

# BEGINNINGS

## GENESIS 1-11

### AN OVERVIEW



#### IN THE BEGINNING WAS GOD

In the beginning, there was God—holy, powerful, creative, and overflowing with love. A loving God that existed in three persons who wanted to share that communal love with others. It was a love so deep it couldn't be contained. And so, in His pursuit of a people to love, He created.

#### HIS PURSUIT TO LOVE

God created the world, spoke life into existence, and shaped a garden of abundance where humanity could thrive. Into this garden, He placed Adam and Eve, made in His image and set apart to reflect His glory. They stood out amongst all of creation and were invited to live in deep fellowship with God.

They walked with Him in the cool of the evening, were free to enjoy the goodness of creation, and all He asked was a single act of trust: not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He wanted to spare them from the weight of sin and sorrow.

#### MOTIVATED BY FEAR

But the serpent sowed doubt, whispering that God was holding something back. Drawn by the promise of power, Adam and Eve took the fruit. In that moment, everything broke.

Guilt and shame replaced innocence. Fear drove them to hide from God, and sin unleashed pain, toil, and division into the world. They were sent from the garden, away from the Tree of Life, not as punishment alone but as an act of mercy. For if they ate the Tree of Life, they would live forever in their guilt and shame, and there would be no hope of redemption.

Yet even in humanity's rebellion, God's pursuit never wavered.

#### THE GRACE OF GOD

He promised that one day, a Saviour would come to crush sin and restore His image in His people. From the beginning, God's heart was set on restoring what was lost.

#### GRIEVING CREATION

But humanity spiraled deeper into evil. The world became so corrupt that God grieved creation. Still, He pursued saving Noah and his family to start anew. Yet even after the flood, Noah's descendants turned from God. They sought their own glory, building a tower to reach the heavens. In response, God scattered them across the earth, planting the seeds of nations.

Through it all, one truth remained: God never stopped pursuing His people. Even as they rebelled, His promise of restoration endured. Would humanity ever turn back to Him? The question lingered, but hope glimmered in God's unrelenting pursuit—a plan unfolding to draw His creation back into His love.

This is the story of a God who will not give up, of a love that seeks and saves, and of a promise that would one day redeem the world.

# OUTLINE

## Creation (Gen 1-2) and Human Selfishness (Gen 3-11)

### GENESIS 1-2

God creates a good world for humanity, entrusting them with stewardship over creation.

### GENESIS 3

Sin enters the world through disobedience, disrupting the relationship between humanity and God.

God initiates His plan to restore Eden and bring a Saviour.

### GENESIS 4-6

Sin spreads, leading to increasing distance between God and humans, with the rise of the Nephilim.

### GENESIS 6-9

In response to rampant evil, God chooses Noah to preserve life through the flood, offering a new beginning for humanity.

### GENESIS 10-11

Humanity spreads, but pride leads to the Tower of Babel, and God scatters the nations to prevent their arrogance.

## KEY THEMES

- 1 IN THE IMAGE OF GOD
- 2 MULTIPLY
- 3 IMPACT OF SIN
- 4 GOD'S PURSUIT OF US
- 5 RECREATION / MADE NEW
- 6 JUDGMENT AND MERCY
- 7 COVENANT

1. Human beings are **created in God's image** and called to reflect His rule over creation, stewarding the earth on His behalf.

2. God empowers us to be fruitful and **multiply**, spreading life and flourishing across the world.

3. Genesis 3 reveals the deep **impact of sin** on both humanity and creation.

4. Despite humanity's rejection, God relentlessly **pursues a relationship with us**, promising a Savior who will restore Eden's perfection and bring us back to intimate fellowship with Him.

5. After creation and the fall, God **recreates** the world through the flood and commands Noah to be fruitful and multiply, as He did with Adam.

6. While God brings **judgment**, His actions are always **tempered with mercy**, offering hope for redemption.

7. Through **covenants**, such as His promise to never destroy the earth by flood, God demonstrates His faithfulness to His people.

## THE PROMISE OF GRACE

We see God responds to sin in two ways.  
He brings justice where needed and  
promises grace to those seeking Him.



Adam and Eve rebel against God by eating the fruit of the tree of Knowledge



There is a curse upon the land and upon work. There will be power struggles in relationships and intimacy with God won't be natural.



God gives the promise of a Saviour who will be born as the seed of a woman.

Cain Murders Abel

There is a continual breakdown of society and the growth of immorality.

God raises up people like Enoch and Noah who bring God's righteousness to a decaying world.

Society becomes more and more corrupt as the image of God is marred in people.

The world is destroyed through a flood and recreated.

God gives a covenant that He will no longer destroy the world through a flood ever again.

People gather together to build a temple to reach God themselves.

God scatters people.

God gets ready to prepare a family through whom the Saviour will come.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it significant that God created humans in His likeness and image? (Genesis 1:27)
2. What are ways that we share God's likeness? (Genesis 1:27)
3. In Genesis 3:14-19, God speaks of the consequences that will happen because Adam and Eve ate the fruit. How do you see those playing out in life and society today?
4. Imagine Noah's courage in stepping out and building the ark. In what ways are you called to have courage like Noah in today's world?
5. As you read these first chapters, where do you see pride as a motivator? What are the results of pride?

## THE PURSUIT

1. How do you see God pursuing relationships with His people in this section of scripture?
2. Where do you see hints and promises of Jesus in these chapters?
3. What characteristics of God do you see in these chapters that give you hope and courage?

