

THANKS TO GOD, WHOSE WORD WAS SPOKEN
in the deed that made the earth;
his the voice that called a nation,
his the fires that tried her worth.
God has spoken:
praise him for his open word!

Thanks to God, whose Word incarnate
glorified the flesh of man;
deeds and words and death and rising
tell the grace in heaven's plan.
God has spoken:
praise him for his open word!

Thanks to God, whose word was written
in the Bible's sacred page,
record of the revelation
showing God to every age.
God has spoken:
praise him for his open word!

Thanks to God, whose word is published
in the tongues of every race;
see its glory undiminished
by the change of time or place.
God has spoken:
praise him for his open word!

Thanks to God, whose word is answered
by the Spirit's voice within;
here we drink of joy unmeasured,
life redeemed from death and sin.
God is speaking:
praise him for his open word!

ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED



1

GENESIS

The book of beginnings

The beginning ...
... of the world
... of mankind
... of sin
... of judgement and blessing
... of the people of God

"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."

THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Genesis means “beginning”. It is the beginning of the Bible and the foundation on which the whole of the rest of the Bible builds.

The beginning of the universe – of the human race – of marriage – of sin – of judgement and death – of grace and covenant – of Israel, the people of God.

Genesis is divided into two very clear and distinct sections:

Genesis 1-11. A very brief and broad outline of the beginnings and the failure of the human race.

Genesis 12-50. A much more detailed focus on just one family through whom God’s blessing and salvation will come to the whole human race.

1. **Genesis 1-11. The story of human failure.**

Genesis 1. Creation. The God of Israel is the sole Creator of all things out of nothing. He created and rules the world by his word. Creation is good. There was no reason for man to fall.

Genesis 1 and 2. The human race. God creates humankind (male and female) to rule over creation in partnership with him.

Genesis 3. “The Fall” and its results. But note especially Genesis 3:15 - the promise of an offspring of the woman who will crush Satan and reverse the effects of the fall.

Genesis 4-6. The spread of mankind and the spread of sin.

Genesis 6-9. The Flood. God’s judgement and grace. God’s covenant. A new start for the world. Noah’s failure.

Genesis 10-11. The spread of mankind and the spread of sin resulting in the dividing and scattering of the nations at Babel.

2. **Genesis 12-50. Abraham and family.**

“No-hopers and their persistent God” (Alec Motyer)

Genesis 12-25. The story of Abraham. God calls Abram to leave his pagan surroundings and promises to bless him and his offspring and to bless the nations through him. He promises him a multitude of descendants and a land for them to live in. He commits himself in a solemn covenant to do this. Abraham believes God’s promise. His faith is tested. He is the prototype of all the believing people of God.

Genesis 26-36 Isaac and Jacob. Isaac is a brief interlude between Abraham and Jacob. Jacob (whose name is changed to Israel) is a complex and fascinating character who struggles with God and is eventually overcome by him. In spite of all his faults God is the God of Jacob and protects him and blesses him while in exile, where he becomes the father of twelve sons – the foundation of the nation of Israel.

Genesis 37-50. The story of Joseph. A wonderful account of how, through the wicked deeds of Joseph’s brothers, God preserves his people from famine and even blesses a foreign nation through Joseph. A foreshadowing of another innocent sufferer who will be raised from the depths to bring forgiveness and salvation to Israel and the world.