

I'm so glad you are joining me as I read through the Bible chronologically this year. I know we all get busy, so don't stress, do what you can do and God will use it. If you miss a day or two, pick up when you can. It's not about checking off a legalistic box, but about learning the discipline of Bible Study and thereby growing in our knowledge of God.

I'm using the New American Standard Version of the Bible because it's what I'm used to, but you are welcome to compare with whichever version you use. I'll ask some basic questions along the way and maybe add some reference information here-and-there, as time permits. You can write your answers or just think about your answers. The purpose is to slow us down and have us THINK about what God is saying, in context. God's Spirit will teach us. I'm glad you're here.

January 1/Day 1

Genesis 1

Verses 1-5

Genesis means “beginning”. We get our words generate, generation, and generator from the same root. Not to mention, salvation, which we refer to as re-generation (or being born-again).

- Where did the heavens and the earth come from?
- What’s the word used to describe how God made the heavens and earth?
- Who moved over the surface of the waters?
- What was the first thing God said?

Notice as we go along, every time something was created it was because He spoke and creation obeyed Him. His words are powerful.

- What did God create on the first day?

Speaking of Jesus, John 1:1-5 tells us, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” So, we see the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit (The Spirit of God) are all involved in the creation of the heavens and the earth. I used to believe Jesus wasn’t around until He was born as a baby in the New Testament. Then I learned to take all the Scriptures into account and let the Scriptures interpret each other. Jesus has been with God all along. Colossians 1:17 says, “He [Jesus] is before all things, and in Him all things hold together”. And, if we are believers, we can know we were on His mind even before creation. Observe Ephesians 1:4a, “Just as He [God] chose us [believers] in Him [Jesus] before the foundation of the world.”

Verses 6-8

God spoke again. Notice He named the parts of His creation. When we name something, we have obtained the authority to do so. No one else has the authority to name a newborn besides the parents.

- What would be the waters below if the waters above are heaven?
- What did God call the expanse where the dividing of the waters occurred?

Think about the atmosphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, troposphere, ionosphere.

- What was created on the second day?

Verses 9-13

God spoke again. The waters and the earth obeyed.

- How were the waters below laid out?
- What appeared?
- What were their names?
- What is the phrase used to describe what the vegetation, plants, and fruit trees yield? It can be found easily because is repeated three times. In other words, an apple tree doesn't grow an orange, right?

When God repeats something, we would do well to pay attention. He's making a point.

- What did God think about the vegetation?
- What was created on the third day?

Verses 14-19

- How did lights appear in the expanse?
- What was the purpose for the lights in the heavens? Three things (you can spot the other two by the phrase "let them be for...").
- What did the greater light govern? The lesser light?
- What verb is used to describe what He did with the stars? Doesn't sound very haphazard, does it?
- What did God think about the lights?
- What was created on the fourth day?

Verses 20-23

- With what would the waters teem and swarm? Use the two words listed. Teem and swarm sound like a great many, huh?
- What would fly above the earth?
- What kinds of "living creatures" are specifically listed which swarm the waters?
- What phrase mentioned here about the living creatures in the seas and the winged birds have we seen before? What was it used for earlier? Do you remember? What does this mean regarding the sea creatures and winged birds? Can an octopus bring forth a trout? Can a crow bring forth a bluebird?
- What did God think about the sea creatures and winged birds?

Note this is the first time God blesses any part of His creation.

- Why do you think He would bless the sea creatures and the winged birds and not say, the sun or the dry land, or the vegetation?
- What did He tell them to do after He blessed them?
- Where do the sea creatures multiply? Where do the winged birds multiply?
- So, what was created on the fifth day?

Verses 24-25

- What would we call the creatures created (see the root in these two words?) on this day?
- What phrase is used again to describe what they would bring forth? Does this answer any questions for you which refute what is taught in school in opposition to creation?
- What did God think about the beasts of the earth?

Notice this is not the end of the sixth day.

Verses 26-31

- Based on what we saw in the first few verses of this chapter, who would the “Us” be in this chapter?

I have heard a television preacher claim this is angels. Please don't believe this. We have yet to see any mention of angels. But, who DID we see? We are not made in the image of angels. We are made in the image of God.

- What is mankind to rule over? Now we see God call the sea creatures by what word?
- To reiterate, In Whose image were we, all mankind both male and female, created?
- What did God do with mankind that we saw Him first do with the fish and birds?
- Them He gave them instructions, to do what?
- What did He give mankind to eat? Did He give animals to eat at this point?
- What did He give the animals to eat? Did they eat each other at this point?
- What adverb does God use with His observation of all that He made?
- So, what was created on the sixth day?

Days of Creation

Day One: Light from Darkness	Day Four: Sun, moon & stars
Day Two: Heavens	Day Five: Sea creatures & winged birds
Day Three: Seas & Dry Land	Day Six: Beasts of the earth, Mankind

Did you notice creation was an orderly event? It was not a haphazard happening. Just by looking at the chart above we can see God created a place for everything, then put everything in its place.

Genesis 2

Verses 1-3

- What has been completed in six days?

- What did God do on the seventh day? If God is God and He is powerful enough to create everything, did He need to rest?
- What indication are we given that this day of rest was an example for us? Sanctified means holy and set apart.

Verses 4-9

- God has given us an overview of creation in chapter one, He now gets specific about the details of the creation of mankind.
- What name do we see being used for God here?

God is Elohim here which means “creator” and “-im” is plural in the Hebrew. Remember, the Trinity was involved in creation. Whenever we see LORD in all caps, this is the covenant name for God, the tetragrammaton YHWH or Yahweh. The Great I AM. The name is so sacred the people used Jehovah instead. So, LORD God is Yahweh Elohim.

- What had not happened with the weather? Who makes this happen?
- What job was reserved for man in regard to the ground and vegetation?
- How was the vegetation watered in the beginning?
- What substance did God use to form man?
- How did man come to life?
- Who planted the garden man in which man lived?
- Where was it? How do we refer to this garden? Because it's in where?
- What specific word is used to refer to the creation of man? The word carries a picture of a potter and clay.
- How did we get trees? Who planted them? Does this sound haphazard or does this sound like the actions of Someone who loves and esteems His creation.
- What tree was in the “midst” or middle of the garden? What other tree?

Verses 10-14

- What are the names of the four rivers which come out of Eden? The last two should sound familiar.
- The Tigris and Euphrates flow from Turkey through Syria and Iraq. Do you remember Ancient History in school? The fertile crescent, where all life is said to have begun?

Verses 15-17

- What did God do to man? Why? What two things was man to do?
- What one restriction was given man?

Verses 18-22

- What was not good for man?

- What does he need? What specific word is used for what he needs?
- Adam named all the animals. Who named Adam? The word means “man”.
- What was not found for Adam among the animals? What adjective is used again in regard to the helper Adam needs?
- What did God do to fix this problem?
- God “formed” Adam. What word is used for how He created woman?
- To reiterate, what part of creation was “suitable” as a helper to man?

Verse 23

- The first wedding ceremony

Verses 24-25

- When marriage is consummated, the two become one flesh, a picture of our oneness with God through Jesus.
- Why were they unashamed?

Genesis 3

Verses 1-6

- What are we told about the serpent’s demeanor? Who created him?

Apparently, a talking serpent was no surprise to Eve. Later in Scriptures we’ll see people are fearful when angels appeared, but we’re not told Eve was surprised or fearful here.

First thing the serpent does is question what God has said. Then he downright calls God a liar and tries to make Eve think God is withholding something from her.

- After the woman was tempted, which of her five senses caused her to stumble?

1 John 2:16 tells us, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.” And Matthew 18:9, “If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.”

- Who did she give the fruit to after she partook? Where was he at the time?
- What did they discover? How did they feel? What did they do about it? Was this a sufficient covering?

Verses 8-13

- What did God do in the cool of the day? This was no surprise to them/

- Why did they hide? What did they tell God?
- Who did Adam blame for his sin? Sin means to miss the mark of God's perfect goodness and His perfect intention for us.
- While it looks like he is blaming the woman, who is he really blaming? Look closely at what he says.
- Who did the woman blame? What does she say he did to her?

The Bible tells us many times not to be deceived, so if it tells us this, it follows that if we have become deceived, we have in some way allowed it through unbelief. Jesus warns many will be deceived.

Verse 14

- How does God curse the serpent?

So apparently, serpents had legs in the beginning. I'm picturing a salamander, but if we put Scripture with Scripture (and history), a serpent could possibly be what the medieval people called a dragon.

- How long was the dragon cursed?

Verse 15

- Enmity is strife. Who will the strife be between?

The first prophecy of Jesus in the Bible. Her seed (Jesus) will bruise the head of the serpent. A head wound is a critical wound, a mortal wound, or a wound which kills. The serpent will bruise Him on His heel. Crucifixion bruised the heel.

Verse 16

- How did God curse the woman?

I have heard people claim the desire for her husband here is sexual, but check the context, her desire is to rule over him. If we are still bossing, berating, and nagging our husbands, we are still living in Genesis chapter 3.

Verse 17

- What was the curse on Adam? Trick question. Look at the curse, what is it on? But how will this affect Adam?

Verse 18

- What will make it hard for Adam to do his job?

Verse 19

- Will man's work be hard?
- Where will man eventually return?
- God had said man would die if he ate from the forbidden tree? Did Adam die for his sin? Right away? When?

Verses 20-21

- Besides the animals, whom did Adam name?
- Back to the question I asked a minute ago, the covering the man and woman made to hide their shame, was it sufficient? Were they able to atone for their sins by the works of their hands?
- What kind of garments did God make for them? What does this mean He had to do in order to cover them? Of what is this a first picture?

Verses 22-24

- Again, God uses "Us". Have angels yet been mentioned? Who is the "Us" if we let Scripture tell us?
- What would be the danger of being able to access the Tree of Life in their condition now?
- What did God have to do with them to protect everlasting life from sinful mankind?
- Where did God drive man?

"To the east of" anything always means to be at odds with it.

- What did God place to guard the Tree of Life?

Cherubim (Remember "-im" is plural, meaning more than one.) are not little baby angels like we've seen pictured. Notice these strong angels are guards and they have flaming swords. Now we have finally seen an angel mentioned. Did you notice their lack of importance in regard to creation and did you notice they are in service to God? We would be wise to remember their position and not place too much importance on angels. By the way, in Scripture they are never women, either.