

# GENESIS

## THE CREATION

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.<sup>A</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

### DEEPER WATERS

**GOD** Yahweh, Christ. Creator and Lord of the universe. Redeemer of His people; author and central theme of the Scriptures. Genesis 1: 1

**GENESIS** Origin, beginning, source, roots.

Genesis 1:1; 2:4 **DARKNESS** Shadows, night. Misery, destruction, death. Genesis 1:2

<sup>6</sup> Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." <sup>7</sup> So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the expanse "sky."<sup>B</sup> Evening came and then morning: the second day.

<sup>9</sup> Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> Evening came and then morning: the third day.

<sup>14</sup> Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons<sup>C</sup> and for days and years. <sup>15</sup> They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night — as well as the stars. <sup>17</sup> God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, "Let the water swarm with<sup>D</sup> living creatures, and let birds fly

<sup>A</sup>1:1 Or *created the universe* <sup>B</sup>1:8 Or "heavens." <sup>C</sup>1:14 Or *for the appointed times* <sup>D</sup>1:20 Lit *with swarms of*



**1:1,2. Apologetics.** Rosicrucianism. *Is God the sum total of seven gods?* From the beginning, we see the plurality of God. In this case the Father and the Holy Spirit are working together. *See also Col 1:16 (p. 1332).*



**1:1,2. Apologetics.** Jehovah's Witnesses; Hare Krishna; Unification Church. *Is not God a triune God?* From the beginning of time, we see the plurality of God. In this case the Father and the Holy Spirit are working together. *See also Col 1:16 (p. 1332).*



**1:1,31. Evangelism.** How to evangelize. *Atheists.* Denying God's existence implies that the world came from nothing, but there is no evidence to support this theory. In nature, something never comes from nothing. How could millions of galaxies, stars and tons of matter in the universe be self-generated? The Bible states that they are God's creation. *See also Ec 3:10 (p. 726).*



**1:3. Apologetics.** Archaeology. *Is the Bible scientifically accurate?* Every time science has questioned the Bible, the Word of God has prevailed. Someday science will also admit that the universe is impossible without God. He is our Creator. Chain begins at Is 40:22 (p. 784).

above the earth across the expanse of the sky.”<sup>21</sup> So God created the large sea-creatures<sup>A</sup> and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.<sup>22</sup> God blessed them: “Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”<sup>23</sup> Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.


<sup>24</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.<sup>25</sup> So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on


the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.


<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man<sup>B</sup> in<sup>C</sup> our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth,<sup>D</sup> and the creatures that crawl<sup>E</sup> on the earth.”


<sup>27</sup> So God created man  
in his own image;  
he created him in<sup>F</sup> the image of God;  
he created them male and female.


<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls<sup>G</sup> on the earth.”<sup>29</sup> God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you,<sup>30</sup> for all the


 **1:24. Apologetics.** Scientology. *Did mankind evolve from light?* In Creation, the divine mandate is that each species multiply “according to their kinds.” This is a direct contradiction of evolution, which claims that one species creates another one. *See also Gn 5:3 (p. 7).* Chain begins at Is 42:5 (p. 786).


 **1:24. Apologetics.** Atheism. *Are humans a product of evolution?* In Creation, the divine mandate is that each species multiply “according to their kinds.” This is a direct contradiction of evolution, which claims that one species creates another one. *See also Gn 5:3 (p. 7).* Chain begins at Is 42:5 (p. 786).


 **1:24. Apologetics.** Rajneesh movement. *Did humans evolve from apes?* In Creation, the divine mandate is that each species multiply “according to their kinds.” This is a direct contradiction of evolution, which claims that one species creates another one. *See also Gn 5:3 (p. 7).* Chain begins at Is 42:5 (p. 786).


 **1:26. Apologetics.** Christian Science. *Since man was created in the image and likeness of God, is it spiritually possible for man to achieve whatever is possible for the Lord?* We are similar to God in nature but not in power, just as our image in the mirror reflects our appearance but not our substance. *See also Jb 37:23 (p. 566).*


 **1:26. Apologetics.** Gnosticism; Rosicrucianism. *Are we all, in part, God?* We are similar to God in nature but not in power, just as our image in the mirror reflects our appearance but not our substance. *See also Jb 37:23 (p. 566).*


 **1:26,27. Apologetics.** Buddhism; Zen Buddhism; Spiritism; New Age; Gnosticism; Hinduism; Hare Krishna; Rosicrucianism; Rajneesh movement. *Reincarnation.* Man is God’s creation, and was not eternally present as a spirit. *See also Ps 139:13 (p. 670).*


 **1:26,27. Christian Doctrine.** Human beings. *Image of God.* In all Creation, only humans were made “in the image of God.” We were made similar to God and to represent him. Our similarity to God is spiritual, emotional and intellectual, not physical. *See also Ec 7:29 (p. 729).*

 **1:27. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Suicide. *God values our life highly.* He considers us very valuable as His creation, because He made us in His image. *See also 1Pt 1:18,19 (p. 1379).* Chain begins at Jr 31:3 (p. 859).

 **1:27. Counseling.** Family. Abortion. *Life in the womb.* God wanted to share the imprint of His image with every child. *See also Ac 17:26 (p. 1232).*

 **1:27,28. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Homosexuality. *Are homosexuals born or made?* The commandment in this passage can only be fulfilled through a heterosexual relationship. Man and woman complement each other to procreate as God commanded. *See also Gn 1:31 (p. 3).* Chain begins at Gn 2:18 (p. 4).

 **1:27,28. Apologetics.** Satanism. *Are human beings like any other animal?* Unlike the rest of creation, God made man in His image. He distinguished man by making him different and superior. Chain begins at 2Pt 2:12 (p. 1387).

 **1:28. Counseling.** Family. Marriage. *Its origin.* Disrespecting marriage or considering it an old fashioned relationship is ignoring God’s commandment and limiting His blessing. The family is God’s plan for humanity. *See also Mk 10:8,9 (p. 1104).* Chain begins at Gn 2:7,18 (p. 3).

wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given<sup>h</sup> every green plant for food.” And it was so.<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

**2** So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.<sup>2</sup> On the seventh<sup>l</sup> day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested<sup>j</sup> on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.<sup>3</sup> God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.<sup>k</sup>

### DEEPER WATERS

**CREATION** Universe. Formation, production.  
Genesis 2:3

### MAN AND WOMAN IN THE GARDEN


<sup>4</sup> These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time<sup>l</sup> that the LORD God made the


earth and the heavens,<sup>5</sup> no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land,<sup>m</sup> and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.<sup>6</sup> But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground.<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.


<sup>8</sup> The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.<sup>9</sup> The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.


<sup>10</sup> A river went<sup>n</sup> out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers.<sup>o</sup> <sup>11</sup> The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah,<sup>p</sup> where there is gold.<sup>12</sup> Gold from that land is pure;<sup>o</sup> bdellium<sup>r</sup> and onyx<sup>s</sup> are also there.<sup>13</sup> The name of the second river is


<sup>a</sup>1:21 Or *created sea monsters* <sup>b</sup>1:26 Or *human beings*; Hb *'adam*, also in v. 27 <sup>c</sup>1:26 Or *as* <sup>d</sup>1:26 Syr reads *sky, and over every animal of the land* <sup>e</sup>1:26 Or *scurry* <sup>f</sup>1:27 Or *man as his own image; he created him as* <sup>g</sup>1:28 Or *and all scurrying animals* <sup>h</sup>1:30 *I have given* added for clarity <sup>i</sup>2:2 Sam, LXX, Syr read *sixth* <sup>j</sup>2:2 Or *ceased*, also in v. 3 <sup>k</sup>2:3 Lit *work that God created to make* <sup>l</sup>2:4 Lit *creation on the day* <sup>m</sup>2:5 Or *earth* <sup>n</sup>2:10 Or *goes* <sup>o</sup>2:10 Lit *became four heads* <sup>p</sup>2:11 Or *of the Havilah* <sup>q</sup>2:12 Lit *good* <sup>r</sup>2:12 A yellowish, transparent gum resin <sup>s</sup>2:12 Identity of this precious stone uncertain

 **1:31. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Homosexuality. *Are homosexuals born or made? We must not insist on changing what God has already declared is good, that is, heterosexual marriage. See also 1Co 10:23 (p. 128o).* Chain begins at Gn 2:18 (p. 4).

 **2:1-3. Apologetics.** Atheism. *Was the universe created by accident and did it develop by chance?* The theory of evolution suggests that the universe began with an explosion: the Big Bang. However, it does not explain the origin of matter. So, what exploded? How can it be scientifically stated that “nothing” exploded but millions of galaxies and all the mass of the universe came from it? There is no scientific explanation for the origin of the universe, since its origin does not come from natural processes. God created it all from nothing. *See also Ps 104:24,25 (p. 646).*

 **2:4. Apologetics.** Atheism. *Is it true that God does not exist?* In the 1920s, Hubble, the scientist, discovered that the universe is expanding. For this to be true, there must be a beginning, a moment when the expansion began. Some scientists developed the Big Bang theory, which affirms that everything developed from a single explosion. However, they do not explain how or when the original matter appeared. Something eternal must have given a beginning to what is finite. The scientist answers, “I don’t know.” The Bible states that the eternal God created it all. *See also Pr 16:4 (p. 701).*

 **2:7,18. Counseling.** Family. Marriage. *Its origin.* God provided for the man and woman’s need for fellowship for the joy of both. *See also Gn 1:28 (p. 2).*

 **2:8,9. Apologetics.** Unification Church. *Was Adam and Eve’s sin sexual in nature? Did Eve have sexual intercourse with Lucifer?* Genesis is a historic book. God planted a tree in Eden and called it the tree of “the knowledge of good and evil.” Though we might argue that the name is symbolic, it is clear that it was a tree. *See also Gn 2:16,17 (p. 4).*

Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush.<sup>14</sup> The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden,<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him."<sup>19</sup> The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.<sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man<sup>a</sup> no helper was found corresponding to him.<sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place.<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from

the man into a woman and brought her to the man.<sup>23</sup> And the man said:

This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man.


<sup>24</sup>This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.<sup>25</sup> Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.


**THE TEMPTATION AND THE FALL**


**3** Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'"


<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden.<sup>3</sup> But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"


<sup>4</sup>"No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman.<sup>5</sup> "In fact, God knows that when<sup>b</sup> you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God,<sup>c</sup> knowing good and evil."<sup>6</sup> The woman saw that the tree


 **2:16,17. Apologetics.** Mormonism. *Was Adam's sin part of God's plan and did it benefit humanity?* God gave Adam free will, the ability to choose between good and evil. However, God warned him that the consequence of disobedience would be certain death. *See also Gn 3:10 (p. 5).*


 **2:16,17. Apologetics.** Unification Church. *Was Adam and Eve's sin sexual in nature? Did Eve have sexual intercourse with Lucifer?* God allowed man to eat from all trees except from one. This tree provided a way for Adam and Eve to glorify God through obedience. *See also Gn 3:6 (p. 4).* Chain begins at Gn 2:8,9 (p. 3).


 **2:18. Counseling.** Family. Authority. *Of the husband.* The husband needs a partner who can support him, as he needs it. As head of the home, he must validate his wife's ideas and her ability to help him. *See also Mt 18:19 (p. 1072).* Chain begins at 1Co 11:3 (p. 1281).

 **2:18. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Homosexuality. *Are homosexuals born or made?* By creating the opposite sex, God provided for the human need for fellowship. *See also Gn 2:24 (p. 4).*

 **2:24. Apologetics.** Mormonism. *Is marriage eternal and necessary for greater sanctification?* The marriage covenant is in effect while we are in this world. *See also 1Co 7:8,9 (p. 1276).*

 **2:24. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Homosexuality. *Are homosexuals born or made?* The union of man and woman is the only covenant of marital love and sexual relationship designed by God. *See also Gn 1:27,28 (p. 2).* Chain begins at Gn 2:18 (p. 4).

 **3:1-24. Christian Doctrine.** Sin. *The fall of man.* Adam and Eve's disobedience interrupted the harmony of the Garden of Eden. The devil, disguised as a serpent, tempted the woman and caused her to sin. She, in turn, led her husband to sin. God cursed the serpent and then proceeded to cover Adam and Eve after punishing them. He is the only one who can cover our sins. *See also Rm 5:12-21 (p. 1254).*

 **3:6. Apologetics.** Unification Church. *Was Adam and Eve's sin sexual in nature? Did Eve have sexual intercourse with Lucifer?* The woman literally ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Viewing this as an allegory of a sexual act is completely ignoring the first three chapters of the Bible to distort the passage. Eve ate, but her sin was disobedience. *See also Gn 3:7 (p. 5).* Chain begins at Gn 2:8,9 (p. 3).

was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

#### SIN'S CONSEQUENCES

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze,<sup>ⓐ</sup> and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard you<sup>ⓔ</sup> in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

<sup>11</sup> Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup> The man replied, "The woman you gave to be with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate."

<sup>13</sup> So the LORD God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?"

And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life.


<sup>15</sup> I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.


<sup>16</sup> He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you.


<sup>17</sup> And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it':


The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor<sup>ⓕ</sup> all the days of your life.


<sup>ⓐ</sup>2:20 Or for Adam <sup>ⓑ</sup>3:5 Lit on the day <sup>ⓒ</sup>3:5 Or gods, or divine beings <sup>ⓓ</sup>3:8 Lit at the wind of the day <sup>ⓔ</sup>3:10 Lit the sound of you <sup>ⓕ</sup>3:17 Lit it through pain


 **3:7. Apologetics.** Unification Church. *Was Adam and Eve's sin sexual in nature? Did Eve have sexual intercourse with Lucifer?* The fact that Adam and Eve made coverings for themselves proves their ignorance and the immediate effect of sin. Instead of coming to God, they tried to hide their shame. Nobody can hide from God and only Jesus removes our shame. Chain begins at Gn 2:8,9 (p. 3).

 **3:8. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Concerning sin. *Nature and origin of sin.* Adam and Eve were aware of their disobedience to God. Their guilt led them to hide. *See also 2Sm 24:10 (p. 349).* Chain begins at Rm 3:10 (p. 1251).

 **3:10. Apologetics.** Mormonism. *Was Adam's sin part of God's plan and did it benefit humanity?* After doing wrong, we see the negative effects of sin: Adam was afraid of God. *See also Gn 3:17 (p. 5).* Chain begins at Gn 2:16,17 (p. 4).

 **3:10. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Fear. *Of consequences.* We wrongly try to hide from God's presence to cover our faults. *See also 1Jn 4:17,18 (p. 1394).* Chain begins at Pr 28:1 (p. 717).

 **3:11-15. Apologetics.** Atheism. *Is the Bible just another book?* No other book is like the Bible. Though it was written by over 40 authors, over a span of 1500 years, on three continents and in three languages, it has perfect continuity from beginning to end. It develops the fall of man and the promise of the Messiah from cover to cover and reaches a climax in Revelation, with the glorious return of Jesus and the return of creation to the perfection of Eden. *See also Jr 36:28 (p. 868).*

 **3:17. Apologetics.** Mormonism. *Was Adam's sin part of God's plan and did it benefit humanity?* God chastised and punished Adam and cursed the whole earth because of man's sin. Nothing good came of the fall. Chain begins at Gn 2:16,17 (p. 4).



<sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.  
<sup>19</sup> You will eat bread<sup>A</sup> by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it.  
 For you are dust, and you will return to dust.”

<sup>20</sup> The man named his wife Eve<sup>B</sup> because she was the mother of all the living.<sup>21</sup> The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD God said, “Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever.”<sup>23</sup> So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.<sup>24</sup> He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

#### CAIN MURDERS ABEL

**4** The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, “I have had a male child with the LORD’s help.”<sup>C</sup> <sup>2</sup> She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground.<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain presented some of the land’s produce as an offering to the LORD.<sup>4</sup> And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,<sup>5</sup> but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.<sup>D</sup>

#### DEEPER WATERS

**CHERUBIM** Category of angels with wings, whose primary role is to be a guardian or a helper. Genesis 3:24 **DESPONDENT** Dejected, disheartened. Showing great discouragement or hopelessness. Genesis 4:5

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent?”<sup>E</sup> <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, won’t you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup> Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.”<sup>F</sup> And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

<sup>10</sup> Then he said, “What have you done? Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground!<sup>11</sup> So now you are cursed, alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood you have shed.<sup>6,12</sup> If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

<sup>13</sup> But Cain answered the LORD, “My punishment<sup>H</sup> is too great to bear!<sup>14</sup> Since you are banishing me today from the face of the earth, and I must hide from your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me.”

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD replied to him, “In that case,<sup>I</sup> whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.”<sup>J</sup> And he placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him.<sup>16</sup> Then Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.



**3:24. Christian Doctrine.** Angels. *Servants of God.* The angels carry out God’s specific instructions. Occasionally, they have been entrusted with guarding and protecting very holy things. *See also Lk 22:41-43 (p. 1161).*

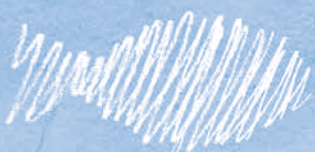


**4:3-5,8. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Envy. *Consequences.* The reason for the first murder in human history was envy. *See also 1Sm 18:7-10 (p. 305).*



**4:6,7. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Depression. *Causes.* The guilt caused by sin leads to depression. *See also Ps 32:3-6 (p. 592).* Chain begins at Rm 6:11-13 (p. 1255).

THE  
NEW TESTAMENT



# MATTHEW

## THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST

**1** An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

### FROM ABRAHAM TO DAVID

- <sup>2</sup> Abraham fathered<sup>A</sup> Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,
- <sup>3</sup> Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Aram,
- <sup>4</sup> Aram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,
- <sup>5</sup> Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse,
- <sup>6</sup> and Jesse fathered King David.

### FROM DAVID TO THE BABYLONIAN EXILE

- David fathered Solomon<sup>B</sup> by Uriah's wife,
- <sup>7</sup> Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, Abijah fathered Asa,<sup>C</sup>
  - <sup>8</sup> Asa<sup>C</sup> fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,<sup>D</sup> Joram fathered Uzziah,
  - <sup>9</sup> Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,
  - <sup>10</sup> Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon,<sup>E</sup> Amon fathered Josiah,
  - <sup>11</sup> and Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

## DEEPER WATERS

**CHRIST** Anointed. Messiah. Jesus. Matthew 1:1

### FROM THE EXILE TO THE CHRIST

- <sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel, Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,
- <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel fathered Abiud, Abiud fathered Eliakim, Eliakim fathered Azor,
- <sup>14</sup> Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, Achim fathered Eliud,
- <sup>15</sup> Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, Matthan fathered Jacob,
- <sup>16</sup> and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus who is called the Christ.

<sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations; and from David until the exile to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Christ, fourteen generations.

### THE NATIVITY OF THE CHRIST

<sup>18</sup> The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged<sup>F</sup> to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.



**1:18-23. Christian Doctrine.** Jesus Christ. *Virgin birth.* Jesus was miraculously conceived in Mary's womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. *See also Gl 4:4,5 (p. 1306).*



**1:18. Apologetics.** Mormonism. *Did Mary conceive Jesus from the god Adam?* Jesus was conceived supernaturally by the power of the Holy Spirit. Chain begins at Is 7:14 (p. 748).



**1:18. Apologetics.** Unification Church. *Was Jesus born from an adulterous relationship between Mary and Zechariah, and not born of a virgin?* Jesus was conceived supernaturally by the power of the Holy Spirit. Chain begins at Is 7:14 (p. 748).



<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> **See, the virgin will  
become pregnant  
and give birth to a son,  
and they will  
name him Immanuel,**<sup>g</sup>

which is translated "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her <sup>25</sup> but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. <sup>h</sup> And he named him Jesus.

#### WISE MEN VISIT THE KING

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Christ would be born.

<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> **And you, Bethlehem, in the land  
of Judah,  
are by no means least  
among the rulers of Judah:**

**Because out of you will come  
a ruler  
who will shepherd my people  
Israel."**<sup>j</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him."<sup>k</sup>

<sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was — the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. <sup>l</sup> Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

#### DEEPER WATERS

**MYRRH** Balm. Aromatic substance used for various purposes in the ancient Middle East: it was added as an ingredient to anointing oil, applied as perfume, and offered as a gift. Matthew 2:11

#### THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

<sup>13</sup> After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him."<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt. <sup>15</sup> He stayed there

<sup>a</sup> 1:2 In vv. 2-16 either a son, as here, or a later descendant, as in v. 8 <sup>b</sup> 1:6 Other mss add *King* <sup>c</sup> 1:7,8 Other mss read *Asaph* <sup>d</sup> 1:8 = Jehoram <sup>e</sup> 1:10 Other mss read *Amos* <sup>f</sup> 1:18 Or  *betrothed* <sup>g</sup> 1:23 Is 7:14 <sup>h</sup> 1:25 Other mss read *to her firstborn son* <sup>i</sup> 2:2 Or *to pay him homage* <sup>j</sup> 2:6 Mc 5:2 <sup>k</sup> 2:8 Or *and pay him homage* <sup>l</sup> 2:11 Or *they paid him homage*



**1:23. Apologetics.** Unification Church. *Have Mr. and Mrs. Moon achieved oneness with God? Are they the full and perfect revelation of God?* Jesus is the full revelation of the Father and is God among men. *See also Mt 23:10 (p. 1079).*

Chain begins at Jn 14:8,9 (p. 1193).

until Herod's death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: **Out of Egypt I called my Son.**<sup>A</sup>

#### THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS

<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> **A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping,<sup>B</sup> and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; and she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.**<sup>C</sup>

#### THE RETURN TO NAZARETH

<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> saying, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, because those who intended to kill the child are dead." <sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother, and entered the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> Then he went and settled in a town called Nazareth to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

#### THE HERALD OF THE CHRIST

**3** In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea<sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!"<sup>3</sup> For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said:

**A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight!**<sup>D</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Now John had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

<sup>5</sup> Then people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore produce fruit consistent with<sup>E</sup> repentance. <sup>9</sup> And don't presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with<sup>F</sup> water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove<sup>G</sup> his sandals. He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out."

#### THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all



**3:2. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Concerning sin. *Repentance.* God's Word gives us the solution to the problem of sin: repentance and faith in Jesus. *See also Ps 32:1-5 (p. 592).*



**3:8-10. Christian Doctrine.** The fruit of the Spirit. *What is it?* Jesus challenges us to show true fruit of repentance by abandoning any practice that does not please God. He also warns us about the end of those who do not leave the wrong path. Chain begins at Gl 5:22,23 (p. 1308).

righteousness." Then John allowed him to be baptized.

<sup>16</sup>When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him,<sup>h</sup> and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.<sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."

#### THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

**4** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.<sup>2</sup> After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.<sup>3</sup> Then the tempter approached him and said, "If

#### DEEPER WATERS

**DEVIL** Satan, demon, slanderer. Matthew 4:1

you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

<sup>4</sup>He answered, "It is written: **Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,<sup>6</sup> and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

**He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**"<sup>j</sup>

<sup>7</sup>Jesus told him, "It is also written: **Do not test the Lord your God.**"<sup>k</sup>

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.<sup>9</sup> And he said to him, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me."<sup>l</sup>

<sup>10</sup>Then Jesus told him, "Go away,<sup>m</sup> Satan! For it is written: **Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.**"<sup>n</sup>


<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.


#### MINISTRY IN GALILEE


<sup>12</sup>When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.<sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.<sup>14</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:


<sup>15</sup> **Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, along the road by the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.**


<sup>a</sup>2:15 Hs 11:1 <sup>b</sup>2:18 Other mss read *Ramah, lamentation, and weeping*, <sup>c</sup>2:18 Jr 31:15 <sup>d</sup>3:3 Is 40:3 <sup>e</sup>3:8 Lit fruit worthy of <sup>f</sup>3:11 Or in <sup>g</sup>3:11 Or to carry <sup>h</sup>3:16 Other mss omit for him <sup>i</sup>4:4 Dt 8:3 <sup>j</sup>4:6 Ps 91:11-12 <sup>k</sup>4:7 Dt 6:16 <sup>l</sup>4:9 Or and pay me homage <sup>m</sup>4:10 Other mss read "Get behind me" <sup>n</sup>4:10 Dt 6:13


 **3:16,17. Apologetics.** Islam; Christian Science. *Is God a triune God?* The Father spoke of the Son and the Holy Spirit was present, showing three distinct persons that coexist. *See also Ac 5:3,4 (p. 1212).* Chain begins at Jn 10:30 (p. 1186).

 **3:16,17. Christian Doctrine.** God. *The Trinity.* All three persons of the Trinity were present at the baptism of Jesus. The Father confirmed that He had sent the Son, the Son accepted His mission, and the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus and was revealed through Him. *See also 1Co 8:6a (p. 1278).* Chain begins at Ti 3:4-6 (p. 1354).

 **4:4. Christian Doctrine.** The Word of God. *Purpose.* Jesus states that His Word is spiritual food for our lives. *See also Rm 10:13-17 (p. 1261).*

 **4:4. Devotion.** Reading the Word. *Daily reading.* God's Word is spiritual food. We must feed our spirits the same way we feed our bodies. *See Dt 17:18-19a (p. 203).*

 **4:10. Apologetics.** Jehovah's Witnesses. *Is Jesus the archangel Michael?* Unlike the archangel Michael, Jesus rebuked Satan with authority. The Bible teaches that Jesus is greater than any angel. *See also Mc 5:2 (p. 1013).* Chain begins at Jd 9 (p. 1398).

 **4:10,11. Christian Doctrine.** Angels. *Servants of God.* The angels supported and encouraged Jesus while He was tempted on earth. *See also Mt 13:41 (p. 1065).* Chain begins at Gn 3:24 (p. 6).

<sup>16</sup> The people who live  
in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those living  
in the land of the shadow  
of death,  
a light has dawned.<sup>A,B</sup>

<sup>17</sup> From then on Jesus began to preach,  
“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven  
has come near.”

### THE FIRST DISCIPLES

<sup>18</sup> As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> “Follow me,” he told them, “and I will make you fish for<sup>C</sup> people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, preparing their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

### TEACHING, PREACHING, AND HEALING

<sup>23</sup> Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every<sup>D</sup> disease and sickness<sup>E</sup> among the people. <sup>24</sup> Then the news about him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And he healed them. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

**5** When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then<sup>F</sup> he began to teach them, saying:

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**DISCIPLE** Apprentice, student. Matthew 5:1

### THE BEATITUDES

- <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for the kingdom of heaven  
is theirs.  
<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the humble,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and  
thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called  
sons of God.  
<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who  
are persecuted because  
of righteousness,  
for the kingdom of heaven  
is theirs.

<sup>11</sup> “You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



**5:4. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Suicide. *Comfort for the afflicted.* Crying helps us express our pain and shows our need for comfort. God comforts those who weep. *See also 2Co 1:3,4 (p. 1291).*



**5:4. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Sexual abuse. *Comforting the victim.* God comforts those who weep. *See also Ps 119:50 (p. 659).* Chain begins at Ps 6:7-10 (p. 574).



**5:5. Christian Doctrine.** The fruit of the Spirit. *Humility.* The world promotes violence as a way to accomplish what we want, but God rewards the humble person and meets all his needs. Chain begins at Mt 11:29 (p. 1061).



**5:9. Counseling.** Personal conflicts. Anger and rage. *Conflict prevention and resolution.* Let us be agents of peace on earth. There is joy in this. Chain begins at Pr 22:24,25 (p. 711).