

# Discipleship University Bible Reading Guide

## Early Old Testament Foundations: Genesis 1-12

Put priority on reading for a spiritual experience. Always pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and for a heart to conform to truth. Guide questions are to help the reader catch some of the key concepts and details.

**Genesis 1 & 2:** Both of these chapters are about creation, but they are very different.

1. Why are there two different accounts of creation? How are they different? Are these chapters consecutive or do they overlap?
2. Why is God's name different in chapter one ("God" up to 2:3) as compared to chapter two (LORD GOD)? How can you learn if this is an important shift made by the author?
3. Who was the author and to whom was he writing? What did he hope to achieve by writing Genesis?
4. What did God make on each day of creation?
5. What is the emphasis of the creation account in Genesis 2:4-25?
6. What doctrines are supported directly or indirectly by verses in these two chapters?
7. What evidence is found in this reading for the Godhead?
8. Was the Holy Spirit a participant in the creation of the earth?
9. What other places in the Bible put great emphasis on creation and the Creator?

Suggested Reading: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 1 & 2

**Genesis 3:**

1. How do we know that the serpent speaking in this passage is the devil? Does it say so?
2. What was Moses' purpose in writing Genesis 3?
3. Is this chapter to be understood literally or symbolically? Is it a combination of these two? How?
4. What do you discover when you contrast Gen. 2:17 with 3:3, 4?
5. Where did Eve put her faith when she chose to eat the fruit? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Does the passage say why Adam ate the fruit?
7. Why were Adam and Eve afraid of God? In what ways were they naked?
8. Who did Adam and Eve **ultimately** blame? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How does Gen. 3:15 relate to the rest of the Bible?
10. What do the skins in verse 21 imply?

Suggested Reading: PP, chapters 3 & 4

**Genesis 4-6:2:**

1. How does Cain represent everyone who fails to really trust God? Where did Cain place his faith?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is verse 10 literal or symbolic?
3. Do you think Cain actually meant to kill Abel? Why was Cain's punishment so fitting?
4. Where did Cain get his wife?
5. Verses 16-24 give an account of Cain's descendants. Who was the first polygamist and who was the second murderer in earth's history? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Genesis 4:25-6:2 is an account of the generations of Adam and Seth. What did all these men have in common that contrasts them with those mentioned in 4:17-24?
7. Who are the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" in Gen. 6:2?

Suggested Reading: PP chapters 5 & 6

### **Genesis 6 & 7:**

1. How much would man's life be shortened?
2. What distinction was made between clean and unclean animals?
3. From where did the water come? How high did the water reach?
4. How long did the flood waters prevail upon the earth?

Suggested Reading: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 7

### **Genesis 7:20-10:32:**

1. Did the ark come to rest on one specific mountain called Ararat?
2. What was the first thing Noah did upon leaving the ark?
3. What change in diet was permitted at that time? Why was it allowed then?
4. What came to symbolize God's covenant promises to men?
5. Which descendant of Ham was cursed? \_\_\_\_\_ Why should this be significant in future studies?
6. For how many years after the flood could people have learned personally from Noah? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What were the names of the sons of Japheth? These names are mentioned in Ez. 38 and sometimes interpreted as Russians in the battle of Armageddon. How does it help to know who they really were?

Suggested Reading: PP, chapters 8 & 9 and *Education* 128-134

### **Genesis 11:1-9**

1. How does Rev. 17:13 compare with Gen. 11:1?
2. In Genesis 11, what made it easy for all civilization to be united? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What state of mind is evident at Babel that applies to spiritual Babylon in the end-times in Rev. 17?
4. Why did God confuse their language?
5. How do you think this led to the development of different races of mankind?

Suggested Reading: PP, chapter 10

### **Genesis 11:10-12:20:** Chapter 11:10-32 covers the generations of Shem down to Terah, Abram's father.

1. How fast did life-spans decline?
2. Who were Abram's brothers?
3. Where did Terah's family come from? \_\_\_\_\_ Where did they first settle? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What stands out as a new thing God does in chapter 12? How could this chapter be seen as coming to the real point of the Genesis narrative?
5. In Genesis 12:1-3, what are the three most tangible promises of the covenant God made with Abram?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
6. When were the first two promises fulfilled? What about the third one?
7. Right from the beginning of the covenant God made with Abram, who was to receive the covenant blessings?
8. What evidence is in chapter 12 (and previous chapters) that shows that the "ceremonial" system was already functioning before the Leviticus code was written for the "Jews"?
9. In what way could Abram's visit to Egypt be seen as prophetic?

Suggested Reading: PP, chapter 11