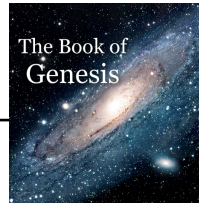


# Genesis & The Meaning of Life



*“And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring [seed] and her offspring [her seed]. He [the seed of the woman; the virgin birthed Messiah] will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15 NLT*

- Do you question whether life began as a result of evolution or as the result of Creation?
- Do you ask yourself life’s fundamental questions—who am I, why am I here, and where am I going?

Genesis is the foundation upon which civilization and life are built. It shows us the meaning of life. It gives humanity value & worth. It provides the bases for morality & the laws of society. It sets the stage for the entire Bible and is the foundation for all the great doctrines of the faith.

**Title:** Genesis means “origin” or “beginnings.” The book of Genesis tells us how everything started, except God who is eternal (Deut. 33:27; Jer. 10:10; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 22:13)—

- The beginning of the **universe & time** (1:1-2:3)
- The beginning of **humanity & marriage** (2:4-25)
- The beginning of **sin** in the world (3:1-7)
- The beginning of the **promise of God’s salvation** (3:8-24)
- The beginning of the **family, human strife** (4:1-15) & **murder** (4:8)
- The beginning of **civilization** (4:16-5:32)
- The beginning of the world **nations & human languages** (10:1-11:26)
- The beginning of the **Hebrew race** (11:27-29:30)
- The beginning of the **twelve tribes of Israel** (29:31-50:26)

**Author:** Moses (Jesus verified Moses as the author in John 7:21-23.)

**Date:** 1450-1410 B.C.

**Key Verses:** Genesis 1:1; 3:15 & 12:2-3

**Key Chapters:** Genesis 3 & 12

**Theme:** God provides the plan of **SALVATION**.

God is a personable, loving, all-powerful Creator. His deepest desire is to be in a relationship with the people He created. God created us to be in a relationship with Him (Gen. 2), and sin broke the relationship (Gen. 3). God promised a plan of salvation to restore the relationship (Gen. 3:15). This included the Nation of Israel being established to be the custodians of the gospel (*the Good News of God’s plan of salvation*) (Rom. 3:1-2) and the generational path for the coming Savior through whom a relationship with God is restored (Gen. 12:2-3).

Bruce Wilkinson writes: “**Genesis shows how the sin of man is met by the intervention and redemption of God.**” *Talk Thru the Bible*, p.7.

Warren W. Wiersbe writes: “...the purpose of the book is to explain the beginnings of man and his sin and Israel and God’s plan of salvation.” *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*, p.16.

## The Central Lesson:

**We were created BY God FOR God. Life has meaning when we are in the right relationship with Him.**

## Genesis Answers Life’s Basic Philosophical Questions:

### • **WHO am I?**

We are the height of God’s creation, formed in His image, & made alive by the breath of God (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7). We are not the by-product of an evolutionary process. Instead, we are the result of the miraculous creative act of God (Gen. 2:7) and the descendants of the first man & woman, Adam & Eve (1:28).

### • **WHY am I here?**

To know God & be in relationship with Him (Gen. 3:8-9). We are given the opportunity in this life to receive Christ & be prepared to reign with him in eternity (*God designed us to “rule” with Him*—Gen. 1:26, 28; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 5:9-10; 22:5).

### • **Where am I GOING?**

We are eternal beings who will spend eternity in one of two places—a literal heaven or hell. It all hinges upon our choice to receive or reject God’s love, forgiveness, & salvation freely offered in Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15; 1 John 5:11-12). We must *apologize* (repent) for our sins, *accept* Christ & *trust* him alone for our salvation (John 1:12).

**Genesis does not address the theory of evolution.** Instead, it emphatically states that God created the universe. The *Life Application Bible* explains: “**The Biblical view of creation is not in conflict with science; rather, it is in conflict with any worldview that starts without a creator.**” (p. 5).

Even science is now in conflict with the theory of evolution (see the book or DVD “*Icons of Evolution*”). Norman L. Geisler explains: “**There is no contradiction between the facts of Genesis and the facts of science. There is a difference between some interpretations of Genesis and some theories of science.**” *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*, p.43.

Charles Darwin fully believed his Theory of Evolution, yet conceded that the final proof, one way or another, would be in the fossil records. He admitted that the evidence of his day did not support his theory. However, he believed fossils would be discovered in the future to prove it.

Has science found the missing links of evolution since Darwin’s time? In 1972, Dr. Duane Gish, Ph.D., a scientist, and a Christian, wrote a book titled: **Evolution: The Fossils Say No**. In 1985 he updated his book under the title: **Evolution: The Challenge of the Fossil Record**. Then again in 1995, he updated his book with the newest discoveries in Paleontology (the study of fossils). The new title was **Evolution: The Fossils STILL Say No!**

**Bottom line** - Evolution is STILL a theory. The fossil records do not prove it. The missing links are still missing. The fossil evidence supports a **sudden** appearance of life as expected with Creation.

Genesis not only tells us that the universe was created by God but also who God is. It reveals His personality, character, and plan for his creation.

## The Central Lesson

**We were created by God for God. Life has meaning when we are in the right relationship with Him.**

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.