

Genesis: The Unfolding Story of God's Grace

The Book of Genesis

Time to take one last look at Genesis, where we've been, and what it all means. From the dawn of creation, our journey has brought us to the banks of the Nile; Jacob's children and their families are in a foreign land, but God is enacting His plan to rescue the world.

Genesis 1-11: Creation, Rebellion, and Redemption

The formless and void earth becomes a place of beauty and life. The Fall brings sin, and it spreads. God sends the flood; Noah is a new beginning. The Babel rebellion leads to the creation of nations. God singles out the line of Terah, and we are introduced to Abram.

Genesis 12-25: God's Promise and the Journey of Faith

God calls Abram to leave home, and go to a land he does not know. He will make him a great nation, and through him bless all families on earth. Abram becomes Abraham, believes God, learns to trust God completely, and becomes the foundation for future blessing.

Genesis 25-36: Deception and Destiny – Abraham's Descendants

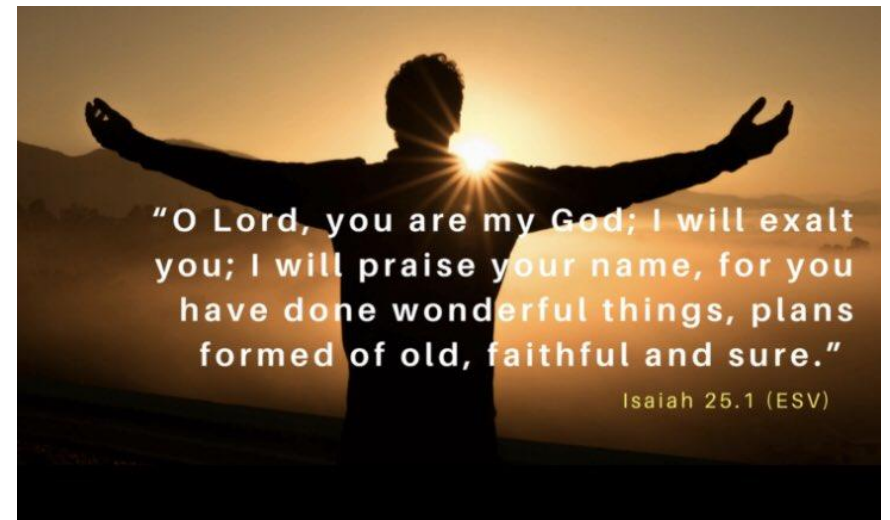
God is faithful to His promise to make Abraham a great nation, but his heirs constantly fail. Despite deceit, arrogance, and violence, God nurtures the fledgling faith of Isaac and Jacob, and in the end Jacob and his 12 sons are poised to thrive in the Promised Land.

Genesis 37-50: Joseph – Godly Character Under Fire

When Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt, the future of the children of Israel seems lost, but God means it for good. Joseph saves the world from famine, and God's plan to redeem mankind is on course, as the embryonic nation grows in 'the womb' of Egypt.

The story of Genesis 'develops' like a Polaroid, revealing the love and grace of God, whose unfailing faithfulness and commitment to the redemption of fallen mankind overcomes every stumble in the lives of His chosen people. His eyes, we might say, are fixed on the goal of saving humanity from the inevitable results of sin – death, both physical and spiritual. Along the way, the sin-stained chosen people learn to 'walk by faith,' and as they do, discover a meaning and purpose in life nothing else can provide.

Take some time to think about your own journey of faith, and how God has lovingly 'pursued your heart.' Reflect on the 'genesis' of your relationship with your Creator God, and how His faithfulness has carried you through the 'stumbles' in your life. Then pause to thank Him for all He has done, and all He will do, in your life.



The Journey of Faith