

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

LESSON 2

Genesis – Part One

YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT

Chapters 1-3

1. **BACKGROUND.**

Genesis is the first book in the Old Testament and Jewish Bible. It is also called the "First Book of Moses." The title "Genesis" is not a part of the original book.

-The Hebrew title for the book is "*Bereshith*" which is the first word in the book. *Bereshith* means "In the beginning".

2. **THE STORY.**

Genesis recounts the history of God and his people from the beginning up to the death of Joseph and the Jewish occupation in Egypt.

- A. The first two chapters contain an account of God's creation of the world, mankind, and the Garden of Eden.
- B. The creation account is given in two different stories. The first story recounts the creation in 7 days (Gen. 1:1 - 2:1). The second story re-focuses on the creation of Adam, Eve and the Garden of Eden. In these first two chapters, we get God's first important message to mankind. So here we stop for a closer study.

3. **YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT.**

- A. The entire creation story shows God's deliberate purpose in the process of creation. The world and all it contains is not an accident. God did not stumble into our world. Our world and all it contains was never a result of chance. It was deliberate and chosen into being by a careful and deliberate God.
- B. Now let's focus more directly on man. Gen. 1:26 records: "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image' And God did so." Gen. 2 records in more detail God's creation of man and woman (Adam and Eve). Like creation in general, this was not an accident. A new human life -- yours, mine, your spouse, your children -- is never an accident. Genesis teaches us that creation is God's choice. You are here because God chose to put you here.

Now we should discuss the further ramifications of this.

4. IMPLICATIONS.

The creation accounts also teach us the next logical lessons beyond what we have covered so far. The next lessons are:

A. God chose to make you and **He made you for a reason.** Genesis shows God placing Adam and Eve into a garden. God puts them in charge of not only the animals (whom Adam names), but also all the earth. Man was to subdue it, populate it, and administer it to God's glory. (Gen. 1:27-28). We learn from this several things:

1. **We bring God glory and fulfill his purpose by how we live our lives and tend to his desires on this earth.**
2. We all have incredible, inherent value regardless of looks, brains, social position, abilities, or anything else. We have this because we are made by God in his image.
3. This is also the basis for ecology!

Therefore, we need to remember the lesson: You are not an accident. God purposely made you, you are valuable and you have a purpose for your life.

B. **God's purpose in making you and God's purpose for you, all rotate around His relationship with you.** When Adam and Eve were in fellowship with God, he spoke with them, taught them, and walked with them. He was their help and he met their needs. Once Adam and Eve sinned, they were separated from this fellowship. They were self conscious (aware of their nakedness - Gen. 3:7) and isolated from their creator. This teaches us that the longing in all our hearts for satisfaction, for "something more," for greater meaning and purpose, comes from our alienation from God.

So where's the answer? Four points to remember:

1. You are not an accident.
2. Today God has purpose for you.
3. You are valuable because of God.
4. Your meaning in life will be REAL when you are in fellowship with YOUR creator.