

Sunday, April 9, 2016 - New Heights Christian Church, Kent, WA - Pastor Micah Adamson

Title: Overview of Genesis: The God who has been there since the beginning!

Text: Genesis 1-50

Genesis 1:1, 2:4, 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 11:27, 25:12, 25:19, 36:1, 37:2, 50:26 (NIV84)

This is the account of...

Introduction:

- We are going to try to cover all 50 chapters of Genesis today. Why?
 - How many of you watch only one episode of a television series you like per day?
 - I wanted to start at the very beginning, since this is how God chose to introduce Himself.
 - I want to preach a sermon on Genesis 12 in a few weeks and you need the back story.
 - There is a lesson in Genesis more easily seen from the whole than just the parts.
- I have two warnings:
 - I'm going to go too quickly past some important details (please re-read it yourself).
 - I'm going to go as quickly as possible past some nasty details (don't dwell too long.)
- Genesis is a reminder of how bad sin is and why we need to trust God to save us in Jesus.
- Genesis is the story of people learning to trust God and live accordingly.

Introduction: Creation (Gen. 1:1-2:3)

Genesis 1:1a (NIV84)

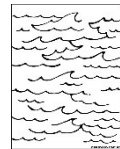
¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

1. The Beginning

- a. Nothing created God. God created everything.
- b. God created the universe by His Word and brooded the world by His Spirit.
- c. The world starts out covered in water.
- d. God created in pairs:

Day 1 = The world and light	Day 4 = Sun, moon, and stars
Day 2 = Separated the water to create sea and sky	Day 5 = Fish and birds
Day 3 = Separated land from water, made plants	Day 6 = Animals and people

- e. God created Man and Woman in His image to rule and work the earth.



I. The account of Heaven and Earth (Gen. 2:4-4:26)

Genesis 2:4a (NIV84)

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

- a. Genesis is divided into 10 "accounts" which makes it easier to remember.
- b. Account = Generation, Genealogy, Descendants, Results, or History

2. Adam and Eve

- a. Retells the story of the creation of people (man from dirt, woman from man)
- b. Live in a garden with only one rule, don't eat the fruit of one tree or you'll die.

3. The Fall of Man

- a. Adam and Eve flip the order of creation by trusting and following the lead of an animal instead of God by eating from the one restricted tree.
- b. The New Testament says the serpent was really Satan (no backstory here).
- c. Adam and Eve are kept away from the tree of life, but they don't immediately die.
- d. Work and childbearing will be hard now.
- e. We get a two hints at the gospel of Jesus here: God promises that Eve's descendent will be bitten by the serpent, but will crush the serpent's head.
- f. God kills an animal to cover Adam and Eve and animal sacrifices start.



4. Cain and Abel

- a. Eve has a son, Cain (could this be the promised serpent crusher?)
- b. Cain kills his brother Abel since God had accepted His animal sacrifice.
- c. God protects Cain from being killed in revenge.
- d. Cain's descendant kills a man and claims Cain's right not to be avenged.
- e. Eve has another son, Seth, and people start calling on the name of the LORD.
- f. A good line and a bad line appear to be forming, which one will win.

II. The account of Adam's line (Gen. 5:1-6:8)

Genesis 5:1a (NIV84)

¹This is the written account of Adam's line.

5. From Adam to Noah

- a. Unlike other genealogies in Genesis, every entry includes "and then he died".
- b. Adam and Eve earned death as the wage of their sin and passed sin and death on to their kids.
- c. This genealogy of death is broken up with one exception to give us hope: Enoch.



III. The account of Noah (Gen. 6:9-9:27)

Genesis 6:9a (NIV84)

⁹This is the account of Noah.

6-8. The Flood

- d. The brief hope of a godly line terminates with only Noah left trusting God.
- e. Everyone is following in Cain's footsteps and killing each other.
- f. God has Noah build an ark and only his family and the animals are saved.
- g. God undoes creation by covering the whole earth with water again to start over.



9. God's Covenant With Noah, The Sons of Noah,

- a. God promises not to destroy the world with water again, but from now on anyone who kills a person will be put to death.
- b. The new start goes wrong quickly. Noah gets drunk and his son Ham and his grandson Canaan mock him, while Shem and Japheth come to his rescue.
- c. Shem's line (the Shemites) is blessed, Canaan's line (the Canaanites) is cursed.

IV. The account of Noah's sons (Gen. 10:1-11:9)

Genesis 10:1 (NIV84)

¹This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.

10. The Table of Nations, The Japhethites, The Hamites, The Semites

- a. We get an overview of what nations came from which of Noah's sons.

11. The Tower of Babel,

- a. God told everyone to spread out, but they stay put and build a tower to heaven.
- b. God confused their language into babel, but it looks like different families spoke the same languages, so they spread out by family into all the world.



V. The account of Shem (Gen. 11:10-26)

Genesis 11:10a (NIV84)

¹⁰This is the account of Shem.

11b. From Shem to Abram

- a. This genealogy doesn't include "and then he died" after everyone's name.
- b. The Semite line (root word of anti-Semitism) leads to Abram (Abraham)



VI. The account of Terah (Gen. 11:27-25:11)

Genesis 11:27a (NIV84)

²⁷ This is the account of Terah.



12. *The Call of Abram, Abram in Egypt*

- a. This is the middle of the 10 “accounts” in Genesis after only 11 of 50 chapters.
- b. The story slows down and covers only 4 generations (about 400 years).
- c. This is the story of Abram struggling and learning to trust God.
- d. God makes a promise to Abram to give him a land and a family and bless the world through this nation (Shem’s kids are going to get wicked Canaan’s land).
- e. Abraham calls on the name of the LORD at a place called Bethel (is this the start of a new godly line?)
- f. As soon as Abram moves to Canaan there is a famine and he goes to Egypt where he gets Pharaoh in trouble with God by pretending Sarai isn’t his wife.

13. *Abram and Lot Separate*

- a. Abram and Lot move back to Canaan but there isn’t enough grass for their herds to stay together without fighting. Lot moves toward the Jordan River to Sodom.

14. *Abram Rescues Lot*

- a. Sodom gets taken over by other Canaanite kingdoms and Lot too is captured.
- b. Abram comes out with 318 men who work for him and they rescue Sodom.
- c. The king of Sodom offers Abram a reward, but he refuses to show that he is trusting God to make him rich.
- d. Instead, Abram titles 10% of everything he owns to God by giving it to the king of Jerusalem named Melchizedek, who like Jesus is priest and king.

15. *God’s Covenant With Abram*

- a. Abram still doesn’t have any children.
- b. God reassures Abram of His promise by passing through the halves of cut up animals, meaning that if He breaks His promise He will be cut up.
- c. Usually, in this ceremony, the lesser person would walk between the halves.

16. *Hagar and Ishmael*

- a. Abram and Sarai take matters into their own hands by arranging to have a son with Sarai’s servant Hagar. Their son’s name is Ishmael.

17. *The Covenant of Circumcision*

- a. God comes to Abram and confirms His covenant will be for Sarai to have a son.
- b. God changes Abram’s (Exalted father) to Abraham (Father of many nations), and Sarai (Princess) to Sarah (Princess).
- c. Abraham, Ishmael, and all his men are circumcised as the sign of the covenant.

18. *The Three Visitors, Abraham Pleads for Sodom,*

- a. God tells Abraham at 100 that he and Sarah at 90 will have a baby.
- b. Sarah hears and laughs about it and the angel says everyone will laugh at this story so they should name the baby Isaac (laughter). God named Isaac.
- c. Two angels leave to Sodom to confirm that it is wicked enough to be destroyed.
- d. The LORD stays behind and Abraham tries to talk God out of destroying them.
- e. God agrees that if there are 10 righteous men in the city, God won’t destroy it.

19. Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed, Lot and His Daughters

- a. The angels prove that there aren't 10 righteous men in the city by being attacked in the night while staying with Lot.
- b. The angels blind the men of the city and get Lot's family out of town.
- c. Lot's wife loved Sodom, turned back and turned into salt.
- d. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire from heaven.
- e. Lot and His daughters end up hiding in a cave where Lot's daughters trick him into fathering their children (does this still sound like a godly line?)

20. Abraham and Abimelech

- a. Another famine comes to Canaan and Abraham stays with the Philistines and once again pretends that Sarah isn't his wife and gets them into trouble with God.

21. The Birth of Isaac, Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away, The Treaty at Beersheba

- a. Abraham moves back to Canaan and Isaac is born.
- b. Ishmael made fun of Isaac and Sarah had Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away.
- c. Hagar and Ishmael almost die of thirst in the desert, but God shows them a well and promises to take care of Ishmael and make him into a nation too.
- d. The Philistines make a treaty with Abraham since they know God is with him.

22. Abraham Tested, Nahor's Sons

- a. Abraham only has one son left and Sarah is definitely too old to have any more.
- b. God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac who will fulfill God's promise.
- c. Isaac notices on the way up the mountain that they have wood, fire, and a knife but no animal to sacrifice, Abraham tells Isaac that God will provide.
- d. Abraham is finally ready to trust God. He ties up Isaac and is about to kill him when God stops him and shows him a ram, which they sacrifice instead.
- e. This miraculous last moment salvation by trusting in God happened on the top of a mountain right by Jerusalem, and is probably the same place Jesus died.
- f. Abraham's brother has children too who are going to marry into the story soon.

23. The Death of Sarah

- a. Sarah died (did she die of fright at the story of Isaac's near sacrifice?)
- b. Abraham buys a piece of land as a burial plot where the patriarchs are all eventually buried (with a classic Middle Eastern bargaining story).

24. Isaac and Rebekah

- a. Abraham sends his servant who providentially finds Isaac's cousin Rebekah at a well and takes her back to marry Isaac.

25. The Death of Abraham,

- a. Abraham got married again and had some more kids, but left everything to Isaac.
- b. Isaac and Ishmael bury Abraham in the family burial plot in Canaan.

VII. The account of Ishmael (Gen. 25:12-18)

Genesis 25:12 (NIV84)

¹²This is the account of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Sarah's maidservant, Hagar the Egyptian, bore to Abraham.

25b. Ishmael's Sons,

- a. We get a 6 verse list of Ishmael's sons before moving on to Isaac's sons.



VIII. The account of Isaac (Gen. 25:19-35:29)

Genesis 25:19a (NIV84)

¹⁹ This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac.



25c. *Jacob and Esau*

- a. Rebekah gets pregnant with twins who are fighting before they are even born.
- b. God tells her she's having twins and that following the pattern of Isaac and Ishmael, God's promise will go to the younger son instead of the older.
- c. When they grow up, Jacob tricks Esau into selling him his birthright for a bowl of soup. Esau doesn't believe that God's blessing is worth keeping.

26. *Isaac and Abimelech*

- a. Another famine comes to Canaan and Isaac goes to stay with the Philistines and like his dad pretends that Rebekah isn't his wife.
- b. Abimelech finds out that Rebekah is really Isaac's wife, recalls Abraham's story and gets mad at Isaac for telling a lie that could get him in trouble with God.
- c. Isaac and the Philistines fight over many different wells until the Philistines make a treaty with Isaac, like they did with Abraham since they know God is with him.
- d. God appears in a dream to Isaac and confirms that He will keep His promise to Abraham to Isaac. Isaac calls on the name of the LORD as Abraham had done.

27. *Jacob Gets Isaac's Blessing, Jacob Flees to Laban*

- a. Isaac is getting old and thinks he is going to die soon and wants to bless Esau.
- b. Jacob tricks Isaac into giving him God's blessing given to Abraham instead by pretending to be Esau in a dark tent.
- c. Esau is angry when he finds out that Jacob has stolen his blessing along with his birthright and consoles himself by saying he will kill Jacob once Isaac dies.
- d. Jacob runs away to live with Rebekah's family where Abraham came from.

28. *Jacob's Dream at Bethel*

- a. Jacob arrives to Bethel where Abraham called on the name of the LORD.
- b. God appears to Isaac in a dream and confirms that He will keep His promise to Abraham to Jacob.

29. *Jacob Arrives in Paddan Aram, Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel, Jacob's Children*

- a. Jacob providentially finds his cousin Rachel by a well and wants to marry her.
- b. Jacob the trickster finally meets his match in his uncle Laban.
- c. Jacob agreed to work for Laban for 7 years to marry Rachel, but when the time came Laban tricked Jacob into marrying her sister Leah instead in a dark tent.
- d. Jacob had to work for Laban for another 7 years to pay for marrying two sisters.
- e. After 14 years Jacob wants to leave but Laban agrees to pay him to keep working for him since his herds have increased so much under Jacob's care.
- f. But, Laban changes the agreement about what animals Jacob gets 10 times.
- g. Meanwhile, Jacob has 6 sons (and a daughter) with Leah, 2 sons with Rachel, and 2 sons with each of their male servants due to sibling rivalry between the sisters.

30. *Jacob's Flocks Increase*

- a. Even though Laban kept changing Jacob's wages, God blessed him and Jacob ended up with all of the good animals from Laban's herds.

- 31. *Jacob Flees From Laban, Laban Pursues Jacob***
- Jacob decides he will take his chances with Esau to escape Laban.
 - Jacob tricks Laban by not telling him He is leaving and takes everything and runs.
 - Laban gets mad at Jacob and chases him, but God warns him in a dream not to hurt Jacob and they make a treaty.
 - Before leaving, Rachel stole Laban's idols, but tricked him into not finding them.
 - Later, Jacob has everyone bury any idols they have under a tree (Gen. 35).
- 32. *Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau, Jacob Wrestles With God***
- Jacob divides his family into groups in case Esau attacks and sends him gifts.
 - God appears to Jacob and wrestles with him all night and permanently injures Jacob's hip with one touch.
 - But, Jacob wins and won't let him go until God blesses him and renames him.
 - Israel = Wrestles with God.
- 33. *Jacob Meets Esau***
- Esau comes out with 400 men to meet Jacob, but they meet and part in peace.
- 34. *Dinah and the Shechemites***
- Jacob lives near Shechem where his daughter Dinah is seduced by the king's son who then wants to marry her.
 - Jacob's sons Levi and Simeon trick the Shechemites into getting circumcised and then kill all the men and take everything they own.
 - It's a pretty low blow to use God's covenant sign as a way of killing people instead of blessing the nations.
 - Jacob later disinherits Levi and Simeon over it this (Gen. 49).
 - Jacob's sons were in no position to judge so harshly for sexual sins as we will see.
- 35. *Jacob Returns to Bethel, The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac***
- Jacob moves back to Bethel and God reconfirmed His covenant to keep His promise to Abraham to Jacob.
 - This must have been a rough time for Jacob.
 - Reuben committed adultery with his father's wife Bilhah at this time.
 - Rachel died in childbirth with Benjamin.
 - Isaac finally died. Jacob and Esau buried him in the family burial plot in Canaan.

IX. The account of Esau (Gen. 36:1-37:1)

Genesis 36:1 (NIV84)

¹This is the account of Esau (that is, Edom).

36. *Esau's Descendants, The Rulers of Edom*

- Esau married Canaanite and Ishmaelite wives and moved to Edom.
- Esau's family ruled Edom during the time the Israelites were in Egypt.



X. The account of Jacob (Gen. 37:2-50:26)

Genesis 37:2a (NIV84)

²This is the account of Jacob.



37. *Joseph's Dreams, Joseph Sold by His Brothers*

- a. Which brings us to Joseph's story (which is part of the account of Jacob).
- b. Joseph is Jacob's favorite and he gives Joseph a special robe.
- c. Joseph has two dreams symbolically showing his family bowing to him.
- d. Joseph spied on his brothers for his dad and got them in trouble.
- e. The 10 older brothers didn't like this and decided to kill Joseph, but Reuben convinced them to just throw him in a well. Judah sold him as a slave in Egypt.
- f. The brothers used Joseph's robe to trick Jacob into believing Joseph was dead.

38. *Judah and Tamar*

- a. Meanwhile... Judah married a Canaanite wife and had three kids.
- b. God killed his oldest son for wickedness and his second son for refusing to have children for his brother with his widow.
- c. Judah wouldn't let his third son marry the widow and she tricked Judah into getting her pregnant by pretending to be a prostitute (in a dark tent?).
- d. Judah is going to have her executed for adultery, but she is able to prove that Judah is the father by some personal items she took from him, so she doesn't die.
- e. Jesus came from the tribe of Judah through one of the twins born this way.

39. *Joseph and Potiphar's Wife*

- a. Joseph gets a good job in Egypt but loses it and goes to jail for refusing to commit adultery with his master's wife and being framed for a crime he didn't commit.

40. *The Cupbearer and the Baker*

- a. In jail with Joseph two of Pharaoh's officials have dreams that Joseph correctly interprets to tell which one will be killed and which one will be pardoned.
- b. But, the pardoned cupbearer fails to tell Pharaoh to get Joseph out of jail.

41. *Pharaoh's Dreams, Joseph in Charge of Egypt*

- a. Pharaoh has two dreams one can interpret so the cupbearer has him call Joseph.
- b. Joseph interprets the dreams to mean there will be 7 good years and 7 of famine.
- c. Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge of Egypt to store food to prepare for the famine.

42. *Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt*

- a. The famine comes and Joseph's 10 older brothers go to Egypt to buy food.
- b. Joseph treats them as spies. Simeon stays in jail until they bring Benjamin back.
- c. Joseph puts everyone's silver back in their sacks.

43. *The Second Journey to Egypt*

- a. The brothers finally convince their dad to let them take Benjamin to Egypt and they take their silver back to Joseph, but he says it is a gift from God.
- b. Joseph lets Simeon out of jail and throws a party when Benjamin arrives.

44. *A Silver Cup in a Sack*

- a. Joseph frames Benjamin by putting his cup in Benjamin's sack to see if his brothers will rescue Benjamin.
- b. The brothers pass the test by all coming to Benjamin's defense, even offering to go to jail in his place.

45. Joseph Makes Himself Known

- a. Joseph starts crying and tells his brothers who he is.
- b. He gives them all a set of clothing (to make up for a robe they were jealous of?) and sends them back to Canaan to get Jacob.

46. Jacob Goes to Egypt

- a. Jacob and his whole family move to Egypt, but God reassures him that his family will come back to Canaan in the future.

47. Joseph and the Famine

- a. All the Egyptians end up selling themselves into slavery to Pharaoh to buy food from Joseph to survive the famine.

48. Manasseh and Ephraim

- a. Jacob counts both of Joseph's sons as his and they become tribes of Israel.
- b. Jacob follows the established pattern and blesses the younger son over the older.

49. Jacob Blesses His Sons, The Death of Jacob

- a. Jacob blesses all his sons before he dies.
- b. Reuben, Simeon, and Levi not counted as the oldest due to sins.
- c. Judah is counted as his oldest, and Joseph is treated highly too.
- d. Jacob requested to be taken back to be buried with Abraham and Isaac in the family burial plot in Canaan.

50. Joseph Reassures His Brothers, The Death of Joseph

- a. Jacob was embalmed in Egypt and then all the brothers buried him in Canaan.
- b. The brothers were afraid that Joseph would kill them in revenge once their dad was dead like Esau said he would do to Jacob.
- c. But, Joseph reassured his brothers that he really had forgiven them. Joseph trusted that even though his brothers mean to hurt him, God meant it for good.
- d. Before Joseph died, he gave instructions for his family to embalm him in Egypt, and take him back to Canaan and bury him like they did with Jacob.
- e. But... In an incredible statement of faith Joseph told his family to wait and keep his bones and bury him when they all left Egypt (they did it Ex. 13:19, Josh. 24:32).

Conclusion: Egypt (Gen. 50:26)

Genesis 50:26a (NIV84)

²⁶ So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.



- a. Genesis is the introduction to Exodus where God saved His people in the Passover.
- b. Genesis is the story of how God created the world and how world fell into sin and death, but God promised a rescue.
- c. A godly family line emerged that was calling on the name of the LORD trusting in God to keep His promise of salvation, but it ended with Noah (Romans 10).
- d. A new godly family line emerged and learned to trust God following Abraham.
- e. God always planned to bless this family, and for this family to bless the world.
- f. There isn't much to "go and do likewise" in Genesis, just a lot of examples of sin that Jesus had to come and die for.
- g. We are only encouraged to trust God as Abraham learned to do (Romans 4, Galatians 3, Hebrews 11) and as Joseph is an example of doing.
- h. Jesus is the promised seed of Eve who was fatally bitten, but crushed Satan's head and undid the curse of sin and death by coming back to life again.
- i. Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham who inherited the promise and blessed the whole world by His obedience. We get in on God's family blessing by faith in Jesus.