

# Bible Challenge 2018

## Weeks 1&2: January 1-13

### Outline of Genesis:

Genesis 1-2: God's creation of the universe and all that is in it  
Genesis 3: The Fall of Mankind in Adam and Eve  
Genesis 4-5: The Generations of Cain and Seth  
Genesis 6-9: The Story of Noah  
Genesis 10-11: The Generations of Shem, Japheth, and Ham  
Genesis 12-25: The Story of Abraham  
Genesis 25-26: The Story of Isaac  
Genesis 27-50: The Story of Jacob and his Offspring  
(Genesis 37, 39-50: The Story of Joseph)

The book of Genesis is truly a book of beginnings, which is exactly what the name "Genesis" means. The Hebrew name of this book is "Bereshith," which is the first word in the book, and again means, "In the Beginning."

This is also the first of five books whose authorship is attributed to Moses, which places its authorship on Mount Sinai while the Israelites were there to receive the Law of God. Obviously, Moses was guided by the Holy Spirit in its authorship, but most likely he also employed the use of written records and oral traditions that the Israelites had preserved through the ages.

**Creation:** The account in Genesis 1 and 2 unambiguously teach a seven-ordinary-day creation event. "Day 1" then "Day 2" and so forth do provide a narrative structure, but there is nothing within the text that would imply that the creation event is being described in any kind of figurative or poetic fashion. In addition, all of the literary elements found in the text of these chapters is indicative of a historical narrative, not of Hebrew poetry. Though many people reject such a reading of the text based on modern scientific views, the burden of proof falls upon them to show that the text would have been understood by Moses' audience in any other way than of a historical account of God's creation over a series of ordinary days.

As we move into the second chapter, the text seems to zero in on day 6 of creation. Here we have not so much an overview of the creation as a whole, but we have the beginning of God's covenantal relationship with man as well as the beginning of Man's covenantal relationship with woman...this found in marriage.

**The Fall:** We do not know how much time transpires in between Genesis 2 and 3, but at some point, Eve found herself frequenting the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. And there the devil, in the form of a serpent, approaches Eve and tempts her. Please do not think of the serpent as this cute boa constrictor as we see in many children's books. By every reference that the Bible gives regarding the serpent implies a creature much more like a dragon than a small snake. The creature with which she dialogued was such that should have inspired her to flee rather than to enter into conversation.

The nature of the Fall was simple — who do I trust? Do I trust God or do I trust the Serpent to be telling the truth? Sadly, they chose to believe the serpent, bringing death not only into their lives, but into the creation that they had dominion over and into the lives of all of their descendants...even to you and to me.

Yet, within the judgments that are given by God at the Fall, there is a promise of a redeemer found in Genesis 3:15 — one who would crush the head of the Serpent. This passage ultimately looks to Christ. On the cross, Christ crushed the serpent's head... ironically, in God's providence, the hill on which Christ was crucified was called "Golgotha" — "The Hill of the Skull."

**The Generations of Cain and Seth:** Of course, the strife between the Children of Promise and the Children of the Serpent comes to a head in the children of Adam and Eve, with Cain slaying his brother and forsaking the commands of God. He founds his own line and Adam and Eve have another son of Promise: Seth. People descend from both lines and intermarry (The Sons of God marrying the Daughters of Men in Genesis 6:2 being a reference to Seth's line and Cain's line respectively), and we have the line of Seth traced to Noah, who will become the first shadow of the covenant deliverer..

**The Story of Noah:** Noah, whose name means "Rest" becomes the first deliverer of the Children of Promise (ultimately, foreshadowing Christ's work). For about 100 years, Noah builds the Ark and fills it with animals of every sort and with provision. This boat is about the size and dimensions of a modern sea-going barge, reminding us again of the historical nature of these texts.

The flood itself is worldwide in nature and there is a great deal of geological evidence to support this event (fossilized sea-shells on mountain peaks, fossilized forests where trees have been stripped of their branches by the force of strong waters, and the presence of stress markers on the ocean floor between the continental plates, etc...). And note that the waters not only came from the heavens, but from "the deep," which is typically a reference to things deep underground — likely coming to the surface with the eruption of numerous geysers. The flooding itself took 40 days, yet the waters took a full year to subside.

After disembarking from the Ark, God makes a covenant with mankind through Noah — best known in the context of the rainbow. It is a promise not only that God would not repeat his destruction of the world by water, but also that ordinary events will continue with predictable regularity.

**The Generations of Shem, Japheth, and Ham:** We don't know a great deal about these three sons apart from Ham's sin against his father and then about the tower that their descendants built in Babel. We do know that God chose the line of Shem with whom to build his covenant.

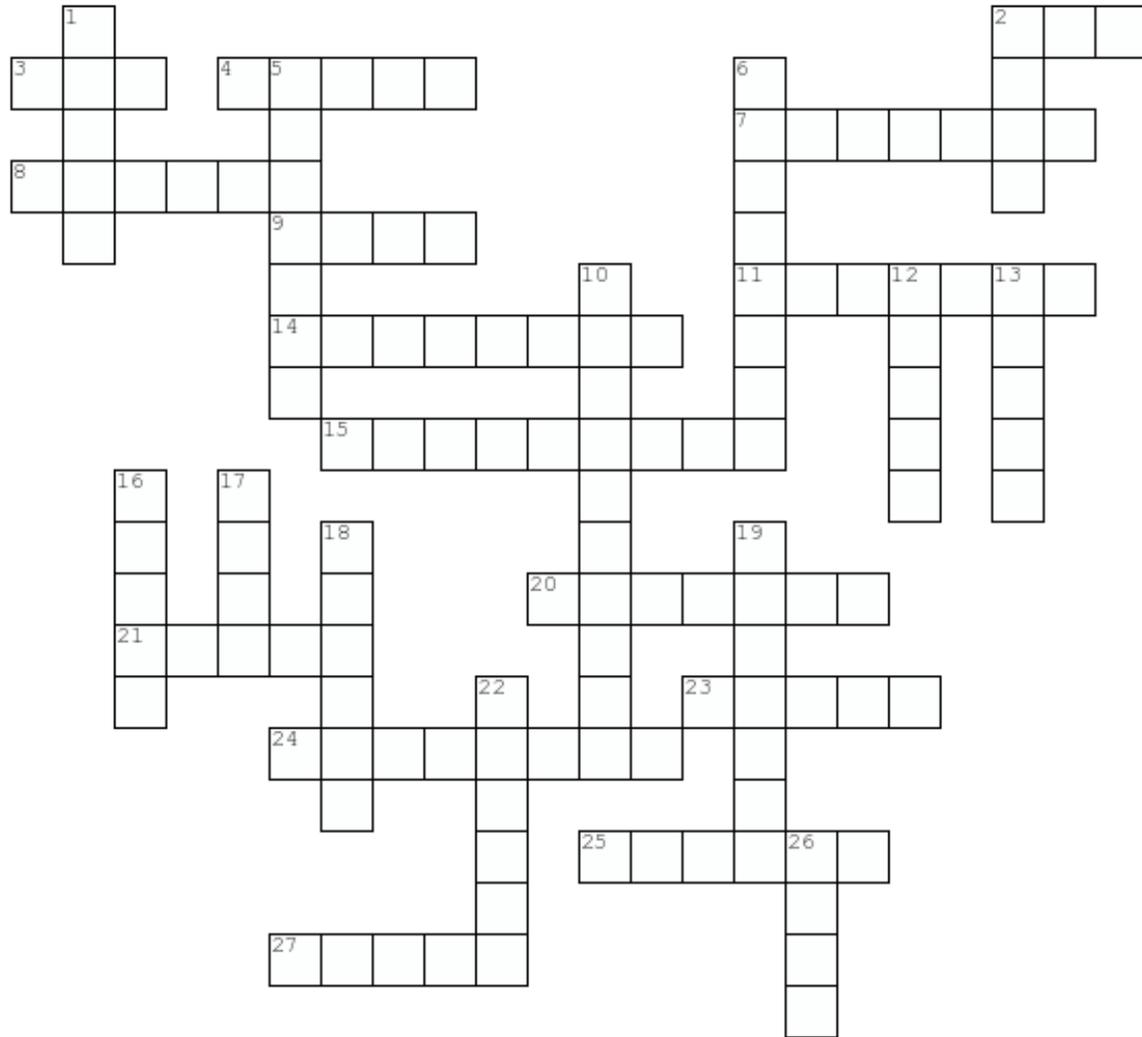
**The Story of Abraham:** Abraham, who began as Abram (Abram means "Great Father" and Abraham means "Father of many"), is chosen and called out by God to enter into covenant. God is narrowing down his election here to one family on the face of the planet. This covenant comes in several forms, but it ultimately anticipates the New Covenant that Jesus confirms for his people.

**The Story of Isaac:** The son of promise through Abraham and Sarah. He becomes the father of Jacob and Esau.

**The Story of Jacob and his Sons (with a special section on Joseph):** Like the division between Isaac and Ishmael, we have the same kind of division between Jacob and Esau, with Jacob (the younger of the twins) gaining the covenantal inheritance and blessing from his brother (Paul will speak of this in Romans 9 as an example of God's election). Here we see the rise of Jacob from a person into a large family and then finally into Egypt to grow into a nation.

There is a section within this narrative that focuses in on Joseph in Egypt, the one whom God sent ahead to prepare a place for the rest of the family under Pharaoh's protection. Again, we see the hand of God orchestrating all things to establish his people and bringing judgment against those who stand as his enemies.

# Weesk 1&2: Genesis



Created with [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) [Crossword Puzzle Generator](http://TheTeachersCorner.net)

## Across

2. In how many days did God create?
3. This tribe would be like a serpent in the path of his brothers.
4. On which day were man and woman created?
7. The name of Joseph's Egyptian wife and the daughter of Potiphara.
8. On which day were the sun, moon, and stars created?
9. God placed this on Cain so that no one would slay him for his sin.
11. On which day did God rest, setting a pattern for us to follow.
14. Joseph's body was preserved in this Egyptian manner after he died.
15. What is the Hebrew name for the book of Genesis?
20. Eve was tempted by this evil creature.
21. This son of Noah and Shem will be God's covenant bearer.
23. When loading animals on the Ark, Noah took this many pairs of clean animals.
24. The crushing of the skull of the serpent is symbolized by Jesus' death on this hill.
25. Lot was Abram's \_\_\_\_\_.
27. The line of Jacob who would hold the scepter of kingship.

## Down

1. This son of Isaac was given a name meaning 'trickster' and later renamed 'Israel.'
2. He fills Abel's place in Adam's family.
5. This was Abram's first son.
6. Joseph's elder son.
10. This oldest man in the Bible has a name that means: 'He sends death.'
12. Cain named his city after this firstborn son.
13. She would become pregnant by her father-in-law.
16. This son of Abraham was taken onto a mountain for sacrifice, prefiguring the sacrifice of Jesus
17. After the flood, the waters remained on the earth for about this long.
18. 'A mighty hunter before the Lord' and the builder of Babel.
19. Isaac's wife and Laban's sister.
22. This dreamer was the favorite son of Jacob.
26. This son of Isaac despised his birthright.