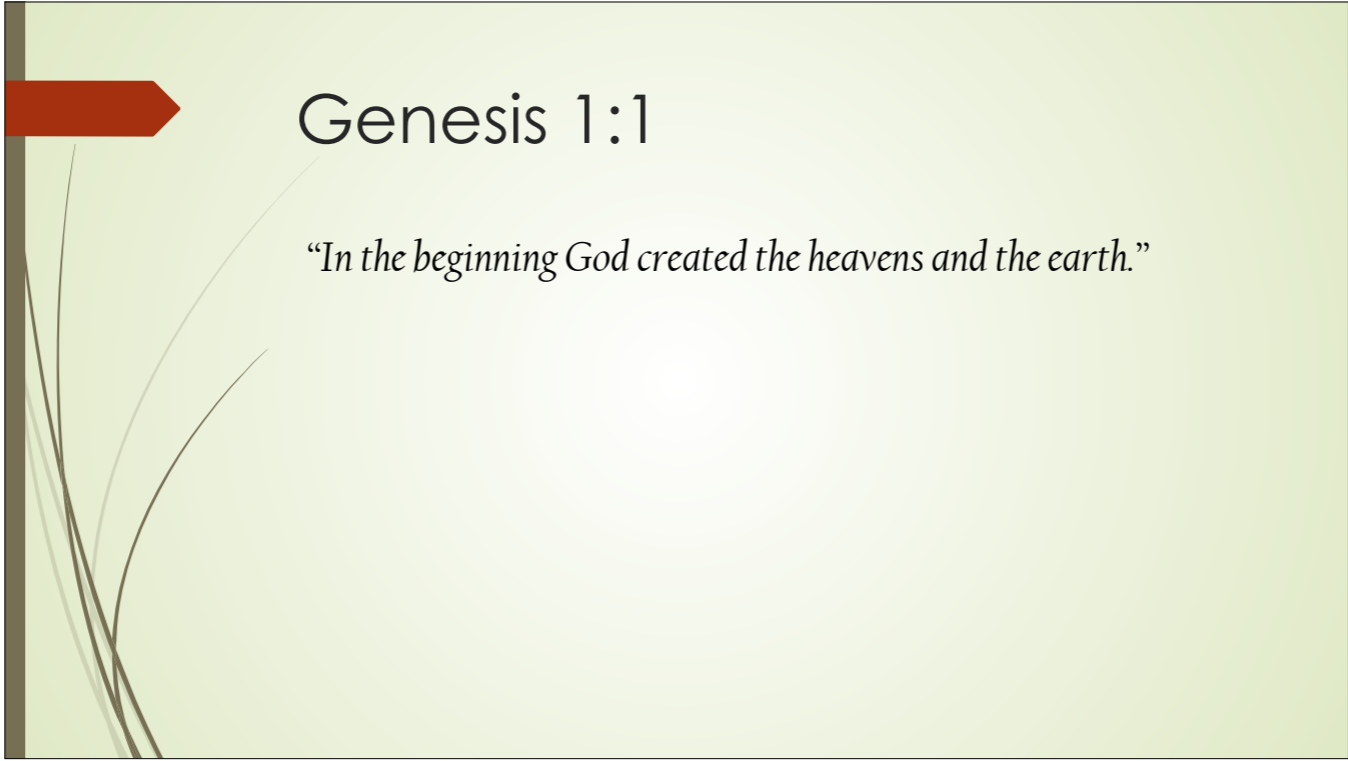


Title Page of Genesis
The Bishop's Bible, 1568

Title page from the Bishop's Bible (early Modern English, "s" looks like "t" with no line across it)

Notice the description:

The First Book of Moses, in the Hebrew "Bereshith" and the Greek "Genesis"




This is the basis of our entire Faith: It starts with God!
*He is the Creator and He is the source of all life.

Israelites: Monotheistic

The Israelites were not like any other ancient civilization for two reasons:
-They believed in ONE God, instead of many gods
-They believed that God existed outside of time and space
*No other ancient culture believed that!

*I heard a lecture at Yale, and the professor claimed that it was THIS belief that made such a small civilization with such a small territory one of the most significant groups of people to ever live. Israel is small in comparison to the population of other civilizations, and Israel's territory VERY small in comparison of other nations and empires (Israel: about the size of New Jersey)



Creation

Facts about Creation:

- God created the Heavens and the Earth
- Intelligent Design is supported by Universal laws observed in science (the universe is organized, not chaotic)
- God created by speaking (He "said" let there be light)
- Time did not begin until God created Day and Night (Genesis 1:5)
- The Jewish day begins at Sundown, following that pattern established by God ("evening and morning were the first day")
- Our 7-day week is based on the 7 days of Creation


The Bible: 7 Day Week

Romans: 8-day week

Japanese: 5-day week

Chinese: 10-day week

Aztecs: 13 day week



Old Earth vs. Young Earth

How old is the Earth?

- Jewish tradition bases their calendar on the year Adam was expelled from the Garden of Eden
- 2017 is the Hebrew Year 5777
- Young Earth: The planet is roughly 6,000 years old
- Old Earth: The planet is as old as some scientists estimate (4.5B)
- In favor of Young Earth: God could make the Earth any way He desires (Adam was apparently created as an adult)
- In favor of Old Earth: There is no time specified between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:3 (Gap creationism)

*Ultimately, the Bible doesn't demand that we take sides on the issue.
(This is not a pre-requisite for Salvation!) I'm not going to argue with ANYBODY over how old the Earth is,
but it is COMPLETELY possible that God made it all on Day One.



The Trinity in Genesis

One God, in three Persons

- Elohim is a plural word, but always regarding in Hebrew as singular when referring to God
- “Hear O Israel, the Lord, our God, the Lord is ONE” Deuteronomy 6:4
- The Jewish people universally agree that there is only One God, yet God says “We” repeatedly in the Creation Account
- There is no clear Jewish explanation for the “We” passages
- These Old Testaments passages only make sense in light of the New Testament. “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one” (1 John 5:7)

One of the greatest mysteries of our faith is the concept of the Trinity.
There is only ONE God, yet He has revealed Himself as “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

The Sh'Ma

Deuteronomy 6:4 is the basis of the morning and evening prayers of the Jewish people.
It's called the Shema. (Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Eḥad)
(This is the Jewish bedtime prayers of Judaism)



Creation vs. Evolution

Two types of Evolution

- Microevolution: changes within a species
 - A change in gene frequency within a population
 - The Galapagos finches (beak shape depends on environment)
 - Pesticide resistant and Penicillin resistant organisms
- Macroevolution: changes from one species to a different species
 - Never documented in nature
 - Genetic mutations result in LOSS of information, never the CREATION of information

Science is not the enemy of Christianity (Albert Einstein said: "Religion without science is blind, but science without religion is paralyzed.")

"Evolution" is not a Christian curse word

Macroevolution:

-Darwin proposed that the fossil record would show millions of transitional organisms (none have been found)

-Genetic mutation results in the LOSS of information, not the CREATION of useful information

-If genes mutate and new code is created, it's either neutral or harmful (Cystic Fibrosis, Down Syndrome, etc.)

-When genetic code is lost, it cannot be regenerated or replaced (blue eyes, brown eyes)



DNA: The language of God

Science in Darwin's Day:

- Life can happen spontaneously (ie: flies and meat)
- Living cells are simple, mostly plasma

Science Today:

- The living cell is incredibly complex
- All living things are built around DNA
- Every cell contains DNA
 - Human DNA contains more than 3 Billion sequences
 - DNA is more complex than any software program ever written

Dr. Anthony Flew was the world's leading Atheist. He was well-known for his stance on Darwinism and Evolution, but when the Human Genome Project published its findings, the world's most notorious atheist changed his mind.

He shocked the world when he announced that the complexity of the genetic code convinced him that God MUST exist.

"DNA is like a computer program, but it is infinitely more complex than any software program ever written" -Bill Gates



Creation vs. Evolution

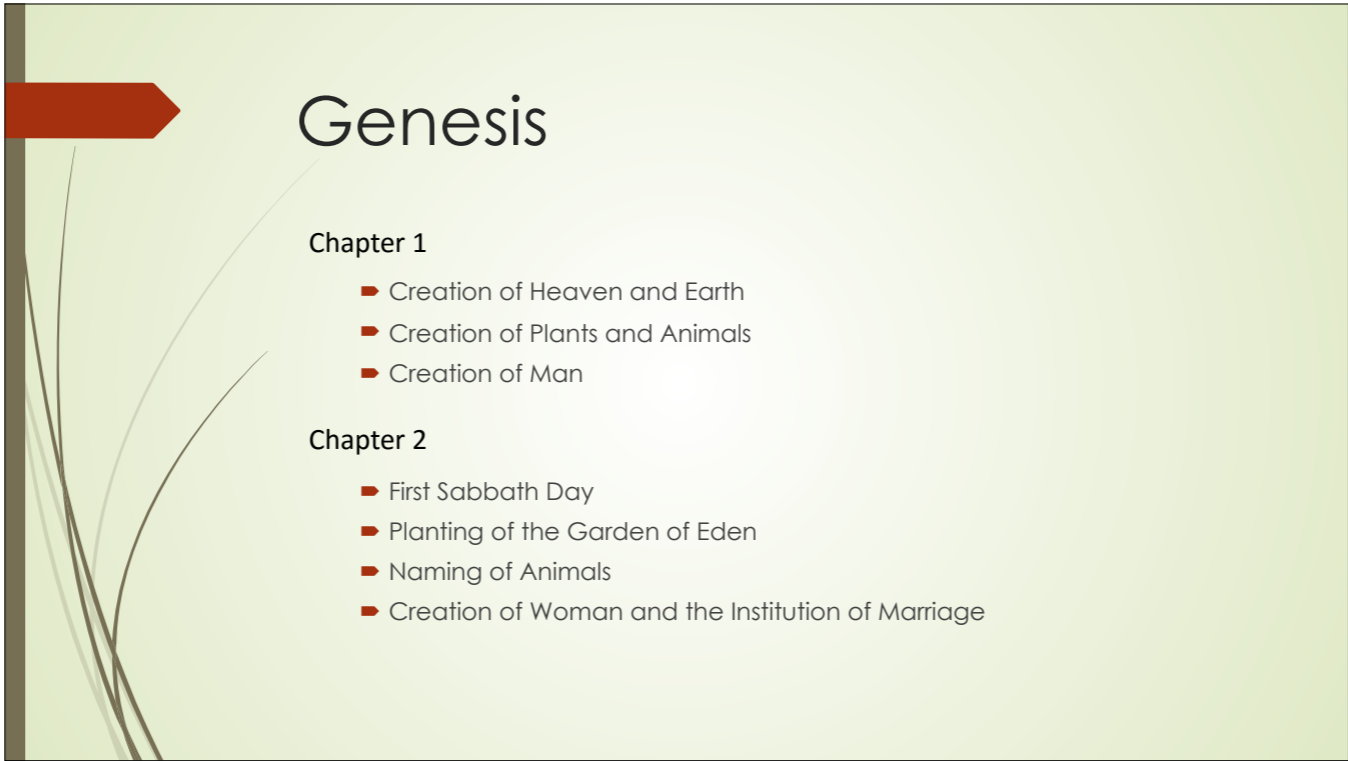
The implications of Evolution

- Life is meaningless
- God does not exist, therefore there are no moral consequences
- The purpose of life is survival (survival of the fittest)

The implications of Creation

- Life has meaning because it was intentionally created
- God exists, therefore there are moral consequences
- The purpose of life is to love God and your fellow man

Aldous Huxley: "The reason I wanted to believe that life had no meaning was so that I could remove all limits from my own sexuality, with no moral consequences."



Genesis

Chapter 1


- Creation of Heaven and Earth
- Creation of Plants and Animals
- Creation of Man

Chapter 2

- First Sabbath Day
- Planting of the Garden of Eden
- Naming of Animals
- Creation of Woman and the Institution of Marriage

CHAPTER 1: It all comes from God

CHAPTER 2: God created Man for fellowship with Him



Genesis


Chapter 3

- Serpent deceives Eve, Adam and Eve sin (the Fall of Man)
- Serpent cursed, the Promised Seed, the Punishment of Sin
- The First Clothing (Animal Skins) and Expulsion from Paradise

Chapter 4

- Cain and Abel
- The Birth of Enoch (Son of Cain)
- Lamech's two wives
- The Birth of Seth (Son of Adam & Eve)
- The Birth of Enosh (Son of Seth)

Enoch=Dedicated
Enosh=Human Being



Genesis

Chapter 5

- ▀ Retelling of the Creation of Man
- ▀ Genealogy from Adam to Noah
- ▀ Enoch translated into Heaven

Chapter 6

- ▀ The Fallen Angels and the Daughters of Men
- ▀ The Wickedness of the World
- ▀ Noah finds Favor with God
- ▀ Orders for building the Ark

CHAPTER 5

Enoch (7th from Adam) was translated into Heaven

-He was a prophet (Jude quotes Enoch) Jude 1:14 "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints"

-At one time, there was a BOOK of Enoch, but the original Book of Enoch has been lost, no Hebrew remains at all

-The Ethiopian Church has their own version of Enoch, but it's not considered Biblical because it can't be verified by any Hebrew or Aramaic source text.



The “Sons of God”

"Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose." -Genesis 6:1-2

The opening of Genesis 6 is absolutely scandalous.

Traditional Christian interpretation: The descendants of Seth (Godly men) intermarried with the descendants of Cain

*That is NOT what good Bible Study will teach you (remember: SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE). The LAW requires that every WORD be confirmed in the mouth of two or three witnesses.

*We know that these are not LITERAL sons of God...John 3:16. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God.

According to the Bible, this verse is talking about Angels. (You see the same thing Job chapter 1)

We KNOW that these are fallen angels...because there are TWO other scriptures that tell us so:

\OT Term for Angels “Sons of God” (Job)



The Sons of God

Jude 1:6 *“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”*

2 Peter 2:4-5 *“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly...”*

We KNOW that these are fallen angels...because there are TWO other scriptures that tell us so.

