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Life Changes
Introduction to Genesis
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The author and the book.

The Author: God (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21) working through Moses.

Probably written 400 years or so after the Genesis account ends, to help prepare Israel to enter and possess the Promised Land after centuries in Egypt.

Linked with the whole Bible and human history.

The very real people of Genesis and God's mercy to them.

MAPJ: Mercy always precedes judgment.

Why is Genesis so important to us?

1. It helps us understand this broken world.
2. It points ahead to the Savior.
3. It helps explain the ongoing struggles in the Middle East.
4. It tells us about our lineage, too. (See Romans 4:16,17; Galatians 3:6-9.)

4 key events (chapters 1-11)

Creation

The Fall.

“For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

The Flood.

Babel

4 key people (chapters 12-50)

Abraham—a friend of God; father of nations; an example of living by faith

Isaac—the promised son.

Jacob—father of 12 sons yielding the 12 tribes of Israel, God’s intended “light to the nations” (Isaiah 42:6). (Jesus’ lineage directly traces back to one son, Judah.)

Joseph—a man and leader of faith, integrity and excellence. Through him, God saved many lives, including his own family, the nation of Israel (the family line of Jesus).

As we study Genesis:

1. Look for the ongoing story.
2. Cultural practices reported in Genesis may not line up with God’s will revealed elsewhere in Scripture.
3. Keep focused on what Genesis says or shows about:

God

People

Truths for life

4. Watch for examples to...
...follow.
...avoid.
...learn from.

Watch for examples of faith—taking God at His Word; trusting He will keep His promises.

Struggles and learning together

Lord, please open my heart to You and to Your Word. Help me to learn more about You, to receive Your truth, and to walk more closely with You in the days ahead.