

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Intro: One of the points of this sermon every year is to encourage, inspire, & motivate you to pursue God in His Word with renewed seriousness, vigor, commitment, delight, and expectation in the coming year, 2022.

This sermon is an overview/summary sermon on the whole book of Genesis. Not only am I encouraging you to read the whole Bible next year, but to listen to sermons about the whole Bible (Mark Dever overview sermons).

Mark Dever: The story of the book of Genesis is the story of beginnings. There is much in the book, but the basic line is simple: God, Creation, Adam & Eve, & the Fall take up the first three chapters. Chapters 4-11 cover the time from Adam to Abraham, including the Flood & the Tower of Babel. & chapters 12-50 focus on Abraham & his family (12-25 focus on Abraham; 26-36 largely on his grandson Jacob; & 37-50 mainly on Jacob's son Joseph).

1. God

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning, God

a. **God is triune:** **Genesis 1:26:** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

1) **Father:** **Deuteronomy 32:6:** Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?
2) **Son:** **Genesis 22:11-12:** But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Geerhardus Vos: said that the Angel of the LORD is the most important form of revelation in the Old Testament, and "the Angel of the LORD is the Logos, the second Person of the Trinity."

3) **Holy Spirit:** **Genesis 1:2:** And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

b. **God is holy:** He punishes sin (Eden; Flood (1 of 4 greatest judgments [Eden, Cross, Final Judgment]; Sodom and Gomorrah); **Genesis 18:25:** Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just? GOSPEL!

c. **God is merciful and loving:** Creation; Over and over again, we see God have mercy on sinners!

d. **God is sovereign:** Creation; Noah; Sarah's womb; Joseph

2. God Created

Genesis 1:1-3: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

- **Hebrews 11:3:** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

- **John 1:1-3:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

3. God Created Mankind In His Image

Genesis 1:26-28: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea & over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

We are relational, moral, rational, creating, beings who rule on the earth (guard & keep) imaging God to the world.

Porn star (Banker spoke his name: Joshua); Racial tension; Sexual culture wars; Those you disagree with!

4. God Created Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25: Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (Marriage is between a man & a woman.)

Matthew 19:6: So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.

Ephesians 5:31-32: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

5. The Fall

Genesis 3:1-13: Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin cloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Romans 5:12: Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

6. The First Gospel

Genesis 3:14-15: The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:21: And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

1 Corinthians 15:45: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

Jesus was led into the wilderness: Why is it significant that Jesus was led into the wilderness? (place of curse)

Adam: Garden; Sinless world; Companionship; All the food he could want; Tempted by the devil: take and eat

Last Adam: Wilderness; Sinful world; Alone; Fasted forty days (Mark: "with the wild beasts"); First temptation by the devil: take and eat

Matthew 26:26: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

Ligon Duncan: "So simple an act; so hard its undoing. God will taste poverty & death before 'take & eat' become verbs of salvation." Don't you wish you could write a sentence like that? Do you see what he's saying? Satan's words that plunge us into hell are, "Take & eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good & evil." In God's counter strike he gives us, from the words of our Savior, which we say in the Lord's Supper, "Take & eat," as the way back into fellowship with God. Isn't God awesome? Can you imagine a greater in-your-face move to Satan than that? Your words "take & eat" plunge my people into the abyss. My words "take & eat" raise them up from the grave to glory.

7. Cain And Abel

Genesis 4:1-8: Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." ⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

- **1 John 3:12:** We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

- **Heb 11:4:** By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

- **Heb 12:22-24:** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Tim Keller: Jesus is the true and better Abel who, though innocently slain, has blood now that cries out for our acquittal, not our condemnation!

8. Noah And The Flood

Genesis 6:5-8: The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

9. The Tower Of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9: Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for

them.⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."⁸ So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

God is bringing people from all nations and languages together to be one in Jesus Christ! (Pentecost!):

Revelation 5:9: And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"

10. Abraham

Genesis 12:1-4: Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Genesis 15:1-6: After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram [exalted father/Abraham: father of a multitude] in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, & the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, & a member of my household will be my heir."⁴ & behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."⁵ & he brought him outside & said, "Look toward heaven, & number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Galatians 3:5-14, 27-29: Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith -⁶ just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."¹² But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us - for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" -¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith . . .²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

11. Isaac

Genesis 17:15-19: And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"¹⁹ God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

Sacrifice of Isaac: Hebrews 11:17-19: By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son,¹⁸ of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named."¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Scott LaPierre: Isaac and Jesus Were Only Begotten Sons; Isaac and Jesus Were Named by God; Isaac and Jesus Were Offered Up As Offerings; Isaac and Jesus Carried the Wood for Their Sacrifices; Isaac and Jesus Were Willing to be Slaughtered by Their Fathers; Isaac and Jesus Acted As Sacrificial Lambs; Isaac and Jesus Were in Agreement with Their Fathers (But Jesus is the ram caught in the bush! He was actually sacrificed! Died & rose!)

12. Jacob

Jacob deceived his father Isaac & took the blessing from his brother Esau. He had to flee to Laban (Rebekah's bro) Jacob's ladder: God reaffirms His promise to give Jacob the land & offspring & bless the world through him/them. Jacob married both Leah and Rachel: from them came the 12 tribes of Israel.

Jacob wrestled with God & God changed his name to Israel: "He strives with God" or "God strives"

13. Joseph

Joseph was favored by his father Jacob, more than all other brothers (coat of many colors: points to royalty) Joseph had dreams that pointed to his brothers and even his father and mother bowing down to him. Joseph's brothers are so jealous and angry with Joseph that they rip off his coat and throw him in a pit. Sell him! God blessed Joseph in all that he did. He cared for Potiphar's house. Potiphar's wife sought to seduce him. He ran! Joseph was put in prison. Again is successful. Interpreted dreams of Pharaoh's cup bearer and baker accurately. Finally the cup bearer spoke of Joseph to Pharaoh when Pharaoh is troubled by dreams. Joseph ascends to 2nd!
Joseph is alive! Joseph's family needed food and came to beg him for food. Eventually they all move to Egypt.

Genesis 50:15-21: When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us & pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers & their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came & fell down before him & said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.
²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you & your little ones." Thus he comforted them & spoke kindly to them.

James Hamilton: The book of Genesis begins with the murder of a brother, and it ends with a brother who was almost murdered forgiving his father's sons who sold him into slavery. This fraternal conflict isn't just at beginning and end but all through Genesis, and is one of the outworkings of the Genesis 3:15 enmity between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman. Cain murders Abel, Ishmael mocks Isaac, Esau wants to kill Jacob, and Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery. The seed of the serpent hate the seed of the woman.

Sam Emadi: Joseph highlights how God's providence secures God's promises.

Threats to God's Gospel Promise in Genesis 3:15:

- Family division and violence, reminiscent of Cain and Abel, threaten the seed's survival. (Gen. 37; cf. Gen. 4)
- Unrighteousness and intermarriage with foreign nations threaten the seed's purity. (Gen. 38; cf. Gen. 12:10–20)
- Global famine endangers the entire covenant line.

Instead of exacting revenge, Joseph reconciles with his brothers & restores family unity by extending forgiveness. Joseph settles his family in Goshen, shielding them from foreign cultural influence. Safeguarded by the Egyptians' prejudices (Gen. 46:33–34), Israel develops as a nation without dangers posed by intermarriage with foreign peoples [who would turn them away from the one, true God].

Joseph preserves his family (and the world) amid severe famine through wisdom and administrative genius.

Through Joseph, God is reversing the curse – unraveling violence through forgiveness, unrighteousness through righteousness, and hunger through wisdom.

Genesis 37–50 records how God fulfills (in part) his promises to Abraham (cf. Gen. 12:1–3).

Through Joseph, Yahweh blesses the nations. Potiphar appoints Joseph as a steward over his house; then God blesses Potiphar for Joseph's sake (Gen. 39:4–5). Later we again find Joseph established over the house of Pharaoh (Gen. 41:40). The result is the same: Joseph blesses the nations by providing grain during a severe famine, first for Egypt (Gen. 41:56) then for all the earth (Gen. 41:57).

God also uses Joseph to fulfill his promise to multiply Abraham's seed. Once Joseph settles his family in Goshen, the family of Abraham is “fruitful & multiplie[s] exceedingly”. The words “fruitful & multiply” occur throughout Genesis, but this instance is unique. Previously, God has either commanded people to be fruitful & multiply (Gen. 1:28; 9:1, 7; 35:11) or promised they will be so (Gen. 16:10; 17:2, 6; 22:17; 26:4, 24). But now, for the first time, fruitfulness & multiplication is a reality – an indicative. Under Joseph's leadership, Abraham's seed flourishes.

Even the kingship promise comes to fruition with Joseph. Forecasting Joseph's place in the Egyptian court, Joseph's dreams anticipate his royal position. Even his “coat of many colors” is royal garb (cf. 2 Sam. 13:18). At the beginning of Genesis 37, readers have awaited – prophetically, typologically, & by covenant promise – the arrival of a royal seed through the line of Abraham (Gen. 17:6, 16; 35:11). Now, in the opening verses of the book's final section, Joseph's introduction heightens that anticipation. Readers who remember these promises cannot help but ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect another?”

Joseph's later rise to the royal court, then, is not merely evidence of God vindicating Joseph's faithfulness. It is tangible evidence of God's unwavering commitment to restore human rule through a son of Abraham. God promised Abraham a dynasty, a royal seed. Joseph is the first of that seed, a new Adam mediating God's blessings to the nations – a beloved son and a servant king.

... throughout the story Moses has juxtaposed [Joseph & Judah]. They dominate the three most critical moments of the Joseph story: its beginning (Gen 38 and 39), its climax (Genesis 44 and 45), and Jacob's prophecy (Gen 49) – the capstone of both the Joseph story and the entire book of Genesis. Joseph and Judah's stories are interwoven. Jacob's prophecy shows that both foreshadow the coming king of Israel. By drawing a typological line from Joseph to the future king from Judah, Moses explicitly folds the Joseph narrative into Israel's larger story, which will culminate with the Messiah.

Joseph's story is the story of the whole Bible. It's the story of glory through suffering, exaltation through humiliation. It's the story of the cross and the crown.

Genesis 50:24-26: And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."²⁶ So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Genesis: Begins with life, ends with life & hope; And with death. God is not done. Exodus; Greater Exodus!

Greater Adam; Noah; Abraham; Isaac; Jacob; Joseph! Jesus!

Christ Jesus Is The Beginning And End
The Alpha And Omega And Only True Friend
The First And The Last On Whom We Depend
The Seed Who'd Crush The Serpent And Spend
His Life For Us God's Glory Defend
He Is Our Ark Whom God Did Send
To Save From His Wrath That Would Descend
Abraham's Seed In Him Does Extend
What All Meant For Evil God Will Suspend

And Mean It For Good Our Thoughts Transcend
It Seemed Joseph Died And Rose In The End
But Jesus Did Die And Rose To Command
Us To Our God As Righteousness Friend
By Faith Alone Our Relations He'd Mend
Now We Repent No Longer Offend
All For Our Christ Who'd Condescend
To Satisfy More Than Minds Comprehend
And Be Our All From Now To The End!