

About GOD

Lesson 2

What is the first major theme found in God's WORD?

To find the first major theme in God's WORD, you have only to open to the very first page. It is about **God** Himself!

Count the number of times you see the word **God** in Genesis Chapter 1

Genesis 1

1:¹ In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth.
² The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of **God** was moving over the surface of the waters. ³ Then **God** said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ **God** saw that the light was good; and **God** separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ **God** called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. ⁶ Then **God** said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ **God** made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. ⁸ **God** called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. ⁹ Then **God** said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. ¹⁰ **God** called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and **God** saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then **God** said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and **God** saw that it was good. ¹³ There was evening and there was morning, a third day. ¹⁴ Then **God** said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶ **God** made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; *He made* the stars also. ¹⁷ **God** placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness;

and **God** saw that it was good. ¹⁹ There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day. ²⁰ Then **God** said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." ²¹ **God** created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and **God** saw that it was good. ²² **God** blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. ²⁴ Then **God** said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. ²⁵ **God** made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and **God** saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then **God** said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ **God** created man in His own image, in the image of **God** He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ **God** blessed them; and **God** said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ Then **God** said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; ³⁰ and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food"; and it was so. ³¹ **God** saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

*How many times did you find the word **God** in Genesis Chapter 1?* _____

Just counting the number of times you find GOD will not help you to get to know Him, but it will let you know that the first stories in the WORD are all about Him. As you read these stories, He is talking to you and telling you what He wants you to know about Himself. He wants you to know Him like He knows you!

Helpful Hint for Understanding the General Theme of a Story in God's WORD

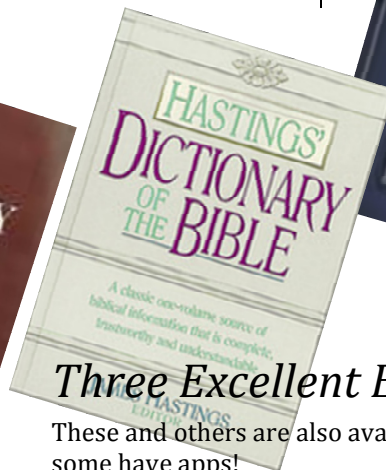
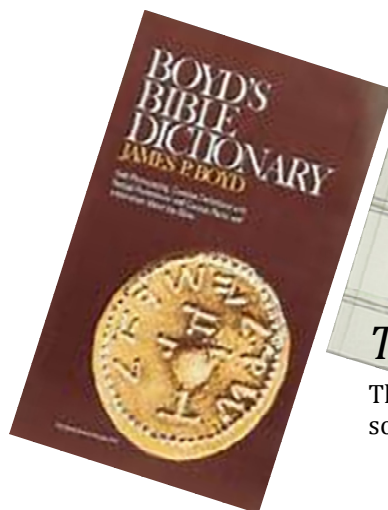
Look for a word that is used repeatedly in the story. Then

1. find out what that word means and
2. read the story again with that meaning in mind.

If the story makes sense to you, you probably have the right definition.

If the story makes no sense to you, look up the definition in a different Bible dictionary and read the passage again.

God = "good," the Designer, Creator, and Sustainer of the Universe.



Three Excellent Examples

These and others are also available on-line and some have apps!

The Golden Rule for Understanding God's WORD

If the plain sense makes common sense, look for no deeper sense.

God's WORD is His personal message to the everyday common person and the Holy Spirit is the true teacher.

(More on this concept when we get to
About the Holy Spirit)

However, the deeper truths will not be clear unless you have read and understood the simple, easy and basic stories that God has given to His creation first.

God's Nine Unchangeable Characteristics About His Nature

In Genesis Chapter 1, as well as the rest of the entire WORD, as God speaks about Himself to humans, He reveals **nine unchangeable characteristics** about His nature.

ABOVE AND BEYOND ALL TRANSCENDENT	EVERYWHERE OMNIPRESENT	UNLIMITED INFINITE
NEAR IMMANENT	KNOWS EVERYTHING OMNISCIENT	DOES NOT VARY UNCHANGEABLE
ALL POWERFUL OMNIPOTENT	TIMELESS ETERNAL	A PERSON PERSONAL

THE SMALL WORDS UNDER EACH CHARACTERISTIC ARE THE THEOLOGICAL WORDS USED BY RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS.

WE WILL USE THE EVERYDAY COMMON MEANING RATHER THAN THE MORE DIFFICULT THEOLOGICAL TERMS.

Definition of God's Characteristics

ABOVE AND BEYOND ALL	TRANSCENDENT	<i>means</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• separate and independent from His creation• above and beyond His creation• not a slave to natural law
NEAR	IMMANENT	<i>means</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• not apart from the world• not a mere spectator of what He has made
ALL POWERFUL	OMNIPOTENT	<i>means</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• creator of the world and universe• sovereign over world and universe
EVERYWHERE	OMNIPRESENT	<i>means</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fully present everywhere• where you are
KNOWS EVERYTHING	OMNISCIENT	<i>means</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• from the beginning to the end
TIMELESS	ETERNAL	<i>means</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• no beginning and no end• forever• existence before time which He created
UNLIMITED	INFINITE	<i>means</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• not confined by the universe• independent of finite beings, time and space
DOES NOT VARY	UNCHANGABLE	<i>means</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• not volatile or capricious• steadfast and constant
A PERSON	PERSONAL	<i>means</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• spirit• intelligence• feelings• created man in His image

Discovery of God's Own Unchangeable Characteristics

As you go through the first stories in the beginning of God's WORD, the unchangeable characteristics of God will begin to appear. Read the Scripture and

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answer the questions below with as many of the nine characteristics that apply.

Genesis 1

1:1 In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth.

1:2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of **God** was moving over the surface of the waters.

1:3 Then **God** said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** **God** saw that the light was good; and **God** separated the light from the darkness. **5** **God** called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

1. If God exists before He creates the heavens and the earth, that means He is

*Above and beyond all, All powerful,
Timeless, Knows Everything ...*

2. If God is over the surface of the water, that means that He is

3. If God is able to create light and dark, morning and evening, that means He is

1:6 Then **God** said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."
7 **God** made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.
8 **God** called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

1:9 Then **God** said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. **10** **God** called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and **God** saw that it was good.

1:11 Then **God** said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, *and* fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. **12** The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and **God** saw that it was good. **13** There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

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4. God is talking; therefore, He is
5. God commanded the land and water to separate, showing that He is
6. God commands everything to reproduce and it does, showing that He is
7. On the third day God creates all the plant life and calls it good, so He is

1:14 Then **God** said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; **15** and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

16 **God** made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; *He made* the stars also.

17 **God** placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, **18** and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and **God** saw that it was good.

19 There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

1:20 Then **God** said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." **21** **God** created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and **God** saw that it was good. **22** **God** blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." **23** There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

8. On the fourth day, God creates the stars to give light. As the earth turns, the light causes day and night. Some of the heavenly bodies also reflect the light He creates. God is

9. On the fifth day, God creates all the animals that live in the water and tells them to be fruitful and multiply. God is

1:24 Then **God** said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. **25** **God** made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and **God** saw that it was good.

1:26 Then **God** said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** **God** created man in His own image, in the image of **God** He created him; male and female He created them. **28** **God** blessed them; and **God** said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." **29** Then **God** said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; **30** and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green

10. On the sixth day, God creates all the animals on the earth with many varieties of beasts and cattle. God is

11. God is an "Us" and He creates man in Our image. God is

12. God gives man authority over all the animals. God is

13. God blesses everything and tells it to multiply. God is

14. God gives instructions to man. God is

15. God sees that everything is good, which is the definition of His name. God is

plant for food"; and it was so. ³¹ **God** saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. ² By the seventh day **God** completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then **God** blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which **God** had created and made.

16. God rests on the seventh day. God is



Is the creation story real?



How do we know what really happened during those six days?



Wasn't the story of the creation passed orally through thousands of people and hundreds of generations before it was written down?

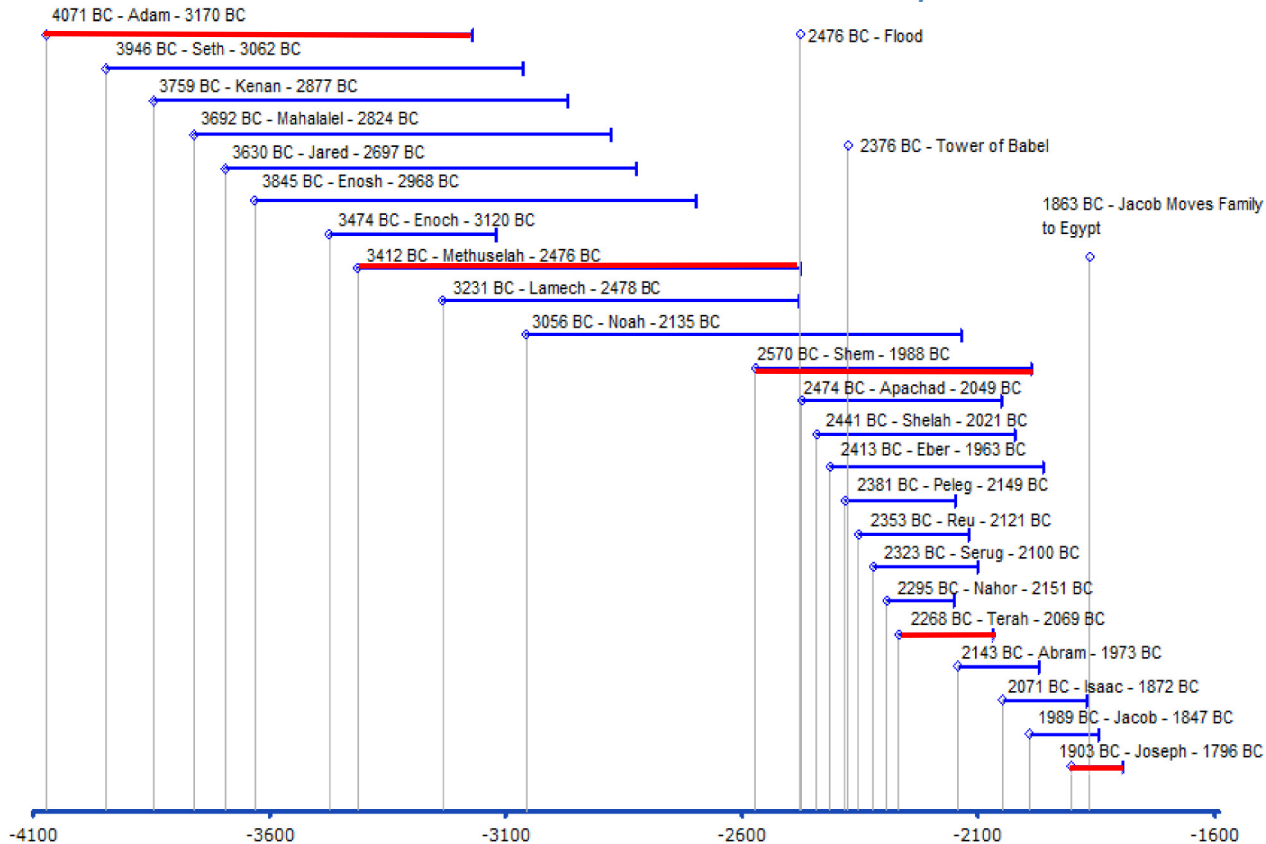


What has God done to prove the creation story is true?

God protected His WORD to You and for You

The story found in the beginning pages of Genesis is more than 6,000 years old. For the first 2,500 years, it was commonly known and passed down orally by parents and grandparents until Moses put it on paper in 1,475 BC. God protected the stories in the Book of Genesis by allowing one line of men to live extremely long lives to pass on the message unchanged. Within the pages of Genesis, the ages of Adam's descendants are recorded with their ages at the time of the births of their sons and their ages at the time of their deaths. Anyone can take that information and draw a chart to see how the lives of those men overlapped. Here is the line of men from Adam to Joseph.

Adam and His Descendants Down to Joseph



All of the information on this chart is taken from the Book of Genesis, which begins with God's creation of Adam and ends with Joseph's death in Egypt. In the chart we see Adam's descendants down to Joseph; it is Adam's family history. Look at the five men whose names are underlined in red. Adam and Methuselah's lives overlap and cover the time from Adam's creation to the flood.

1. Methuselah was 242 years old when Adam died.
2. Shem was 100 years old when Methuselah died and he rode on the Ark with Noah, his father and two other brothers.
3. Shem died when Isaac was 60 years old, the year Jacob and Esau were born.
4. Isaac died when Joseph was 30 years old, 13 years after Joseph entered Egypt at the age of 17.
5. Joseph lived near Isaac until he was 17.
6. Joseph lived 90 years in Egypt before he died at the age of 110.

Joseph to Moses, the Writer of Genesis

Moses was born two generations after Joseph's death, but he was not from the line of Joseph. Moses was the great grandson of Joseph's brother Levi and the son of Levi's grandson Amram. Moses was the great nephew of Joseph.

Therefore, God protected the stories of the book of Genesis by allowing them to be passed through as few as eight men from Adam and Moses. AMAZING!!!!

Note: The time between the creation of Adam and the year Moses wrote the Book of Genesis when he was 81 years old covers 2,686 years.

Getting to Know God – This Week

WEEK TWO – STORIES TO READ

From the Bible Version of Your Choice!

MONDAY	<i>The Story of Jacob and Rebekah</i> Genesis Chapters 27, 28, 29 and 30
TUESDAY	<i>The Story of Jacob, Esau and the Twelve Sons</i> Genesis Chapters 31, 32, 33 and 34
WEDNESDAY	<i>The Story of Jacob Becoming Israel and Joseph's Life</i> Genesis Chapters 35, 37, 38 and 39
THURSDAY	<i>More of the Story of Joseph's Life</i> Genesis Chapters 40, 41, 42 and 43
FRIDAY	<i>The Story of Israel's Family Moving to Egypt</i> Genesis Chapters 44, 45, 46 and 47
SATURDAY	<i>The Story of Jacob/Israel's and Joseph's Last Days</i> Genesis Chapters 48, 49 and 50