

# THE BIBLE in a nutshell

—compiled by Peter Hammond



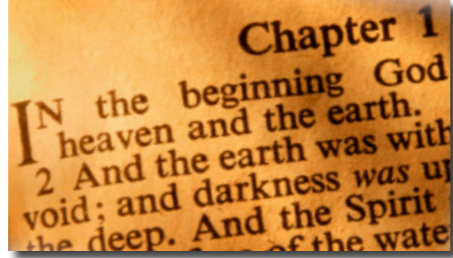
*"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Genesis 1:28



## A book of Firsts

- The first man, Adam, and woman, Eve
- The first marriage
- The first sin
- The first promise of Redemption
- The first family
- The first murder
- The first worldwide judgement
- The first laws for society
- The origin of nations



- **Definition:** Greek word meaning "origin," "source," "generation," or "beginning."
- **Author:** Moses
- **Time written:** 1450-1410 B. C.
- **Chapters:** 50
- **Verses:** 1 533
- **Books to follow:** 65

**G**enesis is 'The Book of Beginnings'. It provides the foundations for our faith. Genesis spans more time than any other book in the Bible - 4 100 years of recorded Bible history. Over half of

*"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth!"* Gen 9:1. After the Creation, Corruption, Condemnation and Confusion, the Call of God comes to Abraham to leave his home, country and family and go *"to a land that I*

**Genesis is the book of firsts and forms the foundation for all Biblical doctrine (such as sin, judgement and redemption). It lays the building blocks of our faith.**

it (2 286 years) is recorded in Genesis. The remaining 1 814 years are covered in Exodus through Acts.

### A book of history

Man's rebellion against the Creator introduced decay, disease, suffering and death into the world. **Generation:** *"In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth."* Gen 1:1 **Degeneration:** *"Cursed is the ground for your sake..."* Gen 3:17. **Regeneration:** *"So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them:*

*will show you...and you shall be a blessing...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* Gen 12:1-3.

### A book of geography

Genesis divides itself into three geographical settings:

- The Fertile Crescent: Chapters 1-11 spans more than 2 000 years



## Types of Christ

There are six main 'types' or shadows of Christ in Genesis, namely:

1. The Seed of the woman (3:15)
2. The Door to the Ark (7)
3. Isaac's sacrifice (22:1-24)
4. Jacob's Ladder that led to Heaven (28:12)
5. Joseph lifted from the pit of death to the throne (37-41)
6. Judah's Sceptre (49:10).

- Israel: Chapters 12-36 covers less than 193 years in small country of Canaan
- Egypt: Chapters 37-50 covers about 93 years. The six main places mentioned in Genesis include: Eden, Ararat, Babel, Ur, Canaan and Egypt.

### A basic summary of Genesis

The theological foundations for our faith are laid in Genesis concerning every major Christian doctrine, including the doctrines of: God, Man, Sin, Judgement, Redemption and Covenant. The basic narrative expresses the central theme: God creates the world and gives man dominion over it, but mankind is disobedient and God destroys the world through the Flood. The new post-Flood world also becomes corrupt, but God does not destroy it, instead calling one man, Abraham, to be the seed of its salvation. At God's command Abraham travels from his home to the

land of promise - Canaan.

### The covenants of God in Genesis

Jacob's name is changed to Israel, and through the agency of his son Joseph, the children of Israel travel into Egypt, 70 people in all with their households, and God promises them a future of greatness. Genesis ends with Israel in Egypt, ready for the coming of Moses and the Exodus.

The narrative is punctuated by a series of covenants with God, successively narrowing in scope from all mankind (the covenant with Noah) to a special relationship with one people alone (Abraham and his descendants). God created a good and perfect world.

Interestingly, the conflicts in the Middle East find their origins recorded in Genesis - through Sarah's foolish attempt to secure a descendent by having her husband Abra-

## The five patriarchs

1. Noah: who built the Ark
2. Abraham: the father of the Faithful
3. Isaac: the son of the promise
4. Jacob: whose twelve sons formed the 12 tribes of Israel
5. Joseph: who was betrayed by his brothers into slavery, but whose integrity lifted him from prison to the palace.



ham take her servant Hagar for a concubine. Ishmael, born to Hagar was the father of the Arab nation. *"He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man and every man's hand against him..."* Gen 16:12. ■

## The Messianic Prophecies

THE GOSPEL IN SEED FORM. GENESIS 3:15.

1. Salvation is initiated by and achieved by God: "I will..."
2. Salvation shall come through a Mediator related to mankind: "The Seed..."
3. Salvation will involve the suffering of the Redeemer - the enemy "shall bruise His heel..."
4. Salvation shall destroy satan: "He shall bruise your head."