



I. Knowing God's Story is How We Become Grounded in Our Story

The book of Genesis answers the fundamental human questions about origin, meaning, and purpose as *the very word of God*.

It does this in the context of the entire Pentateuchal narrative (5 Books of Moses / Torah).

All the major themes of the gospel are grounded in the very beginning of the scriptures.

II. The Author and Nature of the Book of Genesis 1-11

A. Genesis 1-11 is primeval history.

Genesis 1-11 is unique in its creation account from other ancient writings. It also exhibits some literary relationships and parallels to other Near Eastern creation cosmologies. The similarities with ancient creation accounts lend credibility to the argument that the Torah dates back to the second millennium BC.

Genesis 1-3 should be treated as a unified narrative, not as two separate creation accounts.

The entirety of Genesis should be understood as the work of a single author: Moses.¹²

B. Jesus taught that Moses wrote this and that it is a historical account.

Jesus quotes from the early chapters of Genesis in the gospels, and he attributes them as the word of God (John 5:45-47). His teaching on marriage is rooted in the Genesis narrative of 1:27 and 2:24. He presupposes that Adam and Eve are real human beings and that the primeval Genesis account (1-11) is the historical origins of the human race.

C. Internal cohesion points to one author.

There is coherence in the whole narrative of Genesis 1-11 with the other parts of the Torah. For example, the theological foundations of the Sabbath that were given to the children of Israel in Ex. 20 are laid out here at the beginning of Genesis.³

III. The Importance of Story

Stories express the meanings of life.

“The human mind is a story processor, not a logic processor.” — Jonathan Haidt⁴

¹ Kenneth A. Mathews, Genesis 1:1–11:26, eds. E. Ray Clendenen and Kenneth A. Mathews, vol. 1A of The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 113.

² Ibid, 188-189.

³ Ibid, 110.

⁴ Jonathan Haidt, The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion (2012), p. 281

IV. His-Story

We are contingent; it is *in* our creator's story that we find the answers to life's questions. ***It is not in independence that we find success and fulfillment, but in dependence.***

God created the world. Sin and enemies do not determine its enduring quality, goodness, or purpose; God does.

V. Israel's God is God Over All

A. Genesis 1-3 is the prologue to Israel's story.

In Genesis, we are pulled into the epic ***His-story*** of Israel through three main narratives: Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph. However, to understand the depth of what is happening with these families in the formation of God's elect people, we must grasp Genesis 1-11, of which 1-3 is the prologue. Genesis 1-3 sets up the reason for God's calling of Abraham and his formation of Israel.

Who is Israel? (Romans 9:5-7)

Ultimately, Abraham and Israel are part of God's larger story of ***redemption and blessing, which is extended to the entire human race through the promised seed.*** God preserves a righteous ***progeny*** because he is bringing forth his son into the world, who will crush the head of the serpent and redeem human beings from the fall.

B. We find ourselves and our purpose within ***his-story*** of Israel and the redemption of mankind.

Israel's calling becomes our calling in the Messiah.

In this larger story, each person matters. You are part of God's larger story, and you have an immeasurably important role to play. The Psalmist declares, "What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have...crowned him with glory and honor" (Psalm 8:4).

VI. The End From the Beginning

Genesis 1-3 reveals where we are headed. Revelation 21-22 mirrors the Garden of Eden in the new creation: Tree of Life (Gen.2:9 / Rev. 22:2, 14). God dwells with man (Gen. 3:8 / Rev. 21:3). The curse removed (Gen. 3:14-19 / Rev. 22:3). Marriage (Gen. 2:21-24 / Rev. 21:2, 9). The river of life (Gen. 2:10 / Rev. 22:1-2). Light and the Glory of God (Gen. 1:1-3 / Rev. 21:23, 22:5). Dominion (Gen 1:26-28 / Rev. 22:5). The defeat of Evil (Gen 3:15 / Rev. 21:4)

Prayer / Discussion point:

Ask the Holy Spirit to ground you in His-story and to show you how important your role is in his larger story.