

Week #: 1 Text: Genesis 1:1 – 2:7 Title: Creation  
Songs: All of Creation  
God of Wonders  
Videos: Louie Giglio: Creation Sings to God

## The Bible

- has 66 books
- divided into two sections: Old Testament, and New Testament
- in the Protestant Bible, the Old Testament contains 39 books, and the New Testament contains 27 books.
- There are other books written, but they are not in the Protestant Bible. Their section is called the Apocrypha, and they can be found in the Catholic and Coptic Bibles. The Old Testament of the Catholic Bible contains 49 books, and the Coptic Bible contains 50.
- The New Testament of all three (Protestant, Catholic, and Coptic) Bibles contains 27 books.
- It was authored by over 40 men who listened to God and wrote what He told them to write.
- It was written over about 1600 years.
- The Wycliff Global Alliance says that as of October 2017, the Bible has been translated into over 3300 languages.
- It is the goal of translators to completely translate into every language by 2025.
- YouVersion has over 1100 translations available online and through their app.
- The Jesus Film has been translated to over 1500 languages.

## Who are the men God inspired?

Church or Jewish tradition says:

- In the Old Testament:
  - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy were written by Moses.
  - 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah were written by Ezra.
  - Many of Psalms was written by David.
  - Many of Proverbs and most likely the Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon) were written by Solomon.
  - The Major and Minor Prophets sections were written, we believe, by the men for which those books are named.
  - Lamentations may have been written by Jeremiah.
- In the New Testament:
  - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were written by those men, three of whom were disciples of Jesus.
  - Luke also wrote the book of Acts.
  - John also wrote the books of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> John, as well as the Book of Revelation.
  - Jesus' brother James wrote the book of James.
  - Peter wrote 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter.
  - Romans, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, Titus, and Philemon are all letters written by Paul to the churches.
  - The other books authors are not known.

## How can we trust them if we don't know who wrote them?

We don't trust the books of the Bible because we know exactly who wrote each one, we trust them because they're in the Bible. God not only inspired the authors who wrote these books, we also believe He inspired the process which picked which ones should be in the Bible and which ones shouldn't.

Canon – a Greek word that means rule or standard.

The Biblical canon is the official lists of Old and New Testament books that were accepted as God's inspired word.

## Who picked the books that would be in the Bible?

For the 39 books of the Old Testament:

Jewish leaders and Rabbis decided on the books found in the Old Testament. Everything from the creation and Moses through the Kings and Prophets was organized by c. 500 B.C. The final list was set by c. 140 B.C.

For the 27 books of the New Testament:

Jesus died and rose again c. 30 A.D., and by 95 A.D. all the writings that would eventually compose the New Testament had been completed. These were passed from church to church by early church leaders. Sometimes writings were circulated that did not contain sound doctrine or did not agree with the Old Testament doctrine. It became confusing for the different churches, so a standard was set for determining if something was a worthwhile document or not. There were three tests for this canon list:

1. Had the writing come from an Apostle (someone who knew Jesus), or from a close friend of an Apostle?
2. Did the writing agree with what the Apostles and early church leaders taught about Jesus?
3. Was the writing already accepted and taught by the whole church?

Only writings that passed all three tests made it into the canon list.

By 200 A.D. church leaders agreed on 21 of the 27 New Testament books. By 240 A.D. they agreed on 23 books. By 300 A.D., only Hebrews and Revelation were still being discussed.

In 367 A.D. Athanasius of Alexandria sent out the annual letter that stated the date for the Easter celebration that year (the date changed from year to year). In his letter, he listed all 27 books of the New Testament and there was no disagreement with his list. So this was now considered the canon books of the New Testament.

In Genesis we learn that God created us and gave us free will – or freedom to do things God's way or our own way. Sin is when we reject God's way. It's when we think we know better. It means we can't be close to God.

## The Old Testament is divided into the following sections:

**Torah / Pentateuch / Law:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

**Historical:** Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

**Wisdom or Poetry:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon

**Major Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel

**Minor Prophets:** Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nehum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

**The New Testament is divided into the following sections:**

**Gospels:** Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

**Acts of the Apostles:** Acts

**Epistles / Letters:** Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, and Jude

**Apocalyptic Prophecy:** Revelation of John

**Genesis – the first book of the Bible**

- The word *genesis* means *beginning*.
- Genesis has 50 chapters and is divided into two parts
  - The first 11 chapters are part 1 and they cover *Primeval History*. “*Primeval*” comes from two Latin words meaning “first” and “age”, so **Primeval History is the story of the first age**. It’s the story of what happened first.
  - Chapters 12-50 are part 2 and they cover *Patriarchal History*. Patriarchal History is the story of God working through a series of fathers to save the world.

**What is the Bible?**

The Bible is the INSPIRED Word of God, and His revelation to man of Himself and His plan of salvation.

**Hermeneutical technique: First Mention Principle**

It means when you come across a word or a term, to find the definition, look at the first time it is used in the Bible.

**Inspiration (5397):**

Job 32:8 - “But there is *a spirit in man*: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”

II Timothy 3:16 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

**Revelation (Reveal) (1540):**

Job 20:27 – “The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.”

Daniel 2:47 – “The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.”

Romans 2:5 – “But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;”

### **What spirit is in man?**

Genesis 2:7 - Then *ADONAI*, God, formed a person from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became a living being.

### **Why did God create?**

God is creative, it is His nature. It is part of who he is.

### **Why did He make men and women? Why not stop with the animals?**

God is creative. He is also personal and relational. So He created creatures to whom He could relate and with whom He could be friends. Adam and Eve were created in God’s image. In other words, ***we are creative like God. We’re personal and relational like God. We can make plans and dream dreams like God.*** God created us so we could be in relationship with Him, but also so we could be in charge of the rest of His creation. God loves us more than anything else He has ever made, and He desires our love in return, but it has to be our choice. God gave us the freedom to choose to love – a powerful and dangerous gift. We can choose to love God, or we can reject Him. We can choose to love each other, or hurt each other. Through the years people have chosen to do both, but love is so important to God that the risk is worth it. We call this “free will”.

Sin is what Adam and Eve chose, and it was that sin that separates us from God. ***God can do anything except change His own character, and He cannot be relational with sin.***

## Genesis 1 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was unformed and void, darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the water. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and God divided the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. So there was evening, and there was morning, one day.

<sup>6</sup> God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the water; let it divide the water from the water.” <sup>7</sup> God made the dome and divided the water under the dome from the water above the dome; that is how it was, <sup>8</sup> and God called the dome Sky. So there was evening, and there was morning, a second day.

<sup>9</sup> God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let dry land appear,” and that is how it was. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, the gathering together of the water he called Seas, and God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> God said, “Let the earth put forth grass, seed-producing plants, and fruit trees, each yielding its own kind of seed-bearing fruit, on the earth”; and that is how it was. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth grass, plants each yielding its own kind of seed, and trees each producing its own kind of seed-bearing fruit; and God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> So there was evening, and there was morning, a third day.

(A: *ii*) <sup>14</sup> God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to divide the day from the night; let them be for signs, seasons, days and years; <sup>15</sup> and let them be for lights in the dome of the sky to give light to the earth”; and that is how it was. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights — the larger light to rule the day and the smaller light to rule the night — and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God put them in the dome of the sky to give light to the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> So there was evening, and there was morning, a fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> God said, “Let the water swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> God created the great sea creatures and every living thing that creeps, so that the water swarmed with all kinds of them, and there was every kind of winged bird; and God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful, multiply and fill the water of the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> So there was evening, and there was morning, a fifth day.

(A: *iii*) <sup>24</sup> God said, “Let the earth bring forth each kind of living creature — each kind of livestock, crawling animal and wild beast”; and that is how it was. <sup>25</sup> God made each kind of wild beast, each kind of livestock and every kind of animal that crawls along the ground; and God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves; and let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the animals, and over all the earth, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them: God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and every living creature that crawls on the earth.” <sup>29</sup> Then God said, “Here! Throughout the whole earth I am giving you as food every seed-bearing plant and every tree with seed-bearing fruit. <sup>30</sup> And to every wild animal, bird in the air and creature crawling on the earth, in which there is a living soul, I am giving as food every kind of green plant.” And that is how it was. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good. So there was evening, and there was morning, a sixth day.