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**Compassion**

He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

*Isaiah 40:11*

A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

*Isaiah 42:3*

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

*Matthew 14:14*

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

*Hebrews 4:15*

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

*Colossians 3:12*

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**Fruitfulness**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

*Galatians 5:22-23*

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.

*Proverbs 11:30*

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers

*Psalm 1:1-3*

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

*John 15:5*
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Genesis 1:17

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<td>2</td>
<td>And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds,” and it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of the whole earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.</td>
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1 Or fish
2 Or birds
3 Or plants
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told them, ‘You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’

When Jesus heard this, he said to them, ‘Whoever was born of water and the Spirit is born of the water and the Spirit. The wind blows where it wills, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so it is with everyone who does the will of God.’

18 For it is not delivered to the sons of man to know what the Father has prepared for the sons of God, but what things God has prepared for those who love him, who are called of God.

19 With this John kept on baptizing in Aenon near Salibam, because water was plentiful there. So people went there to be baptized.

20 For John had not yet been cast into prison.

21 There was a discussion among some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purifying.

22 And they came up to John and said to him, ‘Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—that is he of whom they are now purifying themselves.’ John answered them, ‘A man cannot receive anything if it is not given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, “I am not the Christ, but I have come to do whatever God requires me to do.” He who receives me receives him who sent me, for he who receives me receives him who sent me. When the Son of Man is lifted up, then will you know that I am in fact the One who is speaking to you—God, the true God, and the One who gives eternal life. This man has been the one to whom I said, ‘He whom you receive, receive you.’”

24 The Jews answered him, “Then why do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but one who is coming after me, the straps of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

25 These things were spoken at Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

26 Then again he said, “I am not the Christ. I have been sent before the Christ.”

27 The Baptist answered, “The one who comes after me is mightier than I; I am not worthy to untie the latchet of his sandals.”

28 John said, “I have seen the Spirit descend from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself have not seen it, but he who has seen told me.”

29 This was the one of whom Jesus said, “A man cannot receive anything if it is not given to him from heaven.”

30 This is the one who was spoken of by the prophet Esaias when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

31 Of John the Baptist.

32 John’s clothes were of camel’s hair and his tunic was goatskin. He ate locusts and wild honey. And his message was, “One is coming after me who is mightier than I; I am not worthy to untie the latchet of his sandals. I have seen the Spirit descend from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I myself have not seen it, but he who has seen told me.”

33 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region of the Jordan, and he baptized them. John clothed in camel’s hair and with a leather girdle around his waist.

34 People went out to him and said to him, “John, the one who was with you across the Jordan, the one to whom you bore witness—this is he.”

35 John answered, “I baptize with water; but one who is coming after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

36 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

37 Then Jesus came to John and said to him, “John, you who have the baptisms of repentance, shall I speak to you of repentance? And John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw the Galileans slain at the feast of Passover, and they were men who were not honest. Why did you baptize them?”

38 Jesus answered him, “I do not know whether or not they have repented, because I have come to baptize not to repent but to bring to repentance.”

39 Then some of the Pharisees came to John to the Jordan to be baptized by him.

40 John asked them, “What do you seek? Do not come for a time to judgment.”

41 They said to him, “We want to be doing something for our children. What do we have to do?”

42 He answered them, “And what have you, then? To eschew the filthy garments of your louses, and to be led forth to drink living water.”

43 John answered them, “Whoever has two coats must share with him who has none; and whoever has food, must do likewise.”

44 Then tax collectors came to him to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what must we do?”

45 And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”

46 And soldiers asked him, “And we, what must we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or malice, and do not accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages.”

47 And as Jesus taught again by the Jordan, he saw a Pharisee named Nicodemus coming to him, and he said to him, “Nicodemus, how long have I known you?”

48 Nicodemus answered him, “Teacher, we know that you have come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

49 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

50 Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher come from God, and you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

51 So they said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can one enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

52 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

53 So they said to him, “How can this be?”

54 Jesus answered them, “Are you a teacher come from God, and you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I draw all to me. And whoever is drawn by me I give to the Father; and he will raise him up at the last day.”

55 For my Father’s will is that everyone who loves me, and obeys his will, may know how I love the Father, and that I have come to do what is his will.

56 He who loves me, will keep his word. And my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

57 Proverbs 6:25: “Do not offer your heart to any woman or give yourself to anything that attracts desire.”

58 Proverbs 23:27: “Do not give your heart to any woman, or your soul to the beauty of a young woman.”

59 Therefore, if a man should be afraid of a woman or of a thing, he should be afraid of sexually affairs.

60 Therefore, if a man should be afraid of a woman or of a thing, he should be afraid of sexually affairs.

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For God so loved the world—that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16-17

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

4 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although John himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 5 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee, because he had heard that the people were assembling to him. 6 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 7 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. 8 A woman from Samaria came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 9 For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 10 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" 11 For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. 12 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 13 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 14 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 15 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 16 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 17 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." 18 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 19 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." 20 Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband;' for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 21 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 22 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that 'in Jerusalem' is the place where people ought to worship." 23 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 24 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know; for salvation is from the Jews. 25 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 26 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 27 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 28 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." 29 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" 30 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 31 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 32 They went out of the town and came to him. Mark 15:1-10

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INTRODUCTION

Author, Date, and Recipients

Traditionally, Moses is considered to have been the author of Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch (see Num. 33:2; Deut. 31:24; John 5:46). Of course, Moses lived much later than the events of Genesis. Presumably, stories were passed down about those earlier events, and Moses brought them all together. The first audience would have been the Israelites Moses led through the wilderness. For readers today, Genesis is an essential introduction to the rest of the Bible. It is rightly called the book of beginnings.

Theme

The theme of Genesis is creation, sin, and re-creation. God made the world very good, but first cursed it and then destroyed it in the flood because of man’s disobedience. The new world after the flood was also spoiled by human sin (ch. 11). God chose Abraham for a special purpose. Through his family, all nations would be blessed (12:1–3). God’s purpose will eventually be fulfilled through Abraham’s descendants (ch. 40).

Key Themes

1. The Lord God commissions human beings to be his representatives on earth. They are to take care of the earth and govern the other creatures (1:1–2:25).
2. Instead of acting as God’s representatives on earth, the first man and woman—Adam and Eve—listen to the serpent and follow his advice. Their disobedience has devastating results for all mankind and for the entire created world (3:1–24; 6:5–6).
3. God graciously announces that Eve’s offspring will free humanity from the serpent’s control (3:15). Genesis then begins tracing the history of one family that will become the people of Israel. This family has a special relationship with God and will become a source of blessing to fallen humanity (12:1–3).
4. As a result of Adam’s disobedience, his unique relationship with the ground degenerates, resulting in hard work and later in flood and famine. But the special family descending from Adam also brings relief from the difficulties (3:17–19; 5:29; 50:20–21).
5. While Eve’s punishment centers on pain in bearing children (3:16), women play an essential role in continuing the unique family line. With God’s help, even barrenness is overcome (11:29; 21:1–7; 20:21; 81:1–10).
7. The wicked are exiled from Eden and scattered throughout the earth (3:24; 6:12–16; 11:9), but God is kind to his chosen people and promises them a land of their own (12:2; 7; 15:7–21; 28:13–14; 50:24).
8. God is prepared to destroy almost the entire human race because of its corruption (6:7, 11–12; 18:17–33), but he still wants his world to be populated by righteous people (1:28; 9:1; 15:1–9; 35:11).

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