

Scraps from the margins of my Bible.

GENESIS

with a little expansion
Phil Myers

Direct quotes from the Bible are
***bold** **italicized* *underlined
i.e. **scattered**

GENESIS

INTRO

60-65% of the Torah is “laws” to obey: moral, ceremonial, civil, and sacrificial

Put an arrow “up” for good things people do. ↑

An arrow “down” for bad things. ↓

Write the names of one person to pray for on each page of the Bible.

God changes hearts: Laban, Esau, Joseph’s brothers

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- 1- Emphasis on power as well as process
Lines drawn between verses of each day
Number each day
“Man’s purpose: subdue, rule, worship, glorify, bring the Messiah.” Dr. John Soden
- 1.28-30 Adam—complete vocab, day #1, understood God’s complex grammar
Could he read and write already? *pjm*, yes
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- 2.19,20 Adam names the animals
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25 Genes Evolution Can’t Explain
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- 2.21 Did God leave a scar after surgery for Eve to see?
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- 3.16 Were they in Garden long enough to know what “bring forth children” meant?
Did they innately understand birth process & mating? *pjm*, yes
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- 4.3,4 Were Cain & Abel’s offerings given the same year? *pjm*, ?
Cain obviously recognized God’s voice
- 4.20,22 prior to flood: herds, livestock, blacksmith shops
Assumption: plows existed during the era of vegetarianism less than
1,000 years after Eden
- 4.25 By the time Eve bore Seth there were already cities, but she knew this boy replaced Abel.
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- 5- Satan must have thought he was winning after Seth’s death
- 5.32 Ham, Shem, Japheth—triplets? *pjm*, yes
Noah’s only kids in 600 years of marriage? *pjm*, probably not
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- 7- How many species of plants didn’t make it through the flood?
God predicted it, He sent it, He saved Noah.
- 7.2 Since Noah was vegetarian, how had God identified clean & unclean
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- 8.6 40 days after what? - rain stopped? Mtns became visible? Rested on Ararat
- 8.21 Next time, fire! | Peter 3.7,12
- 8.22 Poetry—does God sing this? 1st “song” ever written?

- 9.3 Animals become food for man
When was fire first used to cook? Pre-flood?
- 9.6 Death penalty for murder - a bloody death
- 9.7 Abundantly = genealogies show the average Jewish family had 3.4 boys = 7 kids
[yup, I counted all the boys named in 9 chapters [I Chron 1-9]
Jesus had 4 brothers and at least 2 sisters, interesting
- 9.13 I've seen a **rainbow** from a small plane in Alaska, it was a circle
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- 10- On the right-hand corner of this page I have a list of 11 of my Florida Bible College students who directed the Kids' Bible Clubhouses. All their names begin with "G." The first 25 pages of my Bible have similar alphabetical lists of 150 wonderful kids touching thousands of children's' lives 20 of them eventually became pastors. No "Xs," only 1 "Z, Zopf."
- 10.5,18,25,32 **separated** evidence of Pangea? Tectonic plates? Continental drift?
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- 11.4 **tower**: stated purposes—religious & personal fame, astrology *[assumed]*
Also resistance to mandate to **scatter** [9.1]. They understood the mandate.
Probably understood astronomy as well.
- 11.6,7 **"nothing shall be restrained / impossible"** *obvious hyperbole*
* Today we virtually have a universal **language**
* Would they have put a man on the moon by Jesus' birthday? *pjm*, yes
- 11.18 Peleg: Mary's hubby Joe came through Pelog's line
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- 12- Abrahamic Covenant in 11 editions *[each of the 19 bullet points is underlined as God reveals more]*
- 12.1-3 nation, land, name, blessing Abr age?
- 13.14-17 land, kids, eternal nature age, 75
- 15.1-16,18-21 son, slavery, 400 years, return to land, boundaries
age 76
- 17.1-21 eternal, kingly descendants, name changes [Abr & Sar], circumcision
Sarah's pregnancy, more than 1
nation, son's name, unilateral condition, blessings on Ishmael Abr age 99
- 18.17-19 international blessings
- 22.15-18 many descendants, blessings from Isaac
- 26.2-5 to ISAAC: land, blessings on nations, multiply
Isaac's descendants, land
- 26.24 to ISAAC: multiply, bless
- 28.3,4 to JACOB [by Isaac]: blessings, land, fruitful
- 28.13-15 to JACOB [by God]: universal blessings, land, fruitful, return to land
- 35.10-12 to JACOB [by God]: nations, kings, land, name
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[37 Ingredients in Abrahamic Covenant](#)
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- 12.1-3 Poetry again. Does God sing Abraham's covenant?
- 12.4 Abr went forth, but slowly, in faith Heb 11.8
- 12.8 Abr called on JHVH, cf 13.4 - Was he saved before Gen 15.6? *pjm*, no
- 12.18,19 scorched by an unbeliever!!
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- 14- **Moses** didn't know any of the geography of Canaan first-hand
Did he have access to Egyptian maps in the palace?
- 14.20 Did Abr give **10%** of what he just stole? or of everything he owned? *pjm*, just the loot **[once]**
Absolutely no connection to the Mosaic tithe. *Careful of bad hermeneutics here.*
Are believers today allowed to plunder the property of a dishonest business rival whom we drive out of our territory? If not? Why not?

- 15.1 "**Don't fear**" fear what?
- 15.6 1st explicit statement that salvation is by **faith**
- 15.16 400 years' **absence** from Canaan [*4th generation*]
- ◆ allows Abr's family to grow from 70 to 4-5 million
 - ◆ Allows army recruits to grow from 0 to 603,000
 - ◆ Prevents intermarrying with Canaanites
 - ◆ Gives an historical date to "possession" of the land
 - ◆ Would isolate them and purify their ethnic religion
- 15.18-21 same[?] as Ezekiel's Millennial boundaries [chap 39?]
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- 16- **Hagar** incident, Abr is 75, Hagar prob. 55 [*I guess she was 15 when he brought her out of Egypt.*]
Hagar, an unbeliever despises conniving, disobedient believers like Sarah.
- 16.7 Hagar found in wilderness 100 miles away toward Egypt.
- 16.12 **Ishmael** will "**be as [free as] a wild donkey**" - A nice thought for Hagar who had been a slave all her life that her son would be free [*not a servant like mom!*]
- 16.16 Can I assume Abr has no more intimacy with Hagar? pjm, yes
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- 17.17 Man! This is going to be great!
- 17.20 Ishmael is only 13 years old.
Is oil God's blessing to Ishmael's Arab kids?
- 17.23 immediate obedience.
- 17.23 Arab [?] employees left behind when Abr flees to Egypt.
* Arab men already circumcised pjm, no
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- 18.14 **Is anything too hard?** Luke 1.37 Jer 32.17,27 Mt 19.26
Romans 4.21 - the best definition of FAITH in the Bible
- 18.15 Sarah, "**I did not laugh**" Heb 11.11 "by faith Sarah conceived"
- 18.17 Is JHVH talking to Himself or to angels?
[see www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com)
Angels' [30+] **Jobs**, in *The Revelation*
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- 18.20 **Sodom**'s sins: Ezek 16.49,50 careless, arrogance, abominations, did not help the poor
- 18.27-33 Did this conversation take hours? pjm, ??
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- 19.14 Nothing Lot had said before made his **sons-in-law** think he was serious or correct now.
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- 20.7 Abr 1st to be called a **prophet**.
- 20.9 Abr rebuked by an unbeliever—again 21.32 Philistine
- 20.14 Was Abr still lugging around thousands of sheep, goats, camels, oxen,
plus silver & gold [*cf 13.2*]
- 20.18 It takes a long time to realize all the women are **barren**.
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- 21.9 **Ishmael** saw his dad as a compromiser, as well as uncle Lot.
- 21.12 Was this a dream [*asleep*] or a vision [*awake*] or a theophany [*a physical visit by Jesus*].
pjm, theophany
- 21.14 This is hard for a dad—this is running on faith.
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- 22- A picture of God's only Son, Who wasn't spared.
- 22.5-7 The most explicit "**provide Himself**" statement of substitutionary sacrifice in the Bible.
Ram was probably there all the time.
"Where is the lamb" Worried? Curious? Is dad forgetful? Horrified?
"Behold the Lamb of God which. . . ." John 1.29

- 23- A whole chapter about negotiations for a deed, a business contract.
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- 24.2 This is Eliezer pjm, opinion
 24.12 He looks for only one qualification: a servant's heart
 He gets: diligence, thorough, hospitable in-laws, rich?, *[true colors show up later as cunning & deceit]*
 24.30ff Husband provides the dowry, not the wife
 24.43ff Not until now does the family learn that **Eliezer** was looking mostly for inner qualities in Rebekah's life
 24.35 God clearly gets glory through the servant's testimony. *[cf 24.43ff]*
 24.50 Wow! What a decision!
 24.59 Who would send a virgin daughter/sister with a band of men they just met yesterday?
 24.60 "**thousands of ten thousands**" = 20 million, minimum
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- 25.2 To bear children Hagar was at least 50 years younger than Abr *[age 27?]*
 * Perhaps brought out of Egypt earlier [Gen 12] age 65?
 * Hagar, 15?
 Midianites & Arabs are direct result of Abr.
 25.8 "**satisfied with life**" Jas 2.23 "**a friend of God**" cf with Jacob's self written obit
 "**few and evil have the days of my life been**" 47.9
 25.9 Did none of **Keturah's** 6 kids *[or concubines' kids, v.6]* help bury dad?
 25,13-16 Are we to assume Ishmael was monogamous? pjm, yes, I do
 25.20 All Jews are 50% Syrian *[Aramean]* by Rebekah
 All Jews are 50% Iraqi by Abraham
 All Jews are 50% Syrian by Jacob's wives *[Aramean]*
Bilhah's and Zilpah's ethnicity?
 25.23 How old were the boys when dad told them that God said, "the **elder [Esau] shall serve the younger [Jacob]**"?
 25.28 Playing favorites: already example of Abe's weakness.
 25.34 **Does** Isaac ever know about the **soup** and **birthright** swindle?
 Does Esau know about the way grandpa Abr lied about grandma being "**sister**," twice.
 12.13 in **Egypt** 20.1 at **Gerar**
 Isaac lies about Rebekah's being his sister, too, just like dad.
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- 26.7 Rebekah is still a beauty *[as Sarah must have been]* after being married for 40 [?] years
 26.9 Prompt honesty when confronted with his lie
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- 27.12,13 **Jacob** knows his dad will eventually find out about his treachery as soon as Esau gets home.
 Jacob is only worried about his reputation when talking *[and telling lies]* to Isaac.
 ♦ 16 deceit
 ♦ 19 lie
 ♦ 21 suspicion
 ♦ 22 Calloused hands
 ♦ 24 **su**spection, lie
 ♦ 27 smell clinches the deal
 ♦ 29 Isaac was blessing "fake" Esau in direct disobedience to what he knew to be the will of God *[25.23]*.
 27.30 God prospered Esau quickly with game.
 27.34 **Esau** was sad before getting angry.
 27.36 Esau was evidently willing to keep his word to sell his birthright even though there were no witnesses.

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- 28.3 Father's action provoked Esau to marry an Ishmaelite.
 28.9 Isaac bestows 2nd blessing on Jacob which super-excels and supersedes Isaac's blessing in chap 27
 28.16 Nothing negative is ever again recorded about Jacob *nothing previous was good*
 28.20 3-part bargain with God **IF** You [*presence, protection, provision for me*]. . .then I will. . . .
 Jacob returns 20 years later.
 28.22 "I will give to You" How would he do this?

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- 29.10 Love at first sight.
 29.18 Maybe **Rachel** wasn't yet old enough to marry.
 "beautiful of form" means she was at least 16 or 17
 29.25 Each of them knew what she was getting into
 29.27 Betcha no more sleeping in Leah's bedroom for a while.
 Wow! Two wives in 7 days.

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- 30.3 Did Rachel know what Sarah did to Hagar? *pjm, yes*
 30.4 Was there any wedding for Bilhah? *pjm, no*
 30.25 Joseph's oldest brother not more than 7 years older than Joseph.
 ♦ Joseph leaves Laban after 20 years work.
 ♦ 7 years serving for Rachel, 1st time.
 ♦ 7 years serving for Leah?, 2nd time.
 * plans to flee with 2 wives and 11 boys at the end of 7 yrs of marriage
 * Laban talks him out of it.
 ♦ 6 years more work, ring-straked goats, etc. Benjamin born later.
 ♦ Leaves after 20 years.
 30.31-48 **all speckled & spotted goats**

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- 31- According to local Nusa law, the owner of the idols could claim inheritance
 31.38 Jacob knew he was cause of Laban's prosperity
 * did I make any of my bosses think so?
 * did my bosses know?
 31.49 A covenant between 2 deceivers

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- 32.9 Jacob's shaky faith is still faith.
 32.11 This is last piece of Jacob's 3-part deal with God. Safe return. He had left town with a price on his head.
 32.16 Jacob never did collect birthright he swindled.
 32.20 Both faith and doubt.
 32,25 Dislocating a **thigh** is almost impossible to do.
 32.28 **Name** changed but. . .
 ♦ He's still called Jacob 69x in Genesis.
 ♦ He's called Israel 39x in Genesis.

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- 34.1 **Dinah** is a year older than Joseph.
 34.2 No scream? [*I suppose all women can really scream*] cf Deut 22.22-24
 34.7 1st time land is called **Israel**.

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- 35.2 Up 'til now Jacob had evidently not knowingly allowed idols on his campsite.
 35.22 **Reuben** violated Bilhah.
 Why didn't Bilhah's kids [D & N] run Reuben off or kill him?
 Family business ethics wouldn't allow a family feud.
 Why didn't her sons leave the family farm?

36.24 "**found the hot springs**" strange little comment

37.2 **Joseph** 17 yrs old oldest brother, 24 or 25

37.3 Family still playing favorites with kids [*3rd generation*]

37.17 Teenage Joe follows brothers' trail for another 60 miles

37.13 Every great man learned

- ◆ Whom to obey
- ◆ How to obey
- ◆ When to obey

37.22 Reuben later puts his own kids on the line for Benji's safety.

37.25 Who cared whether the Ishmaelites sold gum? I wonder why God makes a note of chewing gum.

37.28 Joe doesn't rat on brother to **Ishmaelite** cousins all the way to Egypt

Price of slave = 20 shekel = \$9

37.32 Sons deceived dad, the deceiver, with a bloody coat

38- **Judah** seduced, fails the test

39- **Joseph** seduced, passes same test that brother Judah had flunked.

38.9,10 Only example of birth control in the Bible—God kills him

38.12-16 Father-in-law's dishonesty leads to [*but doesn't cause*] Tamar's immorality

38.24 Judah tough on others' sins, easy on his own

38.29 Perez, her baby, was David's grandfather (10x), and great grand (about 40x) of Jesus

38.39 Joe—impoverished, blessed, tested

- ◆ age 17, **sold**
- ◆ 28, seduced
- ◆ 28-30, imprisoned
- ◆ 37, famine starts
- ◆ 38, 10 brothers come 1st time, Simeon kept behind
- ◆ 39, brothers bring Benji

39.7-18 Potiphar's wife's 4 strategies: direct approach, persistence, ambush, framing

- ◆ Furious liar/slanderer, also blamed husband
- ◆ Livid for being refused by a slave
- ◆ Servants must have known
- ◆ Joe's strategy: polite refusal, explained it is a sin against God & hubby, persistence

39.19 Potiphar's anger

- at wife? He must have suspected.

pjm, yes

- at faithful Joseph? Prison would have been a light sentence for attempted rape, he must have suspected Joe was innocent.

40.5-8 Joe is sure there will be an interpretation of a **dream** for the butler.

- no prayer or fasting 40.25, same

40.2,22 whimsical, capricious king

40.23 divine amnesia for butler until the proper time

41.8 Perhaps magicians did not try to interpret Pharaoh's cow dream because it was not demonic

41.33-37 Joseph suggests creating a Department of the Interior—he is appointed cabinet member, maybe Vice Pres.

41.56 Does it include China, Americas, Brazil?

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- 42.5 brothers travel 200 miles round trip
- ◆ 42.9-16 **spies!**
 - ◆ **spies!**
 - ◆ **spies!**
 - ◆ **spies!**
- 42.21 What made them connect their present trouble to Joseph 22 years ago? *pjm*, God
- 42.22 They talk about “blood is required.” But Joseph’s blood was not spilt. The brothers believed their own lie which they had been telling dad for 20 years.
- 42.38 Jacob still played favorites with his “baby” boy, Benji, who already had 10 kids of his own. [46.21]
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- 43.6 Jacob asks them why they had been so honest as to tell him they had a little brother.
- 43.8 Reuben told dad he could kill his 2 grandsons [43.37] as a guarantee for Benji’s safety. Judah offered himself as the guarantee.
- 43.24 Look! Egyptians washing Hebrew feet.
- 43.32 Egyptians seem to regard Joe as an Egyptian.
- 43.34 Joseph had evidently been planning this party for a year.
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- 44- I could never pull off Joe’s charade.
Joe and his **steward** were both great actors.
- 44.5 How could he possibly let the Egyptians THINK that **the cup** was the secret means of divining truth?
- 44.15 This statement must certainly displeased God.
- 44.18 Judah, as spokesman, perhaps was CEO of their sheep & cattle company.
- 44.20 Love for father drives Judah to plead for Benji.
- 44.27 Big bros accepted dad’s favoritism toward Ben perhaps because of fate of Joseph.
- 44.33 Love for his father enough to become a slave to free Benji.
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- 45.1 Joe broken by Judah’s love.
- 45.4 Benji hears the truth about brothers’ treachery for first time!
- 45.16 Was it hard for Joseph to tell Pharaoh the truth about being a Jew?
Did he ever tell Pharaoh about being sold by brothers?
- 45.24 Little brother tells big brothers, “No fussing on the way home.” *Pastor Dave Peterson, my pastor*
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- 46- When does dad learn of the treachery?
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- 47.9 **few and unpleasant** “happiness is a choice” *Dr. Paul Meier*
- 47.25 Somewhat like the feudal system
- 47.30 How clear in Jacob’s mind that God predicted 400 years slavery?
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- 49- Gad, Asher, & Naphtali get 2 lines each
Judah gets 17 lines [*this is all in poetry*]
Joseph, 20 lines, [*nothing for Ephraim & Manasseh separately*]
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- 50.26 Joe lived to 110. after 90 years of opulent living, he still has not wrecked his health.