

ESV®

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

The New
**INDUCTIVE
STUDY BIBLE**

Discovering the Truth for Yourself

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WELCOME TO *THE NEW INDUCTIVE STUDY BIBLE*



Do you long to know God? Do you yearn for a deep and abiding relationship with Him? Do you want to live the Christian life faithfully—and to know what He requires of you? If so, *The New Inductive Study Bible* is designed for you.

God reveals Himself through His Word. Through it, He shows us how to live. Jesus made it clear: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). And where do we find this divine bread? In the Scriptures.

As you study this Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit, and live out the truths that God reveals to you, you will discover new stability, strength, and confidence. You will be able to say with the prophet Jeremiah: “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart” (Jeremiah 15:16).

Today, many people are convinced they cannot know truth for themselves. A babble of voices surrounds us claiming to know and interpret God’s truth for us. Which voices are right? Which are wrong? How can we discern the true from the counterfeit unless we spend time with God and His Word?

Most Christians have been encouraged to study the Word of God, yet many have never been shown how. Others even feel

inadequate to do so because they are not ministers or seminary students or scholars. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In fact, if you want to satisfy your hunger and thirst to know God and His Word in a deeper way, you must do more than merely read Scripture and study what someone else has said about it. Just as no one else can eat and digest your food for you, so no one else can feed on God’s Word for you. You must interact with the text yourself, absorbing its truths and letting God engrave His truth on your heart and mind and life.

That is the very heart of inductive study: seeing truth for yourself, discerning what it means, and applying that truth to your life. In His inspired Word, God has given us everything we need to know about life and godliness. But He doesn’t stop there. He gives every believer a resident teacher—the Holy Spirit—who guides us into His truth.

The Bible is unlike any other book. It is supernatural. It is complete in itself. The Bible needs no other books or truths to supplement it. In inductive study the Bible becomes its own commentary, and it can be understood by any believer.

Anyone who will take the time can see and understand what God has given us in His Word and how it applies to us today.

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KEY CHARTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS FOR YOUR USE

Listed below are key charts and illustrations you'll find yourself using again and again as you study your Bible inductively. As soon as you can, you'll find it extremely helpful to look up these charts and illustrations, as they will equip you to make the best use possible of *The New Inductive Study Bible*.

There are many additional charts and illustrations not listed here; you will find the complete lists in the index, on pages 2209-2214.

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The Old



TESTAMENT

When there was nothing, there was God. Then God spoke.

THINGS TO DO

General Instructions

Genesis falls into two segments. The first, chapters 1 through 11, covers four major events. The second segment, chapters 12 through 50, covers the lives of four major characters. The instructions on how to study this book will be divided according to these two segments.

1. As you read chapter by chapter, ask the “5 W’s and an H” about the text: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? Ask questions such as: Who is speaking? What is happening? When is it happening? Where will it happen? Why was this said or done and what were the consequences? How did it happen? How was it to be done? etc.
2. Mark in a distinctive way any repeated words or phrases which are key to understanding the content of the chapter. There are several key words you should look for throughout the book of Genesis. These are listed on the GENESIS AT A GLANCE chart on page 89. Write these on an index card and use it as a bookmark while you study Genesis.
3. The timing and location of events can be very important. Mark time phrases with a circle ○, and double-underline every geographical location in green.
4. In the margin of your Bible, summarize the main things that occur in the chapter. List them in the order in which they occur. You may want to number them. For example, in Genesis 1 you could summarize what happens on each of the six days of creation.
5. If you learn something significant about God or His ways, you may want to put a triangle like this △ in the margin and color it yellow. This will act as an indicator of an important truth you’ve learned about God.
6. Look for the theme (the main subject) of each chapter. Record it on GENESIS AT A GLANCE. Also record the theme at the beginning of each chapter in your Bible.
7. Genesis is often referred to as the book of beginnings; it is the seedbed of truth. This is because the Word of God is a progressive revelation. *Progressive revelation* means that truth is unveiled over a period of time throughout various books of the Bible. God doesn’t say everything He has to say about a particular subject at one time or in one place. Rather, He will introduce a truth and then reveal more and more about it. Since Genesis is the book of beginnings, when you come to the “first” of anything, record it in the chapter margin in a special way or color so you can spot it easily. For example, next to Genesis 1:26-27 you could write: “First man and woman.”
8. Watch for the origins of various people groups.

Chapters 1–11

1. Genesis 1–2
 - a. Note what is created on each day. Notice when a day begins and ends.
 - b. There are a number of key repeated phrases in Genesis 1. Mark each in a distinctive color.
 - c. Chapter 2 gives a detailed explanation of the creation of mankind. Note the order of events and the man’s relationship and responsibilities to God and to the woman.

2. Genesis 3–5

- a. In chapter 3 list all you learn about the serpent and his tactics: how he tempts Eve, what he says. Then note what happens to Satan because he deceives Eve.
- b. Note Eve’s progression into sin. List what happens before and after she sins.
- c. Watch what happens to Adam and Eve’s relationship with God. Note the consequence of Adam’s disobedience.
- d. In chapters 3 through 5 note the consequences of sin’s entrance into the world. Also, in chapter 4, observe the occupations and abilities of the people. Genesis 3:15 is the first promise of a Redeemer.
- e. When you read chapter 5, you’ll find the chart “The Overlapping of the Patriarchs’ Lives” on page 11 very helpful.

3. Genesis 6–9

- a. As you study these chapters observe the reasons for the flood, how and when it came, who was affected and how.
- b. Watch the timing of events. Mark time phrases with a circle or record them in the margin; e.g., “Rains forty days and nights.”
- c. Mark the word *covenant* and list all you learn from the text about covenant.

4. Genesis 10–11

- a. Observe who was separated, why and how they were separated, when and where this occurred, and what happened as a result. See map on page 2304.
- b. Babylon plays an intermittently prominent role throughout the Bible, and of course its roots are in Genesis. Therefore whenever you come to any mention of Babel or Babylon, note what you learn on the chart on pages 2161-2162.

5. When you finish reading Genesis 11, look at GENESIS AT A GLANCE. Next to “Chapter Themes” you will find a place for segment divisions. Fill in the four main events covered in Genesis 1 through 11. The chapter divisions are noted on the chart.

Chapters 12–50

1. Genesis 12 through 50 covers the biographical segment of Genesis, which focuses on the lives of four main characters: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (also called Israel), and Joseph. When you read:

- a. Follow the “General Instructions” for studying each chapter (see page 1).
- b. Watch for and mark every reference to time in the life of each of the major characters (including their wives and children) in these chapters. God will often tell how old the person was when certain events occurred in his or her life.
- c. The word *covenant* is more prominent in this last segment. Mark each occurrence of this word and then list all you learn about covenant from observing the text. Read the insight about covenant on page 24.
- d. Note any insights or lessons you learned from the way these people lived. Note how and why God deals with these men, their families, and their associates, and what happens as a result.

2. Watch when the focus of a chapter moves from Abraham to Isaac, then to Jacob, and then to Joseph. Then on GENESIS AT A GLANCE, on the line where you recorded the four major events of Genesis 1 through 11, divide the chapters into segments that cover the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Look at the chapter themes to see where the focus moves from one of these men to the other.

3. When you finish reading Genesis 50, record on GENESIS AT A GLANCE the theme of Genesis. Under Segment Divisions, record the “firsts” that you marked throughout Genesis. (There is a blank line for any other segment divisions you might want to note.)

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What have you learned about God—His character, His attributes, and the ways He moves in the lives of men and nations? Since God never changes, can you trust Him? Can you rely on what the Word of God reveals about Him even though you may not fully understand His ways?
2. What can you learn from the lives of those mentioned in Genesis? Romans 15:4 says the things written in the Old Testament were written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of Scripture we might have hope. What are the blessings of obedience and the consequences of disobedience?
3. Jesus took the book of Genesis at face value and attributed its authorship to Moses. As you study the Gospels, you will see that Jesus referred to the creation of Adam and Eve, to the flood, and to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. He even referred to Satan as a murderer from the beginning. Jesus never contradicted the teachings of Genesis; He only affirmed them. Are you going to take God’s Word at face value and believe as Jesus did, or are you going to listen to the philosophies of men? Are you going to follow men with finite minds who critique God and His Word, or are you going to accept the Bible as the Word of God and then think and live accordingly?



Chapter 1

¹ Job 38:4-7; Ps. 33:6; 136:5; Isa. 42:5; 45:18; John 1:1-3; Acts 14:15; 17:24; Col. 1:16, 17; Heb. 1:10; 11:3; Rev. 4:11

Chapter 1 Theme _____

1 In the ^abeginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
2 The earth was ^bwithout form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, ^c“Let there be light,” and there was light.

4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, ^d“Let there be an expanse¹ in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

7 And God made² the expanse and ^eseparated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were ^fabove the expanse. And it was so.

8 And God called the expanse Heaven.³ And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, ^g“Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.”
And it was so.

⁹ Job 38:8-11; Ps. 33:7; 136:6; Jer. 5:22; 2 Pet. 3:5

¹ Or a canopy; also verses 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 20 ² Or fashioned; also verse 16 ³ Or Sky; also verses 9, 14, 15, 17, 20, 26, 28, 30; 2:1

INSIGHT

The first five books of the Bible—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy—are referred to as the *Torah* or the *Pentateuch*. *Torah*, a term used by the Jews, refers to the law or the teaching. *Pentateuch*, a word coined about A.D. 200, means “the five scrolls” or the “five-volume book.”



10 God called the dry land Earth,¹ and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, ^h“Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants² yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so.

12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for ⁱsigns and for ⁱseasons,³ and for days and years,

15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.

16 And God ^kmade the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,

18 to ^lrule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds⁴ fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”

21 So ^mGod created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

22 And God blessed them, saying, ⁿ“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.

25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, ^o“Let us make man⁵ in our image, ^pafter our likeness. And ^qlet them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

¹Or *Land*; also verses 11, 12, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30; 2:1 ²Or *small plants*; also verses 12, 29 ³Or *appointed times* ⁴Or *flying things*; see Leviticus 11:19–20 ⁵The Hebrew word for *man* (*adam*) is the generic term for mankind and becomes the proper name *Adam*

11 ^hPs. 104:14

14 ^lJer. 10:2; Ezek. 32:7, 8; Joel 2:30, 31; 3:15; Matt. 24:29; Luke 21:25 / ^oPs. 104:19

16 ^kDeut. 4:19; Ps. 136:7–9

18 ^mJer. 31:35

21 ⁿPs. 104:25, 26

22 ^och. 8:17; 9:1

26 ^och. 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:8 / ^pch. 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10; James 3:9 / ^qch. 9:2; Ps. 8:6–8; James 3:7

27 ^{ch. 2:18, 21-23; 5:2; Mal. 2:15; Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6}

27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
^fmale and female he created them.

28 ^{ch. 9:1, 7}

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, ^s“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

29 ^{ch. 9:3; Ps. 104:14, 15; 145:15, 16}

29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. ^tYou shall have them for food.

30 ^{Ps. 147:9}

30 And ^uto every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

31 ^{Eccles. 7:29; 1 Tim. 4:4}

31 ^vAnd God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Chapter 2
1 ^{Deut. 4:19; Ps. 33:6}

Chapter 2
Theme _____

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and ^wall the host of them.

2 ^{Ex. 20:8-11; 31:17; Deut. 5:12-14; Heb. 4:4}

2 And ^xon the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

4 ^{ch. 1:1}

3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

5 ^[ch. 1:11, 12]

4 ^yThese are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created,
in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

5 ^{ch. 3:23}

5 When no ^zbush of the field¹ was yet in the land² and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man ^ato work the ground,

7 ^{ch. 3:19, 23; 18:27; Ps. 103:14; Eccles. 12:7; 1 Cor. 15:47} ^{ch. 7:22; Job 33:4; Isa. 2:22} ^{Job 27:3} ^{Cited 1 Cor. 15:45}

6 and a mist³ was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—

8 ^{ver. 15; ch. 13:10; Isa. 51:3; Ezek. 28:13; 31:8; Joel 2:3}

7 then the LORD God formed the man of ^bdust from the ground and ^cbreathed into his ^dnostrils the breath of life, and ^ethe man became a living creature.

8 And the LORD God planted a ^fgarden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 ^{ch. 3:22; Rev. 2:7; 22:2, 14} ^{ver. 17}

9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. ^gThe tree of life was in the midst of the garden, ^hand the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹ Or open country ² Or earth; also verse 6 ³ Or spring