

**Bible Study for October 20, 2020**  
[adapted from the Serendipity Bible]

By Major Brian Coles

***The Name “Genesis”:***

The name was taken from the Greek Septuagint’s (LXX) translation of Genesis 2:4, “This is the book of the ‘*geneseos*’ of heaven and earth.” The term “genesis” also appears in Genesis 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 11:27, 25:12, 25:19, 36:1, 36:10, and 37:2.

The Greek word “genesis” means “origin, source, generation, beginning.” “The book of *geneseos*” is a book of a person’s lineage and ancestry, a history of one’s descendants. In the Hebrew text the term is “toledoth,” which is a plural term denoting families and generations.

Since, as it has been said elsewhere, to a large measure ancient Oriental history was genealogies, “toledoth” denoted a history of families and generations. For examples, Genesis 5:1, “This is the book of the history of Adam,” and Genesis 6:9, “This is the history of Noah.” And so Genesis 2:4, “This is the book of the history of heaven and earth,” goes on to describe the generation, the beginning, of the human race and its opening history that then followed.

***Genesis - A Book Of Beginnings:***

The Book of Genesis is a book of origins and beginnings. It denotes:

- The beginning of the heavens and the earth, the universe, and all that is in them
- The beginning of the human race of male and female
- The beginning of marriage
- The beginning and the origin of sin in the world
- The beginning of God’s proclamations of his plan of salvation to rescue sinful mankind through the coming Messiah, who would crush Satan’s head

- The beginning of God's punishments of sin that mankind would have to bear on earth
- The beginning of sinful conduct in the world
- The beginning of the human pursuits of farming, the raising of livestock, architecture, building and construction, nomadic tent dwelling, music and musical instruments, metallurgy and forging of tools
- The beginning of death's onslaught of one generation after another
- The universal flood that also prefigured the coming day of God's final judgment
- The beginning of the rainbow as a sign of God's covenant with Noah to never again destroy all life on the earth as he did in the flood
- The table of nations arising from the sons of Noah
- The end of one world language and the beginning of many world languages
- The beginning of God's chosen people, beginning with the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the land of Canaan
- The beginning of Israel's sojourn in Egypt at the time of Joseph

To begin this week, read Genesis 1.1 to 2.3

- What repeated words or phrases do you observe?
- What does John, in his gospel, 1.1-3, add to your perception of Genesis 1.1-3?
  - What is Christ's role in creation?
- According to Romans 1.20-25 and Hebrews 11.1-3, what should our response be to God's self-revelation in the created order?
- What do you find most remarkable about God's creation?
- What does it mean to you to be made in the image of God?
- How does this affect your relationship with God and with others?
- How does this creation story affect the way you treat the land and water, the plants and animals?
- How would you counter the atheists argument that we are nothing but the product of blind, random chance plus time?