

DISCOVER
the Bible
for YOURSELF

KAY ARTHUR



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DISCOVER THE BIBLE FOR YOURSELF

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When there was nothing, there was God. Then God spoke.

THINGS TO DO

General Instructions

Genesis falls into two segments. The first, chapters 1 through 11, covers four major events. The second segment, chapters 12 through 50, covers the lives of four major characters. The instructions on how to study this book will be divided according to these two segments.

1. As you read chapter by chapter, ask the “5 W’s and an H” about the text: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? Ask questions such as: Who is speaking? What is happening? When is it happening? Where will it happen? Why was this said or done and what were the consequences? How did it happen? How was it to be done? etc.
2. Mark in a distinctive way any repeated words or phrases that are key to understanding the content of the chapter. There are several key words you should look for throughout the book of Genesis. These are listed on the GENESIS AT A GLANCE chart. Write these on an index card and use it as a bookmark while you study Genesis.
3. The timing and location of events can be very important. Mark time phrases with a clock ⌚, and double-underline every geographical location in green.
4. In the margin of your Bible, summarize the main things that occur in the chapter. List them in the order in which they occur. You may want to number them. For example, in Genesis 1 you could summarize what happens on each of the six days of creation.
5. If you learn something significant about God or His ways, you may want to put a triangle like this \triangle in the margin and color it yellow. This will act as an indicator of an important truth you’ve learned about God.
6. Look for the theme (the main subject) of each chapter. Record it on GENESIS AT A GLANCE. Also record the theme at the beginning of each chapter in your Bible.
7. Genesis is often referred to as the book of beginnings; it is the seedbed of truth. This is because the Word of God is a progressive revelation. *Progressive revelation* means that truth is unveiled over a period of time throughout various books of the Bible. God doesn’t say everything He has to say about a particular subject at one time or in one place. Rather, He will introduce a truth and then reveal more and more about it.

Since Genesis is the book of beginnings, when you come to the “first” of anything, record it in the chapter margin in a special way or color so you can spot it easily. For example, next to Genesis 1:26-27 you could write: “First man and woman.”

8. Watch for the origins of various people groups.

Chapters 1–11

1. Genesis 1–2
 - a. Note what is created on each day. Notice when a day begins and ends.
 - b. There are a number of key repeated phrases in Genesis 1. Mark each in a distinctive color.
 - c. Chapter 2 gives a detailed explanation of the creation of mankind. Note the order of events and the man’s relationship and responsibilities to God and to the woman.

GENESIS

2. Genesis 3–5

- a. In chapter 3 list all you learn about the serpent and his tactics: how he tempts Eve, what he says. Then note what happens to Satan because he deceives Eve.
- b. Note Eve’s progression into sin. List what happens before and after she sins.
- c. Watch what happens to Adam and Eve’s relationship with God. Note the consequence of Adam’s disobedience.
- d. In chapters 3 through 5 note the consequences of sin’s entrance into the world. Genesis 3:15 is the first promise of a Redeemer. Also, in chapter 4, observe the occupations and abilities of the people.
- e. When you read chapter 5, you’ll find the chart “The Overlapping of the Patriarchs’ Lives” on page 36 very helpful.

3. Genesis 6–9

- a. As you study these chapters observe the reasons for the flood, how and when it came, who was affected and how.
- b. Watch the timing of events. Mark time phrases with a clock or record them in the margin; e.g., “Rains forty days and nights.”
- c. Mark the word *covenant* and list all you learn from the text about covenant.

4. Genesis 10–11

- a. Observe who was separated, why and how they were separated, when and where this occurred, and what happened as a result.
- b. Babylon plays an intermittently prominent role throughout the Bible, and of course its roots are in Genesis. Therefore whenever you come to any mention of Babel or Babylon you need to make a note of what you learn.

5. When you finish reading Genesis 11, look at GENESIS AT A GLANCE. Next to “Chapter Themes” you will find a place for segment divisions. Fill in the four main events covered in Genesis 1 through 11. The chapter divisions are noted on the chart.

Chapters 12–50

1. Genesis 12 through 50 covers the biographical segment of Genesis, which focuses on the lives of four main characters: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (also called Israel), and Joseph. When you read:

- a. Follow the “General Instructions” for studying each chapter (see page 33).
- b. Watch for and mark every reference to time in the life of each of the major characters (including their wives and children) in these chapters. God will often tell how old the person was when certain events occurred in his or her life.
- c. The word *covenant* is more prominent in this last segment. Mark each occurrence of this word and then list all you learn about covenant from observing the text. Read the insight about covenant on page 35.
- d. Note any insights or lessons you learned from the way these people lived. Note how and why God deals with these men, their families, and their associates, and what happens as a result.

2. Watch when the focus of a chapter moves from Abraham to Isaac, then to Jacob, and then to Joseph. Then on GENESIS AT A GLANCE, on the line where you recorded the four major events of Genesis 1 through 11, divide the chapters into segments that cover the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Look at the chapter themes to see where

the focus moves from one of these men to the other.

3. When you finish reading Genesis 50, record on GENESIS AT A GLANCE the theme of Genesis. Under Segment Divisions, record the “firsts” that you marked throughout Genesis. (There is a blank line for any other segment divisions you might want to note.)

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What have you learned about God—His character, His attributes, and the ways He moves in the lives of men and nations? Since God never changes, can you trust Him? Can you rely on what the Word of God reveals about Him even though you may not fully understand His ways?

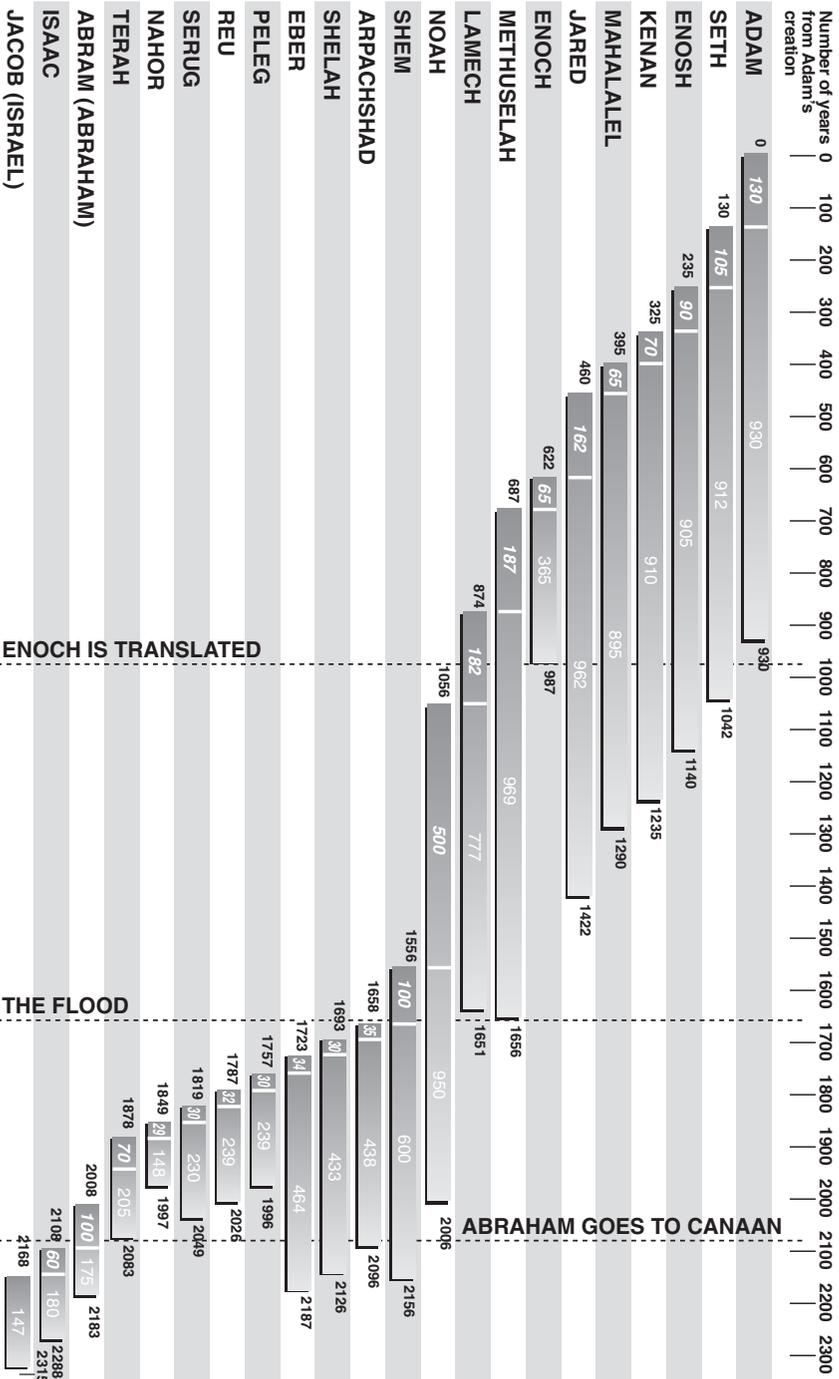
2. What can you learn from the lives of those mentioned in Genesis? Romans 15:4 says the things written in the Old Testament were written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of Scripture we might have hope. What are the blessings of obedience and the consequences of disobedience?

3. Jesus took the book of Genesis at face value and attributed its authorship to Moses. As you study the Gospels, you will see that Jesus referred to the creation of Adam and Eve, to the flood, and to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. He even referred to Satan as a murderer from the beginning. Jesus never contradicted the teachings of Genesis; He only affirmed them. Are you going to take God’s Word at face value and believe as Jesus did, or are you going to listen to the philosophies of men? Are you going to follow men with finite minds who critique God and His Word, or are you going to accept the Bible as the Word of God and then think and live accordingly?



Beriyth, the Hebrew word for covenant, is a solemn binding agreement made by passing through pieces of flesh. The Greek word for covenant, **diatheke**, means a testament or an agreement. The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments—or covenants. Everything God does is based on covenant. For example, see Exodus 2:23-24; 32:9-14; Jeremiah 34:12-21.

THE OVERLAPPING OF THE PATRIARCHS' LIVES



KEY: The first number inside the block is the man's age when his son (whose name is in the next line below) was born. The second number in the block is the number of years the man lived. The numbers preceding and following each block are the number of years from Adam's creation.

GENESIS AT A GLANCE

Theme of Genesis:

		SEGMENT DIVISIONS				CHAPTER THEMES
Author:	THE FIRSTS	4 MAIN EVENTS / 4 CHARACTERS	TIME SPANS			
Moses (Luke 24:27)						
Date:	MAN	BEGINNINGS OF MAN		APPROXIMATELY 2080 YEARS	1	
	MARRIAGE				2	
Purpose:					3	
					4	
					5	
					6	
					7	
					8	
					9	
					10	
					11	
Key Words: <i>(include synonyms)</i> God said (or commanded) the generations of (now these are the generations of . . .) covenant (oath) altar land (when it refers to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) circumcised Abram (or Abraham) bless (blessed, blessing) sin (do evil, act wicked) dream died		BEGINNINGS OF ISRAEL (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)		APPROXIMATELY 300 YEARS (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)	12	
					13	
					14	
					15	
					16	
					17	
					18	
					19	
					20	
					21	
					22	
					23	
					24	
					25	

GENESIS AT A GLANCE

SEGMENT DIVISIONS

	THE FIRSTS		4 CHARACTERS	TIME SPANS	CHAPTER THEMES
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					32
					33
					34
					35
					36
					37
					38
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