

# Discover the Story That Started It All

*Ron Rhodes Deciphers the Foundational Book of Genesis*

The New Year often brings to mind notable moments of the previous year and thoughts of renewal for the forthcoming year. We ponder questions that may seem fleeting but profoundly influence the direction of our lives: Why do I exist? Does my life matter? How do I know I am on the right path? To find the answers to these challenging and often life-altering decisions, it is critical to go back to the beginning—to see the origins of life and the world from the Creator’s point of view.

“You can’t make sense of our world without the book of Genesis,” says Ron Rhodes, president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries and the author of **40 Days Through Genesis**. “Genesis is so relevant because it helps us to answer three existential questions that we all face, based upon the reality that it is the book of beginnings.” And they are:

- **Who am I?** Am I a chance-accident of evolution, or was I specially designed by a Creator-God?
- **Why am I here?** Is there a purpose to my existence, and how can I discover that purpose?
- **What brings meaning to my life?** Am I to find my own meaning in life, or does that come only in relating to the One who created me?

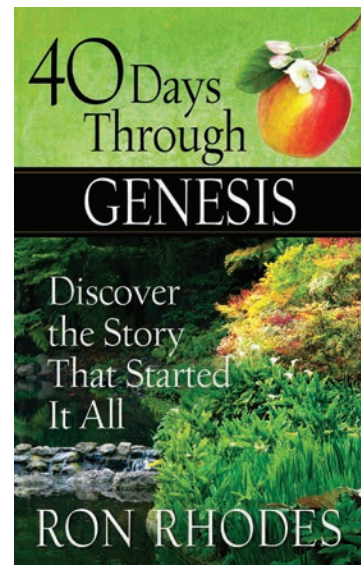
Genesis answers all these questions.

Rhodes’ new release takes readers chapter-by-chapter through the first book of the Bible, providing easy-to-understand insights, summaries of key theological themes, cross-references on interesting topics, life lessons for personal application, and discussion questions. The commentary is concise and the takeaway clear.

“My book not only helps readers understand, *What does the text of Genesis mean?*” Rhodes says. “Rather, it helps readers understand, *What does the text of Genesis mean TO ME in terms of how I live day to day as a Christian?*” In Genesis, we find the origins of humankind’s deepest issues and the institution of God’s order. The questions that continue to preoccupy newscasters and commentators have answers in Genesis, from the same-sex debate to the ethics of the death penalty and the reason evil exists.

This unique 40-day book is engineered from beginning to end to encourage and transform the lives of readers. “I don’t want this book just to touch the mind,” Rhodes asserts. “I want it to touch the heart, too.”

In addition to *40 Days Through Genesis*, Rhodes is releasing an updated and expanded version of ***The Complete Guide to Christian Denominations***. The book includes the history of various church denominations, their beliefs and teachings, and their current membership statistics—an invaluable resource for those looking for a new church or desiring to connect with other believers.



**Ron Rhodes**, president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries, is heard regularly on nationwide radio and is the author of *40 Days Through Revelation*, *Commonly Misunderstood Bible Verses*, and *The Big Book of Bible Answers*. He holds Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary and teaches there and at several other seminaries.



# Meet Ron Rhodes

**Ron Rhodes** is president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries, a teaching and resource ministry that specializes in defending Christianity against atheists, agnostics, skeptics, the cults, world religions, and any group teaching false doctrine.

Rhodes has authored more than 70 books, including *The End Times in Chronological Order*, *40 Days Through Revelation*, *Unmasking the Antichrist*, *Conversations with Jehovah's Witnesses*, *The Big Book of Bible Answers*, and *What Happens After Life?*, all from Harvest House.

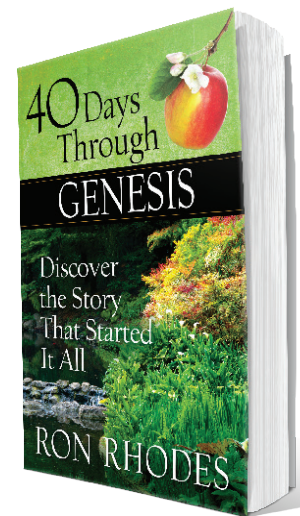
In addition to his writing, he regularly keynotes conferences across the country and, as time permits, teaches apologetics and theology courses at Veritas Evangelical Seminary (Murrieta, CA), Dallas Theological Seminary, Talbot Seminary (La Mirada, CA), as well as other well-known seminaries. A frequent media guest, Rhodes has appeared numerous times in national media—including *The 700 Club*, *Point of View*, *In the Market with Janet Parshall*, and *Midday Connection*—and has been featured in magazines such as *Christianity Today*, *Decision Today*, *Charisma* magazine, and more.

Rhodes previously served as associate editor for the *Christian Research Journal* and editor for the *Christian Research Newsletter*. He was also a “regular” on the Christian Research Institute’s popular national radio broadcast, *Bible Answer Man*. He holds a Th.M. and Th.D., both in systematic theology, from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Rhodes and his wife, Kerri, live in Texas and have two grown children.

# Interview Questions

- What makes this book different from other books on Genesis?
- How is the book of Genesis organized?
- Why 40 days? Is there some significance to that time frame?
- Do the first and second chapters of Genesis leave any room for the possibility of evolution?
- What are some things we know for sure about Noah's flood? What are some things that are left unsaid?
- What does the book of Genesis have to say about the death penalty, and does the mandate still apply today?
- What does the book of Genesis have to say about homosexuality?
- What can we learn about the afterlife from the way Abraham's death is described in Genesis?
- What are some things we can learn about the nature of parenting from Abraham and his descendants?
- In reference to the material included in this book—particularly the life lessons—you've affirmed that you want to touch hearts, and "any theology that does not touch the heart is really not good theology." Can you explain that statement?
- You suggest that a good follow-up read to this book would be your *40 Days Through Revelation*. How do the books of Genesis and Revelation relate to one another?
- Does the book of Genesis reveal anything about the end times?
- You encourage each believer to be "a Genesis kind of Christian." What does a "Genesis Christian" look like in practical terms?



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# Interview Topics for Ron Rhodes

Here are some suggested topics you might consider for an interview with Ron Rhodes:

## **The Book of Beginnings**

The name of the book suggests the subject matter: Genesis means “beginnings.” What sorts of “beginnings” are included in this first book of the Bible? In this interview, Ron Rhodes lists some of the beginnings illustrated in Genesis and describes how knowing these foundations can affect how we think and act today.

## **Inspired Bookends: Genesis to Revelation**

From *40 Days Through Genesis* to *40 Days Through Revelation*, Ron Rhodes has studied the first and last books of the Bible extensively and has provided easy-to-understand and encouraging commentary-guides for each. Since these biblical books begin and close the whole of Scripture, do they share any subject matter? In this interview, Rhodes discusses the fascinating and surprisingly numerous connections between Genesis and Revelation, focusing on what he refers to as the “grand reversal.”

## **Marriage and Sexuality According to Genesis**

The book of Genesis includes everything from the very first marriage to the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah. What can we then derive from this first book of the Bible about God’s design for marriage and sexuality? In this interview, Ron Rhodes explores the biblical view of homosexuality, polygamy, and sex within marriage, as addressed in Genesis.

## **If God, Why Evil?**

If there is a good God, then why does evil exist? A poll asked people what one question they would ask of God if they had the opportunity. By an overwhelming margin, the most urgent question was: Why is there so much suffering in the world? In this interview, Rhodes explores insights from Genesis on the problematic issue.

## **A Genesis Christian**

Genesis is often seen as simply a book of ancient stories—interesting, important to know, but not overly applicable to modern life. However, Ron Rhodes believes that Genesis, as a book detailing many noteworthy beginnings, is full of life lessons and fundamental answers to crucial questions tossed around today. In this interview, Rhodes discusses some of the most important things we can take away from reading Genesis, and what it means to be a “Genesis Christian.”