



Origins

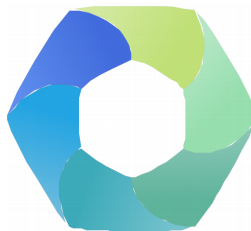
Genesis 1-3

Daily Readings and Bible Studies

ORIGINS

Daily Readings and Bible Studies

Genesis 1 - 3



FREE *for* **ALL**
RESOURCES

ORIGINS
(Daily Readings and Bible Studies in Genesis 1-3)

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Introduction

Introducing Genesis 1-3

The origin of the earth, humanity, good and evil, pleasure, meaning and suffering are all subjects that have kept many a conversation going for hours on end. Debates have raged between people of different religious, philosophical and cultural persuasions. Christians also have a view on these matters based on what the Bible says and especially on what Genesis 1-3 teaches us. This course of eight studies will reveal that God created all things good, but that mankind chose to rebel against God's authority and as a result suffered the consequences that came with the judgment of God.

The good news however, is that whilst we still live with the consequences of our own sinfulness (and humanity's as a whole) God has offered us hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What was lost at the Fall, is restored in Christ, as people repent and put their faith in him. Christians also have hope for the future: an eternal inheritance given through Christ that even goes beyond what was enjoyed by Adam and Eve in the Garden. All these big themes have their genesis in the opening chapters of the Bible, their explanation in the Gospel, and their culmination in the new creation. We trust that "Origins" will be a great help to you as you wrestle with life's biggest questions.

How to use this book

This booklet is designed to be used privately and corporately. There is one passage that will be studied each week. Before coming together with your small group, work through the questions on days 1 to 5. Each question will be based on the passage being studied. Think carefully, slowly, broadly and prayerfully, listening to God addressing you and responding to his convicting love. It won't take you more than 10 minutes to note down your thoughts. These will form the basis of your corporate Bible Study.

When you come together, share what God has been teaching you, using the 5 questions as a foundation from which to work. Discuss what you have all seen in the passage. Then ask yourselves:

What have I learned about Jesus and God?
What have I learned to cause shame?
What have I learned about following good?
Is there a promise to claim?

Each Bible passage will teach us about God and his work, ourselves and our sin, as well as about godliness and hope. Apply and turn these things to prayer, also committing your church and one another to the Lord.

1.

In the Beginning

Genesis 1:1 - 25

The readings and study this week will reveal God as the all-powerful Creator God, whose Word cannot be resisted and who is therefore worthy of all praise.

Genesis 1:1-25

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Daily Reading



What can we know about God from these verses?



How did God create the world? Also read **John 1:1-3**.
How do you respond to the Word of God? What is he saying to us today?



What do we learn about creation from these verses?
How do you view material things? Do you live contentedly as **1 Timothy 6:6-10** urges?



Where does Jesus fit in with creation? Read **Hebrews 1:1-3**.



Do you respond to God the Creator, as in **Revelation 4:11**?

Group Study

What have I learned about Jesus and God?

What have I learned to cause shame?

What have I learned about following good?

Is there a promise to claim?

Personal Application

Corporate Prayer

2.

The Image of God

Genesis 1: 26 - 31

The readings and study this week will reveal our relational God, who has made humanity to bear and display his likeness. That image has been marred by our sin, and can only be restored by Christ, the perfect image bearer.

Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them,

"Be fruitful and increase in number;
fill the earth and subdue it.

Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air
and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said,

"I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth
and
every tree that has fruit with seed in it.

They will be yours for food.

³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and
all the creatures that move on the ground
--everything that has the breath of life in it--

I give every green plant for food."

And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.
And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.

Daily Reading



What do these verses teach you about the person of God? How does he relate to humanity?



What does it mean for humanity to be made in God's image? What does this say about our significance?



What concern does **Genesis 5:1-3** raise about the image humanity bears? Are we basically good or evil? Why?



Where is the image of God seen most perfectly? See **Colossians 1:15-16**. How is this displayed?



Are you working (with God) for the renewal of your image? See **Ephesians 4:22-24** and **Colossians 3:9-10**.

Group Study

What have I learned about Jesus and God?

What have I learned to cause shame?

What have I learned about following good?

Is there a promise to claim?

Personal Application

Corporate Prayer

3.

Rest and Blessing

Genesis 2 : 1 - 3

The readings and study this week will explain what God's purpose for creation was and how that can be regained, considering that we do not enjoy perfect rest in our sinfulness. Despite what the world offers, Jesus alone can give us the rest we long for.

Genesis 2:1-3

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. ² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Daily Reading



What was the purpose for which God created the world? What does this mean?



What was the purpose of observing a Sabbath Day according to **Exodus 20:8-11** and **Deuteronomy 5:12-15**?



How did Jesus view the Sabbath? Read the two Sabbath stories in **Mark 2:23 - 3:6**. How did others view the Sabbath?



How are we to observe the Sabbath today? Read **Matthew 11:28-30**. How do we do this? Do we still need to rest one day per week?



What promise do Christians live with, according to **Hebrews 4:4-11**? How should this shape our lives?

Group Study

What have I learned about Jesus and God?

What have I learned to cause shame?

What have I learned about following good?

Is there a promise to claim?

Personal Application

Corporate Prayer

4.

The Rule of God

Genesis 2 : 4 - 17

The readings and study this week will help you to understand the rule of God. He rules by his Word and obedience to his Word results in his blessing. However, disobedience to the Word of God will result in death. The Word of God comes to us today in the Word of the Gospel.

Genesis 2:4-17

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens-- ⁵ and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground-- ⁷ the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Daily Reading



What do we learn about humanity from v.7? How should this shape your thinking and living?



How do verses 8 and 15 challenge your view of work? Also read **Colossians 3:22-25**.



How should we understand the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?



What is the promised consequence for disobedience? Why is it so severe?



How is the promise of life for obedience, seen to be true in Jesus? How can it be true for us? Consider **Romans 5:9-21**.

Group Study

What have I learned about Jesus and God?

What have I learned to cause shame?

What have I learned about following good?

Is there a promise to claim?

Personal Application

Corporate Prayer

5.

The Marriage Relationship

Genesis 2 : 18 - 25

The readings and study this week will help you to see marriage between people as the example God has given us of what he longs for with us: personal, intimate, life long, faithful unity until the time comes when we will be in perfect union with him in the New Creation. We will also learn what characterises a truly Christian marriage.

Genesis 2:18-25

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, ' for she was taken out of man." ²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. ²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Daily Reading



What kind of being does God create for Adam as a helper?



Describe God's pattern for marriage as it is laid out at the creation.



Read **Ephesians 5:22-33**. What was the marriage at creation meant to be a picture of? What does God desire with every human being? Are you married? You should be!



How should marriage to Jesus (Ephesians 5:22-33) shape our earthly marriages? Is it shaping yours?



What are those who are married to Jesus looking forward to? Read **Revelation 19:6-9**. Are you? How are you preparing for that day?

Group Study

What have I learned about Jesus and God?

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What have I learned about following good?

Is there a promise to claim?

Personal Application

Corporate Prayer

6.

Did God really say?

Genesis 3 : 1 - 7

The readings and study this week will help you to grasp what sin is, where it originates and how it has ultimately been overcome by Jesus and his death. A clear understanding of sin is essential if we are going to live godly lives or share in the work of evangelism.

Genesis 3:1-7

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Daily Reading



Who is this serpent who challenges what God has said? Consider **Revelation 12:9**. What do we know about him from this passage?



If we have previously seen that God is the ultimate king, and that Adam and his helper Eve were over the creation, what do we notice here in this section?



How did Satan go about tempting Adam and Eve? How does he still do so today? How would you then define sin to someone?



Were Adam and Eve helpless victims? What about you?



Read **Ephesians 2:1-10**. What is God's view of all humanity? What hope then is there for humanity?

Group Study

What have I learned about Jesus and God?

What have I learned to cause shame?

What have I learned about following good?

Is there a promise to claim?

Personal Application

Corporate Prayer

7.

The Hope of the Gospel

Genesis 3 : 8 - 15

The readings and study this week will reveal God's promise of rescue in the face of humanity's sin, despite the great cost it would be to him. Ultimately Jesus came to exercise his authority over Satan and conquered him by his death and resurrection, setting all those who trust in him free from death.

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Daily Reading



What was the immediate outcome of Adam and Eve's rebellion?



How did Adam and Eve respond when God confronted them?
How do we tend to do the same?



What would be the outcome for the serpent?



How is the promise to the serpent also a promise to humanity?
How is the promise fulfilled? Read **Luke 1:30-35** and **1 John 3:8**.



How did Jesus destroy the devil's work according to **Colossians 1:13-25**? How is this (potentially) good news for us, and how should it change our lives?

Group Study

What have I learned about Jesus and God?

What have I learned to cause shame?

What have I learned about following good?

Is there a promise to claim?

Personal Application

Corporate Prayer

8.

The Wages of Sin

Genesis 3 : 16 - 24

The readings and study this week reveal the terrible consequences of sin which reach into the lives of individuals, society and creation at large. What was created 'good' has been tainted by sin and will only be completely reversed in the New Creation by Christ, for those who trusted in him.

Genesis 3:16-24

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." ¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." ²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. ²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Daily Reading



What consequences would Eve face because of her rebellion, v.16? How do we see this in life today?



What consequences would Adam face because of his rebellion, v.17-19? How do we see this in life today?



What further consequences for rebellion would mankind face as a whole?



How does God show his mercy in the face of mankind's rebellion? How did God ultimately display his mercy? Look up **Romans 3:21-26**.



What good news do we read of in **Revelation 22:1-5** concerning the New Creation which will be enjoyed by Christian people? How was this made possible?

Group Study

What have I learned about Jesus and God?

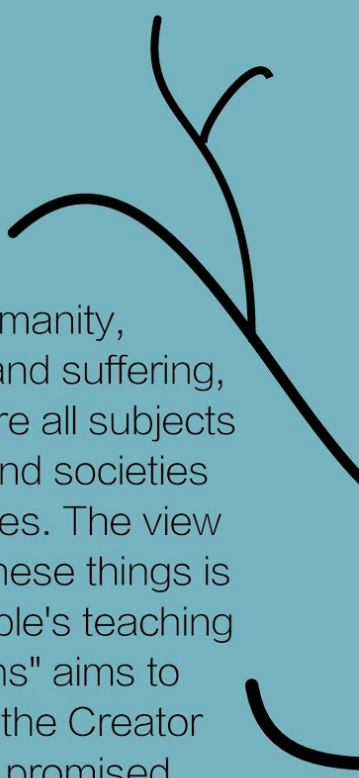
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The origin
of the earth and humanity,
good and evil, pleasure and suffering,
and the meaning of life, are all subjects
that religions, cultures and societies
have debated for centuries. The view
that Christians have on these things is
largely founded on the Bible's teaching
in Genesis 1–3. "Origins" aims to
strengthen your faith in the Creator
God; your hope in his promised
salvation and your love for
those he has made.



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