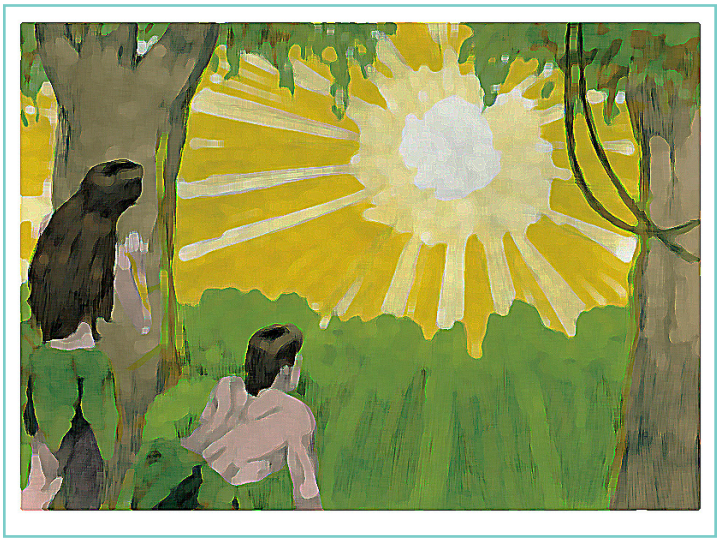
Lesson 1: Stewardship





Where in the Bible?

Genesis is the first book in the Old Testament.

Introduction

In the first chapter of the Bible, we hear how God created the heavens and the earth by the power of his Word. As the crown of his creation, God made humankind in his own image. He gave them a garden in which to live and work as his stewards.

Read: Genesis 1:26-29, 2:4-15

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Old Testament: Pentateuch



The first five books of the Bible are known as the **Pentateuch** (pronounced *PENT-ah-tewk*) — meaning "the five scrolls." These books are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

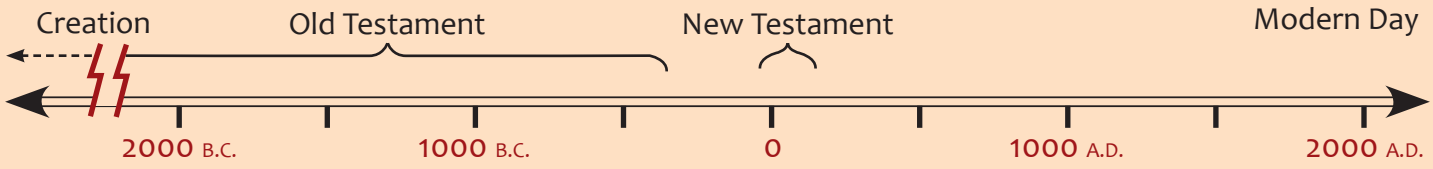
Biblical Time Period: Creation

The Bible begins with the story of creation. These chapters describe the very beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and made every living creature to be his own. The creation stories also speak of how sin entered the world in humanity's fall from grace in the Garden of Eden.

These archetypal stories illustrate God's relationship to the things he has made. We hear not only about God's work in the natural world, but also about God's relationship with us as human beings.

When in Time?

The Bible says: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).* Many people argue about exactly *when* God created all things. However, the Bible does not give us an exact date. What we do know is that, in the beginning, God alone was there, long before history was ever written and before anything else existed. The world around us reflects the imprint of God's creative hand.



[God's] invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made (Romans 1:20).

Copyright 2021 © Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com); Permission is granted to active subscribers of SEED: Sola's Electronic Education Database to download and photocopy for local use.

Discuss: Genesis 1:26-29, 2:4-15

1. On what day of creation were human beings created? What else was created that same day? What might this tell us about ourselves?

2. What was unique and different about human beings and their place in creation? In whose image were we created? What do you think that means?

3. What command did God first give to humanity (1:28)? What promise did he give them (1:29)?

4. Genesis 2:4-7 focuses on how the first human was created. What two steps did God take to accomplish this? The Hebrew word for human *('adam)* is related to the word for earth/soil *('adamah)*. What does this say about our human nature?

5. How did the first human come alive and become a living being? The Hebrew terms for wind, air, breath, and spirit are all the same word (*ru'ach)*. In what way(s) does God's Holy Spirit give us life?

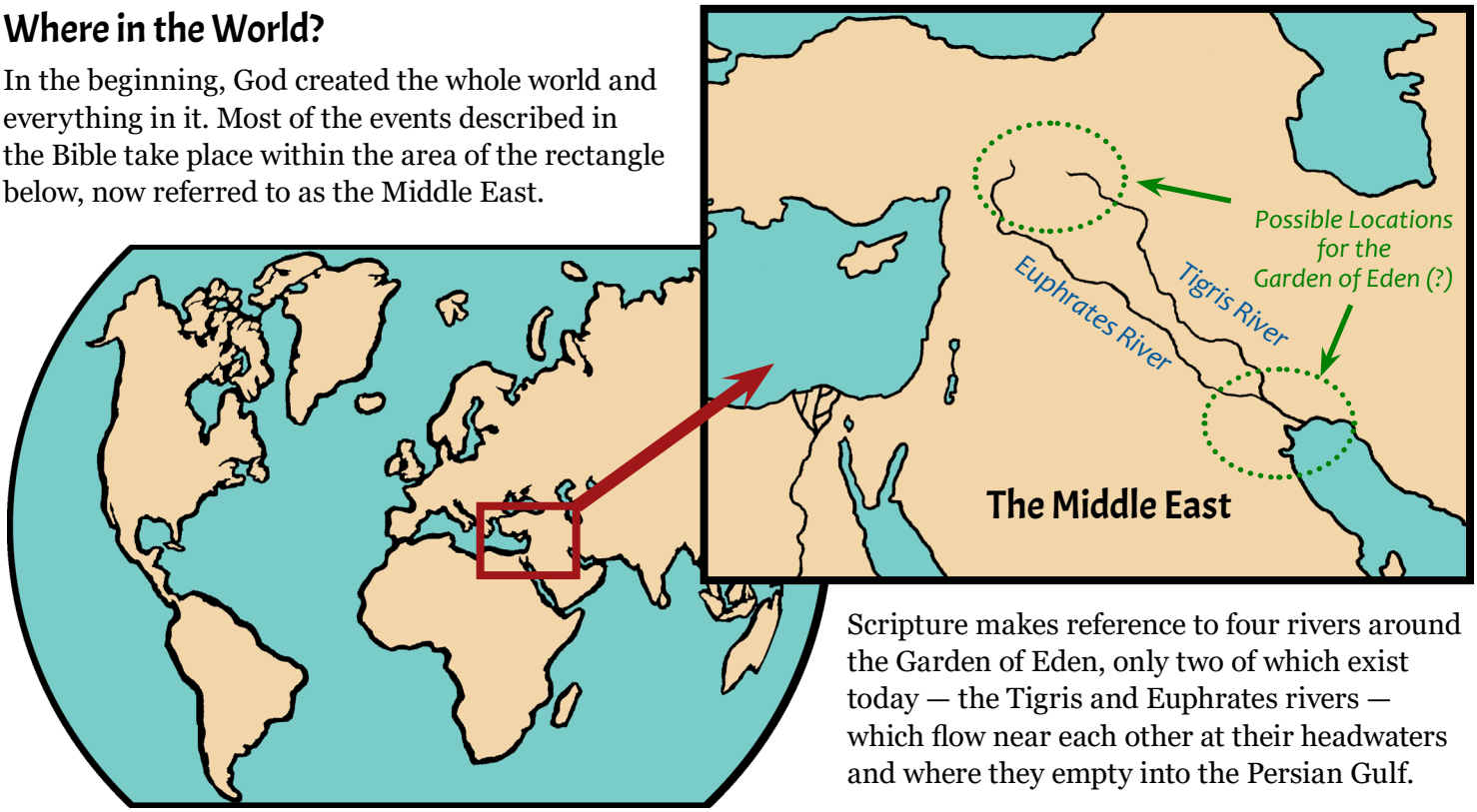
6. How does the Bible describe the Garden of Eden? What do you imagine life was like there? What job was the man given in the garden?

7. Which of the two rivers mentioned in 2:10-15 still exist on Earth today? Why do you think this general region is known as the Cradle of Civilization?

8. According to 1 Corinthians 15:38-49, what was the nature of humanity ("the old Adam")? What is our fate? How does the "last Adam" (Christ) give us eternal life? What will be different about us then?

Where in the World?

In the beginning, God created the whole world and everything in it. Most of the events described in the Bible take place within the area of the rectangle below, now referred to as the Middle East.



Scripture makes reference to four rivers around the Garden of Eden, only two of which exist today — the Tigris and Euphrates rivers — which flow near each other at their headwaters and where they empty into the Persian Gulf.

Copyright 2021 © Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com); Permission is granted to active subscribers of SEED: Sola's Electronic Education Database to download and photocopy for local use.