



## A Cheat Sheet for Thoughtful Faith, Honest Questions, and Deep Trust

### A NOTE ON GENRE (READ THIS FIRST)

Genesis and Exodus are written as Theological Narrative—a genre unfamiliar to most modern readers. These are true, inspired accounts, but they are not written as modern science textbooks or journalistic reports. They are shaped to reveal meaning, identity, and purpose, not technical detail. And yes—we love science.

Ancient Near Eastern (ANE) readers weren't asking:

- Can I measure this?
- Can I diagram it?
- Can I prove it?

They were asking:

- Who made the world?
- Why is it broken?
- What kind of God is this?
- What does it mean to be human?

Genesis is not mythology (fiction), nor is it modern science. It is theological history—real events told in a way that forms faith, character, and worldview. With that lens, here are answers to the most common questions...

### WEEK ONE - READING GENESIS 1–15

#### 1. DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE CREATION HAPPENED IN A LITERAL SEVEN DAYS?

(Genesis 1–2)

Christians have held different views for a long time. Some understand the days as literal 24-hour periods; others see them as longer ages or a literary framework describing God's creative work. What Scripture is absolutely clear about is this: God is the Creator. Creation is intentional. Humanity is made in God's image. Faithful Christians can disagree on how creation happened without compromising Biblical authority.

Key Idea... Truth + Grace: Science explores how the universe works. Faith speaks to who stands behind it and why it exists.

Cross-references: Psalm 19:1 • Hebrews 11:3 • John 1:1–3

## 2. WHY DOES GENESIS SOUND SO DIFFERENT FROM SCIENCE?

Because it's answering different questions. Genesis tells us who God is and who we are, not how to run experiments. It invites worship and trust, not technical mastery.

Key idea: The Bible isn't less true because it isn't a science textbook—it's telling a deeper kind of Truth.

## 3. HOW COULD THE SERPENT TALK?

(Genesis 3)

Genesis presents the serpent as a spiritual tempter, not a zoological curiosity. The focus isn't how it spoke, but what was said—and the deception it introduced.

The story reveals: Evil distorts truth, Temptation questions God's goodness, and Humans are invited to trust or seize control

Key principle: Genesis explains the origin of rebellion, not the mechanics of evil.

Cross-references: Revelation 12:9 • John 8:44 • Romans 5:12

## 4. WERE ADAM AND EVE REAL PEOPLE?

Yes. Scripture consistently treats them as real historical humans whose story explains the origin of sin and the need for redemption. But Genesis tells their story representatively—their failure becomes our story too.

Key truth: The Bible is less concerned with how old humanity is and more concerned with why we need grace.

## 5. WHO WERE THE NEPHILIM?

(Genesis 6)

They are mentioned briefly and without detail—on purpose. They are described as powerful figures associated with violence and corruption. Genesis refuses to glorify them. ANE (Ancient Near Eastern) lens: Ancient cultures celebrated warrior elites. Genesis critiques them.

Key principle: Human greatness without goodness grieves God.

Cross-references: Genesis 6:1–4 • Numbers 13:33 • Micah 6:8

## 6. WHY DID GOD SEND THE FLOOD?

(Genesis 6–9)

The flood is not impulsive wrath—it's God's response to systemic violence.

"The earth was filled with violence." God is described as grieved, not enraged. The flood is both Judgment and Grace (rescue). God gave people 100 years to repent.

Key truth: God takes evil seriously—and He takes restoration seriously too.

Cross-references: Genesis 6:11–13 • 1 Peter 3:20–21

## 7. WHY DID GOD CONFUSE THE LANGUAGES AT BABEL?

(Genesis 11)

Babel is about human pride and self-salvation, not language itself. Humanity sought unity without God. God scattered them to limit domination. Diversity becomes protection, not punishment.

Cross-references: Genesis 11 • Acts 2:5–11 • Revelation 7:9

## 8. IS THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT HARSH OR VENGEFUL?

No. He is the same God revealed in Jesus. Scripture consistently describes Him as:

- Slow to anger
- Serious about sin
- Deeply committed to restoration

Jesus doesn't contradict the Old Testament—He fulfills it.

Key principle: The cross is where justice and mercy meet.

Cross-references: Exodus 34:6–7 • Isaiah 53 • John 3:16–17

## 9. WHAT IS THE BIG PICTURE OF GENESIS 1–15?

Genesis answers one central question: What went wrong—and who will fix it?

- Creation → Good
- Humanity → Broken
- God → Faithful
- Promise → Coming (Genesis 12)

Everything points forward to redemption.

Cross-references: Genesis 12:1–3 • Romans 5:12–21

## 10. WHAT IS GENESIS ASKING OF US TODAY?

Not to abandon our minds—but to form our hearts. Genesis invites us to:

- Trust God's character
- Take sin seriously
- Live with humility
- Hope in Redemption

## OUR CHURCH'S POSTURE

Truth invites questions. Grace creates space for growth. Faith and science are not enemies.

This is not about having all the answers—it's about trusting the God who is faithful through every chapter

Invitation: Take time to read Genesis 1–15 again during this series. Read slowly. Read curiously. Ask honest questions. And trust that God meets seekers with both Truth and Grace.

FOR MORE IN DEPTH STUDY TRY: [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com)

**We will continue to answer your questions each week. Text them to 905-937-5610 and visit [centralcc.ca/immerse](http://centralcc.ca/immerse) as we continue to update this document each week.**