CHAPTER 1
The Beginning of Life As We Know It

GENESIS 1-4 AND 6-9

THE STORY

Introduction

Genesis is a book of beginnings. It tells us about the origin of:
• The Universe – 1:1
• Man – 1:27
• The Sabbath – 2:2-3
• Marriage – 2:24
• Sin – 3:1-7
• Sacrifice – 3:21
• The Nations – 10

This is the background for the rest of the story.

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I. The main character of the story is God.
   Genesis 1:1

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This is God’s story.

The story starts with a “big bang”.

God is the creator.

God created the universe “ex nihilo” out of nothing.

Genesis 1 doesn’t answer all of our questions.

“The faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command.”
Hebrews 11:3

THE STORY

The form of Genesis 1 is poetic:

Days 1, 2 and 3 are the places created by God.
• Day 1 – Light and Darkness
• Day 2 – Sky and Water
• Day 3 – Land

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Days 4, 5 and 6 – those places are filled.
- Day 4 – Sun, moon and stars
- Day 5 – Birds and Sea Creatures
- Day 6 – Animals and human beings
On the 7th day God rested from all his work.

II. God created people to have a relationship with him.
   Genesis 1:26-2:17

Creation is not the point of the story.
   God’s grand vision (the supreme point of the story) is to be with us.
   God created us because he wants us to share in his love and joy for eternity.
   The high point of creation is man made in the image of God with dignity and worth.

III. The story continues with man’s fall into sin.
   Genesis 3

God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden to tend it and enjoy it.
God even walked with them in the garden.
God placed two trees in the garden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
They are given a command to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or they will die.

Adam and Eve were created with the freedom and power to choose.
Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent (Satan).
Adam and Eve believed the lie. They rebelled against God and ate from the forbidden tree.
God’s vision to be with his people was ruined.
In an act of grace, God drove them out of the garden to keep them from eating from the tree of life and living in their fallen state forever.
IV. The Bible show us how deeply sin has affected the human race. Genesis 4, 6-9

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So what did God do? He chose a man named Noah, the best man he could find, to start over. The earth would be destroyed by a great flood. Noah began construction of an ark. The heavens opened up and all the springs of the great deep burst forth and flooded the earth. After the flood receded, God placed a rainbow in the sky and gave a promise that he would never again destroy the earth by a flood.

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But the flood didn’t solve man’s problem. Sin runs deep. It is still present in our world – even in the best of people. And it is present in us. How will God deal with man’s sin?

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Two hints are given in the opening chapters.

• Genesis 3:15 – The promise is given that there will come a child born of the woman who will crush Satan’s head.
• Genesis 3:21 – When God saw what Adam and Eve had done he made garments of skin to cover them. A sacrifice was made and blood was shed to cover their sin.

THE STORY

Conclusion

From the creation story we discover:

• The value of all human beings.
• God’s great desire to be with us.
• The problem and extent of man’s sin.
• And how at great cost to God, God has done everything possible to get you back.