

I. Introduction to the Study of Genesis

If you have your Bibles this morning, we are going to turn to the book of Genesis. What we are going to start today is our study on what the books of the Bible mean and what you should really look for. Let me just say this: my intention is not to give you a verse-by-verse study of the book of Genesis. I do not need to do that. All I have to do is show you what Genesis is all about and give you the main meat of that book, as I will do with every book of the Bible.

What I am giving you is the byproduct of about 35 years of my life, coming through the Word of God and laying out the Bible verse by verse, and compiling everything with every place else it goes. When we are done with the book of Genesis today, you are going to have the ability to look at the book of Genesis, once you spend a little time putting some of this material together, and you are going to have the ability to understand what this book is all about. You are going to have the ability to know what you want to look for, and you are going to have all the keys to go back and study.

I told you last week that we go week by week, and if you could get the material down, I know that most of you are probably not going to be able to, in one week's time, get all the material that I am going to give you today, and that is okay. It does not matter if you get behind as long as you stay in it. We will go week by week, book by book, and we will come through and begin to lay each book out to give you the insight that you need to see. There will be times that we will take a break from it, and we will preach something else as the Lord leads us, but we do not want to get locked into anything. This is our goal for the next couple of years as we come through this, and when we are done, we will have it all together.

So let us go to the Lord this morning and ask God to bless us as we come to His Word. Father, we are so thankful today and so mindful for all that You do for us. We love You, and Lord, there are a lot of things I need to say today, and Lord, I need the clarity of thought. I need the order of things. You would have things to be said and done. This makes all this material cohesive and understandable. I am not here to try to confuse anybody, Lord. I just want to make it as simple and plain and help my people understand Your Word. I love these people. They are part of this church. They are part of my ministry, and You have seen fit to put us together, Lord, and to have a time in Your Word together. Lord, we just love You now and praise You. Teach us and train us in all that we do. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

II. The Book of Beginnings: Foundational Facts

The book of Genesis is called the Book of the Beginnings, and it is also commonly called the Book of Moses. Moses writes the first five books of your Bible. Sometimes when you are reading through, you will find a word called the Pentateuch. The Pentateuch is the first five books of the Bible. Those are the books that Moses writes.

The Book of Genesis has 50 chapters in it. It has 534 verses, and it has 38,267 words. I give you that material because down the line, you are going to see how that will come into play in some things when we study the whole concept of the Bible.

The time frame that the Book of Genesis is written is about 1570 BC. In other words, it is written some 2,400 years after all the events have taken place. Obviously, the Book of Genesis takes a gigantic period of time, but when you come through it, it starts out in Genesis chapter 1. The time frame there is 4004 BC. So, we begin to walk all the way through the early part of the Bible.

This is why Genesis is called the Book of the Beginnings. The Book of Genesis is the foundation. The Book of Genesis is the model for the rest of the Bible, and you are going to see that today. If there is one thing I want you to see today, I want you to see this. A lot of the other things I am going to tell you are important and you will get them in time, but there are always main things that I want you to remember. What I want you to remember today, most of all about what I am saying, is that the Book of Genesis is the foundation of the whole Bible. It is the cornerstone.

The Book of Genesis does exactly what the Book of Acts does in the New Testament. The Book of Genesis in the Old Testament begins to lay down the road signs. We are on a journey, and this journey is going to take us through the Bible. This Bible is going to take us through time. More importantly, putting it together, what we talked about last week, we know that God has three plans. This book is going to begin to walk us through those three plans. What you are going to find in the Book of Genesis is the road sign for our journey. You are going to find things defined that we need to know along this journey. Just like when you go to Kansas City and you go on a trip to Denver, wherever you go, and you drive there, there are all kinds of signs along that road to tell you where you are going, what you are getting into. That is exactly what the Book of Genesis does in the Old Testament. The Book of Acts does it for you in the New Testament. Where the Book of Acts starts the beginning of the New Testament, the Book of Genesis starts the beginning of the Old Testament. That is why it is so important as we come through it.

III. Genesis: A Book of Stories and Divine Simplicity

I am going to give you a basic breakdown. I told you that the Book of Genesis had 50 chapters, 534 verses, and 38,000-some words. The Book of Genesis, with 50 chapters, looks like a very complicated book. But when you study the Bible, you have to remember something. God told us a great key in the New Testament when it came to Him dealing with us. He said that He deals with us like children. As children, God makes things simple. Man always makes it complicated. God always makes it simple. God will always simplify everything. God is not the author of confusion, the Bible says.

When you are into something or you go someplace, and when they start laying out the Bible and they make it absolutely hard or impossible for you to grasp, and they start throwing out terms that you do not understand, words and concepts above you, but the guy is obviously trying to impress you with what he knows, you are in the wrong place. That Bible is basic. When God

wrote the most complicated book in the Bible that really is the key to the whole Bible and the cornerstone of the foundation, even though it has got 38,000-some words, that Bible was written for our children, you and me.

You know how God deals with children. You know how you deal with children. I have told you before, when you sit down and read your Bible to your kids, or you teach your kids about the Bible, you show them pictures. You use books that have illustrations of what you are reading by the pictures. That is exactly what the book of Genesis is.

The book of Genesis breaks down into 11 stories. That is all you have to know. When you understand this, this is how you remember the book of Genesis. Forget the 38,000 words. What you want to remember is that the book of Genesis is 11 stories. Those 11 stories are incredible, and we will talk about them in detail as we go through. But that is how you want to remember it.

- 1.) Chapter 1 and chapter 2 is the story of creation.
- 2.) Chapter 3 and chapter 4 is the story of Adam and Eve.
- 3.) Chapter 5 is the generations of Adam.
- 4.) Chapter 6 through chapter 9 is the story of Noah.
- 5.) Chapter 10, the generations of Noah.
- 6.) Chapter 11, the Tower of Babel.
- 7.) Chapter 12 through chapter 25 is the life of Abraham and Isaac.
- 8.) Chapter 26 and chapter 27, Jacob and Esau.
- 9.) Chapter 28 through chapter 35, the life of Jacob.
- 10.) Chapter 36, the generations of Esau.
- 11.) Chapter 37 through chapter 50, the life of Joseph.

Did you notice that there are three chapters in there that deal with genealogy? They are placed specifically throughout the book of Genesis because the book of Genesis brings you up a ways and then it stops and it shows you the genealogies of what you just saw. Then it brings you up again and then it stops and shows you another set of genealogies. Then it brings you up again and it stops and it shows you another set of genealogies. Everything is built around those three breaks, and you will find the whole book of Genesis is built on that concept.

So when you begin to come through the book of Genesis, it is very easy. It is a storybook. God is running at the children. He does not want to confuse you. He wants you to understand it. You know as well as I know that your kids like stories. When they go to bed, "Mama, tell me a story. Daddy, tell me a story. Grandpa, tell me a story. Grandma, Nana, tell me a story." That is the way God wrote it. God wrote it on that concept that you would come to that Bible and when you began to read Genesis, you would see that it is nothing more than 11 stories. Within those stories, you have everything, and we are going to talk about that.

IV. Numerology and Divine Patterns in Genesis

One of the things that you are going to start to find out about the book of Genesis is that it defines things. Last week I told you about numerology in the Bible. I showed you how the number three was the structure and the order of things. When God made things, He made it after

His own pattern, a pattern of threes. We talked about that last week. Once we come through the book of Genesis, you are going to see how all these numbers are defined. We will not get to all of them. We will get to all of them in time where we just need to talk about the essential ones now.

The next number you see popping up right off the bat is the number seven. In the Bible, when God does something, He does it perfectly. When God does something, He does it completely. The number seven in the Bible is the number of perfection and completion. You are going to find that when God makes something, He structures it after threes, but when He does it, He does it by a system of sevens. That is the way that God does everything. He created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh. There are seven years of tribulation. You will find it was seven years building the temple in the Old Testament. You will find it when Noah took all the animals into the ark. Everybody says they are animals went in two by two, but that is not exactly true because the Bible says that He took the clean animals by sevens.

You are going to find that pattern all the way through the Bible. You will find that the Bible is built around seven mysteries, seven resurrections, seven baptisms, seven judgments, seven members of the household of God. You will find that there are seven changes to the earth. You will find out that there are seven natural laws in the Bible that all the world runs by. God does it by sevens. Everything that God does, God does by seven. In the book of Revelation, it is seven churches with seven vials and seven trumpets and seven personages and seven angels all the way through. Lucifer, before he fell, all angels have seven letters in their name. The word "perfect" has seven letters. Why? It is God's perfect number. You are going to find in the Bible, everything is built around when God does it. He does it by a series of seven. All the Old Testament feasts were connected with a number of seven. In the world that we live in, there are only seven colors. Any painting that Michelangelo ever painted, he painted only with seven colors. Any song that Beethoven ever wrote, there are only seven notes. Your head has seven holes in it. Everything God does, He does by seven.

Satan, before he fell, he was Lucifer. After he fell, he is no longer called Lucifer. He is now called the devil. Five letters. You know why? Because the next thing you find in Genesis is the number five, the number of death. These things are important. The first man that dies in the Bible, when the Bible says that he died, is in Genesis 5:5. In the Old Testament, you ever wonder why when they kill a man in the Old Testament, they always stab him under the fifth rib? Because five is the number of death in the Bible. Satan has five letters. Devil has five letters. It is everywhere you go. When David went out to kill Goliath, he picked up five smooth stones. When Christ was crucified on the cross, He had five wounds in His body because five is the number of death.

I do not care what the unsaved world says. I do not care what the whole world thinks. They cannot get away from that Bible. You ever notice how the world thinks that seven is a lucky number? I wonder where they get that from. The whole world goes by the Bible. In this world, the number five means death. You know what they call it in the Navy, when a ship goes down and is dead in the water, or maybe in the Marines, it is called a number five shutdown. You know when a man gets in trouble in SOS, when the standard operational megahertz channel for SOS is 500 megacycles? You know, when a pilot is flying over, I do not care what war, World War II,

Vietnam, Korea, you go where you want to go. When he gets something in trouble with his plane, and he has got to bail out or he has got to ditch, you know what he says? He keys that mic and he says, "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday." January, February, March, April, May. That is the Bible you have there.

The Bible begins to lay those things out. The Bible begins to show you in Genesis, the road signs. So you want to watch the number sevens. You want to watch the number five. Somebody said, "Well, Jesus, Bob, His name has five letters in the name." You betcha. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes when He was born. He came to die. Yes, that is right. Head of the class. So you begin to look at those things and you begin to see that in the book of Genesis, sevens are going to reign. That is another way to begin to look at things.

I will show you what I mean. In the book of Genesis, you have seven beginnings:

- 1.) The heavens
- 2.) The earth
- 3.) Animals
- 4.) Man
- 5.) Sin
- 6.) Redemption
- 7.) The beginning of the Messianic line

In the book of Genesis, you have seven pairs:

- 1.) Adam and Eve
- 2.) Cain and Abel
- 3.) Lamech and Enoch
- 4.) Abraham and Lot
- 5.) Isaac and Ishmael
- 6.) Jacob and Esau
- 7.) Joseph and Benjamin

When you study those seven pairs, you are going to find every situation in life you want to get into. That is how God breaks it down. He does not make it hard. He gives you a model. He gives you a plan. He gives you a system. He gives you 11 stories. Then He breaks it down by a series of seven. I guess that is why when they shoot craps, they all get happy when they go "seven come eleven." You have a book, and that book breaks itself down without any problem at all if you just follow God's basic rule.

V. Genesis 1:1: A Comprehensive Foundation

Not only are there seven beginnings and seven pairs, there are seven types of Christ in the book of Genesis, or there are seven saints. However you want to look at it, you can study them both ways. You will find that there is:

- 1.) Abel
- 2.) Enoch

- 3.) Noah
- 4.) Abraham
- 5.) Isaac
- 6.) Jacob
- 7.) Joseph

You will find that these men's lives will picture everything you need to know about how to build your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Genesis has it all. Without a doubt, the book of Genesis is the most key book in the Bible, and it defines for us everything else we are going to find in the Bible. In fact, I am going to go so far as to say this, and I am going to show you what I mean in a minute: by the time you get to Genesis chapter 12, every doctrine that you are going to find through the rest of the Bible has been laid out for you. By the time you get to Genesis chapter 12, every doctrine that you are going to find in the New Testament or the Old Testament about salvation, the church, the rapture, sanctification, anything you want to talk about, every doctrine has been laid out and explained by a picture before you get to Genesis chapter 12. That is why it is called the book of the beginnings. That is why that book is so crucial that you understand it not in the scholarship way, but in the basic elementary concepts that God has given to us as His children.

There are 21 types of Christ in the Bible, 21 men who foreshadow the coming Lord Jesus Christ. When you study these men's lives, you are going to find everything you need to know about who Christ is, where He came from, His mindset, His nature. Everything about Him is going to be displayed in these 21 types. In the book of Genesis, you have seven. Those seven men not only show you about the Lord Jesus Christ, they show you about your own walk in relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Genesis, we have two types of the Antichrist. In the Bible, there are 18 types of the Antichrist through the whole Bible. There are 18 types because his number is 666, and 6 plus 6 plus 6 is 18. So you have 18 types of the Antichrist in the Old Testament. Those men will foreshadow the coming man of sin. They will tell you everything you need to know or you ever wanted to know about who the Antichrist is. It will give you his race, his height, his weight, his religion, his preference for women or men. It will give you everything you ever wanted to know or all the information you can stand about the Antichrist. In the book of Genesis, you have two: Cain and Nimrod.

So we see right off the bat as we begin to come through the book of Genesis, it has a lot of stuff in it. It lays out those things that you and I can clearly understand what we are dealing with. It lays out and breaks down the book in such an easy way that when you sit down to study it, just take that format. Look at the breakdown. Look at the 11 stories. Within those stories, you know you have the lives of men and what those lives of men mean. I will talk about here in just a minute and even make it easier for you.

Now look at Genesis chapter 1, verse 1. I want to show you something else. I want to show you the incredible statement that the Word of God has. It says:

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

You know I am not much for the Greek and the Hebrew, but I will tell you this: in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," the Hebrew language has it in seven words. You know why? Because it is a perfect book. But you and I do not read Hebrew. You and I do not read Greek. The Bible was not written to you and me. The Bible was written to us as Gentiles. So in the English, that Bible went to the Gentiles. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." There are 10 words. You know why? 10 in the Bible is the number of the Gentiles. The first Gentile kingdom is found in Genesis 10:10. The last kingdom on this earth is represented by 10 kings with 10 toes of Daniel chapter 2. In Romans chapter 10, it is the missionary call of the Gentile. In Acts chapter 10, it is the missionary call. Romans 10 is the salvation call of the Gentiles. Luke chapter 10, some lepers come back and thank Christ and there are 10 of them and they are Gentiles. Time and time again, you are going to find that the number 10 and certain numbers in the Bible always deal with something. So when you begin to read, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" with 10 words versus the Hebrew that has seven, you know you have a book that is aimed right to you as a Gentile. That is the Bible. I am a Gentile. You are a Gentile.

If that was not enough, it says:

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The first verse in the Bible takes on all forms and everything that goes wrong with science. You realize that science is built on what they call the five properties of science. Any scientist anywhere, anytime you go take any science class, high school, college, elementary, whatever the case may be, you will be taught that there are five properties of science.

- 1.) Time
- 2.) Force
- 3.) Motion
- 4.) Space
- 5.) Matter

You are going to find that any science textbook and any scientist anywhere in the world, you are going to find that. They get that from the Bible because in Genesis 1:1, you have all five properties.

- 1.) It says "In the beginning" – there is time.
- 2.) It says "In the beginning God" – there is force.
- 3.) "In the beginning God created" – there is motion.
- 4.) "In the beginning God created the heavens" – there is space.
- 5.) "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" – there is matter.

You have everything that science says they have found in the first verse of your Bible given to you as a Gentile. That is not all. When you come down that thing and it says "In the beginning

God created the heaven and the earth," not only do you have the first five properties of science laid out, but He attacks every religion and every philosophy in the world. Because He says "In the beginning God," there goes atheism, there goes communism, there goes liberalism, there goes secularism. He says "In the beginning God created," there goes evolution, there goes science. The first verse of your Bible tells you two things. It tells you that if you are a Gentile and you are not going to believe God, you are going to have a rough time of it. Because that book is written against everything that man comes up with that goes contrary to the Word of God.

VI. God's Nature: He Divides

That brings us to the second great thing you learn out of the book of Genesis. Not only do the first five verses of the Bible in Genesis knock out and take on every philosophy and religion and science in the world, but it tells you when you come down through the first four verses, it tells you something else about God. It says this:

Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Remember a couple of times in the back I showed you the first time the devil showed up and I showed you what his job was. I took you over there to Genesis chapter 3 and I showed you that the first time the devil shows up, he shows up trying to mess up somebody in the Bible and get him to believe something that God did not say. Remember I showed you that? Well, here is the first time God shows up. The first time the devil shows up in the Bible, it shows you what he does for the next 6,000 years of history. The first time God shows up, it shows what God does for the next 6,000 years of history. You know what He does? He divides. He divides. He divides.

This is why men have a tough time with God today, and you might as well get it figured out now. The reason why this whole Christian world has to change their Bible is because everybody in this world wants to get along. In Christianity, we just want everybody to get along. We want all the religions and all the faiths to get along. So we just get rid of the Bible. We get rid of doctrine so there are no differences. So everybody can just come in and we can all hold hands and sing "Kumbaya" and everybody can get along and have a great time. Well, that is not what God is all about. God is not all about getting along. God is about dividing. The first time He shows up, He says, "God divided the light from the darkness." When He divided the light from the darkness, that is it. That is God's job. He divides. God never puts anything together. God divides.

When you got saved, He divided your soul from your flesh. You have an old nature and a new nature then. In Matthew 10:35, He said, "Everybody said, 'Oh, Jesus is here. He is here. He has

come here." And Jesus said, "Hey, I am here, but I have not come to put things together. I have come to put a variance between a man and his father." He divided. He divided.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

He divides. He divides. For your life, 2 Timothy chapter 2, verse 15 says:

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

God divides. He divides. That is the number one thing you have got to learn out of Genesis besides the last number one thing I told you. You put it in whatever order you want. I am just telling you. There are a lot of number one things you have got to remember out of here. One of the things you have got to remember is He divides. God does not put things together. We live in a world where everybody wants to get together. God divides. He divides. He divides that book. The light from the darkness. God divides. The light is truth, and the darkness is not. You could take that anywhere you want to go. The light from the darkness.

VII. Doctrines and Types Revealed in Genesis

We see not only does the book of Genesis lay down the foundation of the whole Bible, but the book of Genesis does what no other book in the Bible does outside of the book of Acts. It begins to define and lay out for us what we need to look for when it comes to the Bible, particularly the book of Genesis. As I said, every doctrine in the Bible, every doctrine in the Bible, every doctrine in the Bible is laid out for you before you get to Genesis chapter 12.

Genesis, as I said, is the book of the beginning. In fact, I am going to tell you this: by the time you get to the end of Genesis, you have got every issue of life, every problem that any man is going to get into, any circumstances you can conceive and think of, everything, every circumstance, every situation that you will ever be faced with, have been faced with, and you are going to see everything laid out for you by the time you get to the end of the book, by the 11 stories in that book that show you everything you need to know. You will find out how a man got into it, how he could have got out of it, and if he did get out of it, how he got out of it, and if he did not get out of it, why he did not get out of it. It is laid out. You will see it time and time again. Every doctrine is laid out by chapter 12, and every issue is laid out by the time you get to the end of the book. If you want a supplement book, that is one of the greatest books I have ever read. Go find **Gleanings in Genesis** by Arthur W. Pink, one of the greatest books you will ever get your hands on for breaking down those 11 stories in the Bible, an incredible book. **Gleanings in Genesis** by Arthur Pink.

I said that every doctrine is laid out, and every issue is laid out. Absolutely correct. This is what Jesus meant in John 5:46 when He said to the nation of Israel, "If you are going to believe Me, you believe Moses, you are going to believe Me." Why? Because he wrote of Me. Yet, you cannot find one place in Moses' writings in the first five books where he wrote about Christ, per se. But when you start to look at it through the stories, through the types, and all the things that are in there, you find Christ from one end to the other, and wherever you find Christ, you find His doctrines because He is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

This is what Paul meant in 1 Corinthians 10:6-11 when he said, "These things in the Old Testament were written for our admonition by example and in sample." The Bible in the Old Testament is filled with New Testament principles. They are just in story form. When you get the stories down, you get more than just a verse that says, "Thou shalt not" or "Thou can." You get an understanding completely of the New Testament principles acted out in somebody's life who either makes the right choice or the wrong choice. So when you are faced with the same thing, you know how to do it. This is what God meant when He said that He will never suffer you to be tempted above what you are able, that He will always provide a way. Somebody said, "Well, I am waiting, God, how are you going to provide it? God, where is it at?" Well, here it is. It is right there in the story. You learn from the examples in the Old Testament because they were faced with the same thing that you and I are faced with, and you can find the same example. They either had to turn from it or they turn to it. It is as simple as that.

You are going to find every doctrine of the Bible. Let me show you what I mean. Let us read again Genesis chapter 1. I am going to show you this thing. I am going to show you the whole gospel in Genesis chapter 1, verses 1 through 4. Now watch:

Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Let us look what it says. It says right there that "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

- 1.) Verse 1: Man created perfect.
- 2.) Verse 2: Sin comes in and how he is in darkness.
- 3.) Verse 3: God shows up, the light, Christ.
- 4.) Chapter 1, verse 4: The light divides from the darkness and there is salvation.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Before you go to the first four verses in Genesis, you are shown what is going to be the condition of man and how God is going to redeem him. God's creation was perfect in verse 1. The devil will come down and confound it in verse 2. In verse 3, the light

appears, and in verse 4, it divides and God begins His redemption. That is why when you go over to John chapter 1, it says this:

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Right back to Genesis. 1 John chapter 1, verse 1 says this, when John wrote, he said this:

1 John 1:1-5

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Right back to Genesis chapter 1. Why? Because that is where salvation is laid out. Before you go past the first four verses, you find man created perfect, sin falls, it makes him fall. God's light shows up. Matthew chapter 1, and then you go, the light divides the darkness and God starts His redemptive plan and the light shines in darkness. It was a man sent from God whose name was John that was the light of this world.

On and on and on you go all the way through the book of Genesis. In chapter 3, you have the story of Adam and Eve. Everybody laughs at the story of Adam and Eve. Everybody makes it a kid's story. Everybody just kind of blows it off and says, "Well, Adam and Eve, I am not sure if it was true or not." You have the skeptics on the one hand that do not believe it. You have the Bibles on the other hand that do not do anything with it. Let me tell you something. Adam and Eve is the greatest picture of so many things in the Bible about your relationship with Christ. It is unbelievable. In 2 Corinthians chapter 11, when Paul wanted to show how the devil was going to attack the church, he went right back to Adam and Eve. You know why? Because Adam is a type of Christ, and Eve is a type of the church. She came from Adam. She came from Adam, and we came from Christ. She is not a direct creation. I, as a son of God, am not a direct creation. I came from where? Well, Eve came from his rib. So when Christ is hanging on a cross and He is not

dead yet, that Roman soldier took that spear and he put it into His side, and you know where it went? Under the fifth rib. When He died from the rib, came forth the church like Eve came forth when a deep sleep fell upon Adam and God brought her forth out of his side. That is the picture. That is the doctrine.

You would not go a little bit farther. We already talked about this one. You can see how that after the church was formed, Eve, and she is down there doing her thing in the garden. The devil shows up and then tries to get her not to believe what God said. That whole thing is a picture of what you face every day in your life in the 20th century. Do not give me this stuff about how it is only in the Old Testament. Maybe it was, but it lays out the doctrine that you have got to face every day in your life.

What am I talking about? I will tell you another one. Chapter 4, Cain and Abel. Abel is a keeper of the sheep. Cain is the tiller of the ground. You know what you have there? You have the doctrine of salvation. Abel is a type of a saved man. Cain is the type of an unsaved man. Abel gets the right sacrifice. He gets a lamb and he brings that lamb to God and God says, "I will accept that." Cain, what does he do? He has got a fruit stand down along the intersection there. He has got the greatest watermelons, zucchini, carrots, cabbage, beets, you ever saw in your life. He can raise corn better than anybody. He has got a little fruit stand down there and somebody said, "Hey, it is time to bring a sacrifice for the Lord." Old Abel went out there and he is out there, he looked at his sheep and he says, "Man, I have not got nothing to give God. I do not have a thing. I just started giving one of these lambs. There is nothing I have got good. So I will just have to give Him something else." He walked over there and cut that lamb, brought it in there, laid it on that altar. God says, "You know what?" You know what Abel said? I know what Abel thought. He said, "You know what? I do not know what to give. What do you give somebody who has got everything?" That is where that came from. He said, "What do you do?" He said, "You know what? I remember when my mommy and my dad, they used to tell me that story about how they were in a garden. When they sinned and they left that garden, they knew they were naked and they went and got them some fig leaves. You know what? God would not accept those fig leaves. Daddy told me one time, and Mommy said it too, that God killed some animal. In fact, it was a sheep. Look what I am watching." The Bible says God made them coats of skin. You see, man fell, tried to cover his own nakedness. God said, "That will not cover it, folks. I will show you what will. I am going to take some innocent and kill it. I am going to give you," New Testament calls them, "the garments of salvation." He says, "God will take a lamb." He killed that lamb, brought that thing in. God says, "I will take that."

Now, old Cain, he is somebody else. Cain is a deacon in his church. He teaches Sunday school, in charge of all the committees. Cain is a political, big time man. Brother Fruitstand. He is down there, and he says, "Time to bring an offering." He says, "Well, I will bring an offering. Let us see. My watermelons and my corn, and my turnips, are the best. They won blue ribbon at the county fair last year. I am going to take God some of my blue ribbon melons, corn and turnips. I will offer that for a sacrifice because I did that. Look at me. I am Cain. I am going to go down here." He loaded up his pickup truck. He had on the back, watermelons, corn on the cob that you could bite into without cooking it, and your juice would just squirt all over the place. It was

sweet and tender. The watermelon did not have any seeds in them, and they were red, juicy. When you cut one, it was unbelievable. The turnips were just turnips. He brought all those in there. God says, "I cannot take that." He said, "Why not? You took Abel's." "Oh, he was a dead animal." He said, "You never listened to the stories of your mom and daddy very well, did you?" He said, "Well, I do not know what the big deal is. I mean, I did all this. I raised the best crops. I have the best corn. I have been baptized. I remember your church. I do not understand what the problem is." God says, "It is not about what you do. Not by works of righteousness that you have done can God save you." The Bible says, "Oh, Cain." He brought the firstlings of his hands. What he did, the works that he did and thought God would accept his works. God says, "Son, you have got it wrong. You cannot get blood out of a turnip." That is where it comes from.

Do not miss the boat that is coming up in Genesis 6 with Noah. We will get there. "Cannot keep a good man down." That is the rapture. If I have any goodness, it is Jesus Christ. That makes me a good man. When that rapture comes, try to keep this good man down. I am out of here. We will get to that. We get to Revelation. Anyway, he comes down there and God says, "I am not going to accept it." Cain is mad. He is self-righteous. There is a picture of an unsaved religious man that brings an offering to God that is the wrong offering. Look how God deals with him. God says, "Cain, are you mad?" "Yes, I am mad." "Cain, what is your lower lip hanging out for? Are you mad? Come on, Cain. Let me hear you say, 'Praise the Lord.'" "I do not want to say it." "What are you mad about?" "Well, You did not accept my offering." "You dismissed the lesson. When your daddy told you about back in the garden, you were not paying attention. You did not put it all together. Okay. I will tell you what you do. You are upset because I did not accept it. Here is what God said: No problem, Cain. Go out and get a sheep. Take the melons, the turnips and the corn, trade them for a sheep, bring it back, make the right offering and I will accept it." You know what he said? "No thanks." The Bible says, Cain left the presence of the Lord. Picture of an unsaved man and a saved man. Picture of the sacrifice of every unsaved man. That is what he tells you. "You have got to be baptized to go to heaven." That is turnips. You do that. That is your work. You do something. That is why the Methodists tell you, you have got to help poor people, and I am not against that. You have got to do, but it does not get you to heaven. You have got to be all the right thing to do this and do that and do good works and that is fine. I am all for it, but it does not get you to heaven. That is raising corn and raising melons. There is only one thing that will get you to heaven, and that is the blood of God. I told you I can make it practical in here.

Then you have the next story. Chapter 5, Enoch. What a great picture that is. The Bible says that Enoch was not, for God took him. The Bible says he walked 300 years in fellowship with God and one day, the Bible says Enoch was not, for God took him and God raptured him out. You know what he is a picture of? He is a picture of the day in your life and my life that Jesus does not, and you do not die, that Jesus is coming and we are going out. The Bible says over in Hebrews chapter 11, verses 5 and 6, it was talked about the fact that he pleased God by faith. That is exactly what you and I do. Then he uses a strange word. It says, "And Enoch was translated that he should not see death; but before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." He is the type of the church, and God said that God translated him. God took him up. He also just told you that once something gets translated it is perfect. But we will not have

time to get into that this morning. "Then Enoch was not, for God took him." You see, when we send up a guy out of space, that is called an astronaut. When the Russians send a guy up in space, it is called a cosmonaut, and when God takes you up, you are called a "was not." You know what he was not? He was not in step with his world. You know what he was not? He was not part of the system. You know what he was not? I am shooting a lot of messages in this one message today. You know what he was not? He was not like most of God's people today. And God took him. Picture the rapture of the church.

You know what you have in the next chapter? He goes out in chapter 5, chapter 6, Noah's flood. Noah is a type of the nation of Israel. God protects the nation of Israel while God's judgment falls on this planet. Picture the tribulation period. If that was not enough, Isaiah 54:9 tells you the time the water is on this earth and Noah is in the ark has something to do with the time that God deals with the nation of Israel in the tribulation period. It is all right there.

You know what happens in Genesis chapter 9? I will tell you what happens in Genesis chapter 9. He comes off that ark. They are out there in Mount Ararat. I have already showed you how the land grant comes down through that thing there at the top of it. When those three boys come out of that ark, they come right down in the same land grant that God is going to give the Jew to in the millennium. You have chapter 5, the rapture, chapter 6, the tribulation period, or chapter 6, 7, 8 tribulation period, and chapter 9, the millennium of Christ. Every doctrine. And on and on it goes.

Without a doubt, my favorite story in the Bible is the story of Abraham. Abraham, the Bible says, is God's friend. Only two men in the Bible are called God's friend. If you want to find out how to be God's friend, take Abraham's life. He starts in chapter 11 and it does not stop until God is done with him to chapter 22, 23 somewhere in there. What a great story. You want to find everything out. You want to find everything in your life. That is what I am telling you. 11 stories. Each one of those 11 stories will lay out for you a doctrinal issue.

- 1.) When you come through creation in Genesis 1 and 2, as I gave you, you will find out He is before all things and by Him all things consist.
- 2.) When you come through Adam and Eve, you will find a saved and unsaved.
- 3.) When you come through Noah, you are going to find that Noah stood alone in a world that was against God.
- 4.) You are going to Genesis chapter 11 with the Tower of Babel. You are going to find that God takes the simple things in this world to confound the wise.
- 5.) When you go to chapter 12 to chapter 25 with Abraham, you are going to find how to walk with God.
- 6.) When you go to 26 to 27 and 28 to 35 with Jacob, you are going to find out how not to walk with God.
- 7.) When you get to chapter 37 through chapter 50, the life of Joseph, you are going to find out how to and how not to get along with the brethren.

Everything you need before you start anywhere else in the Bible is in this book.

VIII. The Enduring Relevance of Genesis

I love listening to people. All my life I have heard people say, "Well, I do not really do that because that is just in the Old Testament." "Well, I do not really believe that because that is really not, that is just not my gift." I hear people all the time, and yet they have no clue. Years ago, I talked to somebody and he said to me, "You know what, Bobby, he says, I just do not believe in tithing. He says to me, tithing is under the law. He says, we are not under the law. We are under grace." First of all, let me just say that I could care less if you are tithing or not. I do not care. It is not going to hurt me one way or the other. It is God's church. So I am not saying it for that, but I want to show you an example here. I want to show you how stupid some people are.

You take the life of Abraham. You find back there in Abraham, everything you need to know about a relationship with God. Somebody says, "I do not believe tithing for the New Testament. I do not believe this for that." You do not even know what you are talking about. The greatest example of being God's friend in the Bible was a man. He said, "Well, I, Bob, I just believe tithing is under the law. I believe it is under the law." Oh, really? That is good. That is real good. You know what? Genesis chapter 14, he met Melchizedek and gave him tithes of all he had. That was way before the law.

I will take it one step farther than that. You know what you have in Abraham's life? You have everything you need. You have a progression. He starts out in Genesis chapter 14, and he has a basic relationship with God, and he gives what God requires. He comes a little bit farther, and he grows in the Lord, and he begins to realize what God has done for him. He has a real relationship with God, and then he comes down through that thing. When the angels show up in chapter 19, he puts on a feast for them, does not even eat it himself, and says, "Here, God, take this. This is extra because I just love You." Then he really gets to the place where he is God's friend, and when he is tested with the most precious thing he loves, his own son Isaac, God says, "Take that boy and put him on an altar and kill him." He took that boy, and he put him on an altar, and he laid him down there, and the Bible says it was his only son, the promised seed, and he took that knife in his hand, and he was going to give him to God. Why? Because he had grown to the place that he was God's friend, and you have everything in his life that teaches you everything you need to know, and you find that your giving to God is a progression. He started out giving what God required, and then he gave because he loved God, and then he understood what it meant to give a sacrifice to God.

I do not care if you do, you do not. Makes no difference to me, and if you think I said that just so you give, you are a fool, but I will tell you this, until you understand what God gave to you, and you give everything back to Him, you are spinning your wheels, friend. You will never be God's friend. Do you understand what it means to sacrifice? I am not talking about your money. I am talking about you realizing what your money and everything you have got is secondary once you understand the sacrifice that God made. That is what Genesis does. It lays down every issue. Before you get to chapter 12, it is all done. By the time you get to the end of the book, you have got it all. Oh, Abraham, what a study. You want to be God's friend? Just study his life. You have had troubles in your life, and you have got problems in your life, study some of the other guys. Find out the contrast between the two. That is why there are seven pairs in there for you.

Not only that, but the book of Genesis goes hand in hand with the book of Revelation. You see, Genesis is Revelation chapter 1. Revelation is the 66th book. You have the first book and the last book, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending. What Genesis does, Genesis starts with a tree of life in a perfect condition. Revelation ends with a tree of life in a perfect situation. What you have got in between is you have got God's infallible circle of how everything goes. That is why when you finish reading your Bible for the first time, you might have been a little disheartened. I know I was. I was just all getting excited. I was reading that thing that is coming through there. I was seeing all the problems of man, and I was seeing the promise that it was going to get better and God was going to come. But I was excited. When I got to Revelation chapter 22, I had a real letdown because he stopped right when it got good and said "the end." Then I figured out what the end, when you get to the end, and you want more, you have got to go back to the beginning. There is a Revelation 23 in your Bible. It is just masked under Genesis chapter 1. It is a complete circle. Last week I showed you how he turned on this side, turning outside and time in the middle. Turned here and turning there in the middle with Genesis 1 to Revelation 22, and it picked right back up where it started. That is the way it is. That book of Genesis is incredible. That book of Genesis will give you everything that you need.

IX. Seven Great Truths from Genesis

Lastly, the book of Genesis, inspirationally for you and me, teaches seven great truths. You might know it would be seven. They are the foundation for the redemption of man, and they are the foundation of man's history all through the Bible, and they are taught in Genesis. This is something that is for you. All the other stuff will show you all kinds of things, and I am not saying it is letting out, but this here is an inspirational overview of the whole concept of God taught in the book of Genesis. Seven concepts, seven great truths, and they encompass the whole Bible.

1.) The first thing you need to know is this: there is a personal and powerful Creator. It is not a myth. It is not a hope. It is not a chance. There is a God. He is personal. He is powerful. He is the Creator. He is identified in the book of Genesis and in the rest of the Bible. Once He is identified and you find out the sign to look for, and you know how He works, Genesis chapter 1, verses 1, 2, 3, and 4, you know all the things that are going on. You have got the whole thing laid out by the time you get to chapter 12. By the time you get to the rest of the Bible, you watch everything else. You know what He is doing? Once He is identified in the first part of Genesis, He carries out His three plans. We talked about them last week going out to the rest of the Bible, but you have got to identify Him first. You have got to find out how He is going to work. You have everything in Genesis. Everything you want. Everything you need.

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

There is the Holy Spirit. It said, "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." That is where the Spirit of God goes in motion. There is not any place anywhere in the Bible where He ever stops. He started moving there, and He kept on moving, and He is moving today. Then the Bible shows you what direction He is moving. He is going east to west, east to west. You can take that thing right there and watch the Spirit of God move all the way around this planet and cover everything and then come right back where He started. That is where we are at today. God identifies Himself and then carries out His three plans distinctly throughout the rest of man's history. There is a personal and powerful Creator.

2.) The second great principle you need to know is this: man in his fallen state is enmity against God. Man in his fallen state is enmity against God. From Genesis chapter 3 on, man is nothing more than in an existence to try to overthrow God. That is why He puts those genealogies in there to show you, to keep them straight. He did not want you to get the lines crossed. He wants to keep showing you who keeps getting out of bounds so you will not miss it. Because after you get through chapter 3, the rest of that Bible is nothing more other than God's plan working. But the bottom line as far as man is concerned, in his unregenerate state when he rejects God, he is just trying to overthrow God. You can mask it with all kinds of advancement, all kinds of science, all kinds of culture, all kinds of this, all kinds of music, all kinds of nice clothes, all kinds of big buildings. It does not mask a thing when you know the Bible. That is man's basic desire is to overthrow God. That is the biggest problem you have after you get saved in your flesh.

3.) The third thing you want to remember is the very best that man can do for God will fall short of what God's perfect holiness is. Do not ever doubt it for a minute. God is a holy God. The Bible says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is Cain and Abel. The very best that he had was not good enough for God. The very best you have got is not good enough for God. So you know what God did? God gave His very best for you. If man could just grasp these seven truths, it would change the whole world in a day.

4.) The fourth thing: only a Creator can redeem His fallen creation. I told you before, only the Creator can redeem His fallen creation. Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:7, when they sinned, went out and got fig leaves, covered their nakedness. But in Genesis 3:21, God came down and said, "That will not do, Adam. That will not do. No, no, no. Do not try to cover your nakedness by something that is growing. No, no, no, no, no. Get the story straight. You have got to have something that died innocent to cover your sin." God made them coats of skin.

5.) The fifth thing you want to remember is this: this world is set up on the basis of degeneration, not evolution. That is the fate of man's history. Man is not getting better. He is getting worse. Do not mistake technology, advancement in science and medical profession and all the things that are going around today and nice houses and car seats that warm your rear end when you sit down with the air conditioner that keeps your temperature just right. Do not forsake that for man getting better. Man is getting worse. That is all a mask to make you think it is a better place to live. Actually, the world is ten times worse today than it was when Jesus was here because the history is degenerate, not evolutionary.

6.) The sixth thing: God's plan was perfect love and perfect harmony with His creation. That is why He gave you a Bible. That is why He set the bounds of habitation back in the book of Genesis and the book of Acts. That is why He put him in the Garden of Eden and fellowshiped with him every day. That is why He called out the nation of Israel that He might have them separate from all the world because they wanted fellowship. By the way, that is why He called you out of the world and saved you and put the Holy Spirit of God inside you so He could have fellowship with you where before He could not because you were sin and ungodliness in His sight. The only way God could stand you in His presence was to put His Son inside you so you could fellowship. That is God's plan.

7.) The seventh one: man's plan is to overthrow God and make himself God. All these are great inspirational truths. That is why when man writes about his history, he writes books like *Man and His History*, *Man and His Universe*, *Man in Control of His Destiny*, *Man the Bearer of His Destiny*, *Man in Search of His Destiny*, *Man in Controlled Evolution*. That is why the great religions in this world are all built around you doing something like Cain did and trying to put it all together and make the world a better place to live and then Christ will come down. Romans chapter 1, I taught it to you quite a while ago when we were coming through those things. Romans chapter 1, the great chapter on Gentiles, it said God revealed Himself and then when man saw who God was, he rejected Him, he replaced Him, and he reviled Him. That is God's plan, and man's plan is to overthrow and make himself God.

X. God's Plan Versus Man's Plan

Let me show you how the book of Genesis works. Get Genesis chapter 1, verse 1 in one hand. What a book. You get Genesis chapter 50, verse 26 in the other one. This book is something else.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

God wanted a perfect place. God wanted to have fellowship with us. God never intended sin to come into this world. He allowed it, but He never intended it. God put him down there in a garden, a perfect estate so He could fellowship with him, made the earth perfect, made the weather perfect, made the fruit perfect, made the trees perfect, no bugs, no snakes, no mosquitoes, perfect temperature, perfect climate, perfect everything. Man was in the blissful garden, and man has tried to get back through in the last 6,000 years of history by trying to make the world a better place to live by killing millions of people. When God made it, He made it perfectly because that is God's plan. When you start to see the beginning of the book of Genesis, you see "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," and it is perfect.

When you go to the last verse in Genesis, you know what it says? Somebody is in a coffin in Egypt. What a parallel. God's plan, man's plan. God's plan will wind you up in heaven. Man's plan will wind you up in a coffin in Egypt, a type of this world. That is the picture. That book of Genesis is the greatest book in the Bible in the Old Testament. It lays down the foundation of everything you are going to get in life. It is the cornerstone. It will define everything for you. It is broken down into 11 stories. It is broken down with everything that you need to lay it out and put

it together that you have got everything you need to figure out where you are going. By the time you get to the first 12 chapters, all the doctrines are down. By the time you get to the last thing, everything that you are going to face in your life is down and laid out and clearly defined, and it shows you the great contrast. God had a plan, man has got a plan. God's plan will put you in heaven. Man's plan will put you in a coffin in Egypt. That is the book of Genesis.

I hope you learned from things on that. You have got enough there to keep you busy for about an hour or so. Next week we will do Exodus. We will pick it up where we ended in Genesis with a coffin in Egypt and we will see where man, and again, the whole Bible is one thing. Genesis chapter 1, God makes it perfect. Chapter 3, they screw it up. God covers their nakedness by giving them coats of skin. We come all down through that thing. It winds up in a coffin in Egypt. Man is in a mess. What does God do? The next book is Exodus, the redemption by blood of a lamb. He just never stops. That is God. Let us pray. Father, we thank You.