



Genesis

Old Testament

β 1st book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 4.93% of the verses in the Bible

β Moses is thought to have written it.

This book tells us about Creation (only a simple outline is given) and then how mankind chose to follow their own ways rather than God's. The consequences of this rebellion are described, as is the coming redemption. It is God who is right at the beginning of what is happening and remains there interacting with His people who He loves. His Covenants are at the centre of what is going on. He is not at the margins, but foundational to all that is good in life.

There are some fantastic insights into our attitudes and how they haven't changed for thousands of years: greed, lust, jealousy and unforgiveness; but also hope, love, mercy, justice, grace and faith-

Facts: *Barēšīt* is the Hebrew name for this book: "in the beginning." We call it Genesis from a Greek word meaning 'origin' or 'birth.' Chapters 1-11 contain the really early history, with 12-50 describing the Patriarchal Age (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob).

fulness. Over half of the people listed in Hebrews 11 (the New Testament's Roll of the Faithful) are from Genesis. God uses ordinary people to accomplish His purposes. Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Rachel and Joseph are all good examples of this and they feature heavily here.

God creates surprises: He regularly uses the second-born son and He shows His care to barren women. How unlikely that He would use weak and vulnerable people. He still does!

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.