



Genesis

Saturday 8th November 2025

Teaching by Tom O'Toole

Genesis

Saturday 8th November 2025



Teaching by Tom O'Toole

What kind of book?

The Book of Genesis

Genesis is theological history....

Tremper Longman III

Genesis 1-11

Primaeval History

- Deals with origins and ultimate realities
- Lots of symbolic language
- Focusses more on meaning than mechanism

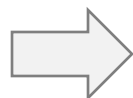
Genesis 12-50

Patriarchal History

- Focusses on specific individuals and families
- Much more grounded in time and place
- Character-driven stories

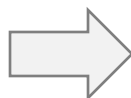
Creation

(Gen 1-2)



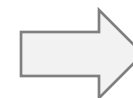
Fall

(Gen 3-11)



Abraham

(Gen 12-23)



Generations

(Gen 24-50)

Genesis

Saturday 8th November 2025



Teaching by Tom O'Toole

Creation (Genesis 1-2)

In the Garden of Eden, we see people made for relationship with God, for relationship with the created world, and for relationship with each other.

Relationship with God

Relationship with Creation

Relationship with Each Other

Genesis

Saturday 8th November 2025



Teaching by Tom O'Toole

The Fall and the Spread of Sin (Genesis 3-11)

Story	How to we see sin expressed?	What is the judgement on sin?	Where do we see God's grace?
Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-23)			
Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:8-16)			
The Flood (Genesis 6:11-17, 9:12-16)			
The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)			



Abraham and God's Promise (Genesis 12-23)

God's answer to the spread of sin in his world was to choose an obscure individual named Abram and make him some promises.

These promises are initially made in Genesis 12, and then are developed and reiterated in Genesis 15 & 17.

They include:

- A promise of many descendants – despite the old age of Abram and his wife Sarai (Gen 12:2, 15:5)
- A promise to make Abram's name great (Gen 12:2)
- A promise of land for Abram's offspring (Gen 15:7)
- A promise to bless all nations of the world through Abram (Gen 12:3)

Think It Through

God's promise to give the land to Abram's seed is often brought up in relation to current affairs in the Middle East. Is this a good way to read a text like this? How could reading it through a New Testament lens help us?

Really good seminar by Andrew Wilson to help us think about this question.



Genesis

Saturday 8th November 2025



Teaching by Tom O'Toole

Abraham and God's Promise (Genesis 12-23)

Verses	What happened?	What does it show about Abraham's trust in God's promise?
Gen 12:4-5		
Gen 12:10-13 & 20:12-15		
Gen 15:6		
Gen 16:1-3		
Gen 17:17 & 18:12		
Gen 22:1-8		



Passing Down the Promise (Genesis 24-50)

The big question in this section of Genesis is who will inherit the promise, and where is this descendant of Abraham through whom the world will be blessed?

Generation One: Ishmael and Isaac

- Though we see God caring and providing for Ishmael, it is clear that it is Isaac who will inherit the promise given to Abraham.
- We are not given much detail of Isaac's life apart from how he met his wife (Gen 24), until it comes time for him to pass the promise down to his own children.

Generation Two: Jacob and Esau

- Isaac and Rebekah had twins, and while they were in the womb it was prophesied that 'the elder would serve the younger' (Gen 26:23).
- This is exactly what happened – through lots of trickery and scheming along the way – and Jacob was the one who ended up with the blessing and birthright.

Generation Three: Joseph & Brothers

- There is tension between the brothers over the birthright.
- Joseph goes on an adventure in Egypt, and God uses his circumstances for good, even when his brothers meant them for evil.
- But ultimately it is Judah who inherits the promises.

Genesis

Saturday 8th November 2025



Teaching by Tom O'Toole

Genesis and the Rest of Scripture

Reading Genesis Today

Look for big themes - What are the patterns you see repeating? E.g. - people and God, sin and judgement, covenant and obedience. How does this particular passage develop these themes?

Read narrative as narrative - The characters are usually not meant to be moral examples. These are honest stories about what happened, not necessarily what should have happened. In these stories we can reflect on how sin distorts God's good design, but God still does not give up on his creation.

Pay attention to what God says and does - The moments where we see God directly speaking or acting are our theological anchor points to help understand the meaning of the narratives.

Keep an eye out for hyperlinks to the big story - There are lots of ideas introduced in Genesis that are picked up in the rest of Scripture. Follow these threads and see how these themes develop as the Bible goes on.

Theme	Look up the verses indicated to explore how this theme develops in the rest of the Bible
Creation (Gen 1-2)	Revelation 21-22
The Fall (Gen 3-11)	Romans 5:12-17
God's Covenant (Gen 12-23)	Galatians 3:15-29
God's Providence and Human Brokenness (Gen 24-50)	Acts 2:22-24

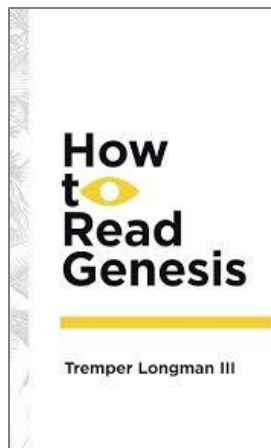
Genesis

Saturday 8th November 2025

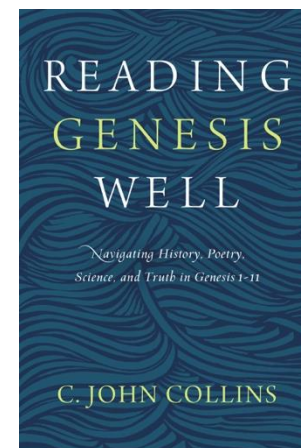


Teaching by Tom O'Toole

Recommended Resources



How to Read Genesis



Reading Genesis Well

