

A vertical poster featuring a detail from Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam' fresco. The image shows the two hands reaching toward each other, with a dark grey rectangular box containing the text 'AND SO IT BEGINS' in white, uppercase letters. The background is the cracked and aged texture of the original fresco.

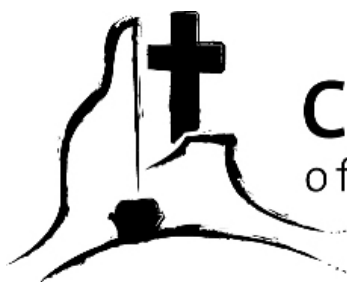
AND SO IT BEGINS



CHRIST'S CHURCH  
of Fountain Hills



# “And So It Begins” Genesis Journal



**CHRIST'S CHURCH**  
of Fountain Hills

Pastor Don Lawrence

Connect with us:



480.837.3121



[info@ccfhaz.com](mailto:info@ccfhaz.com)



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The beginning of many things is recorded in the Book of Genesis. Things such as: creation, our wonderful planet, the human race, the nation of Israel, God's plan for the redemption of humanity, etc. Unfortunately, the beginning of less desirable things are also recorded in the Book of Genesis. Things like: sin, murder, disobedience, the roots of the current Middle East conflicts... to name a few. The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In fact, the word genesis means "beginning or origin".

In this first book of the Bible, you will read of the creation of Adam and Eve and the first sin committed by humans. You'll read of the great flood and Noah's ark. You'll also read about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the patriarchs of the Nation of Israel. Genesis also tells us about a remarkable young man named Joseph and how he was betrayed, sold into slavery, imprisoned and then rose to the second most powerful position in all of Egypt.

The individuals presented in Genesis accomplished some incredible things, but also made some terrible mistakes. There are lessons to be learned from both the good and the bad! We invite you to join us on this journey as we meet some of the people and discuss some of the events recorded in this wonderful book.

Perhaps the Lord wants to begin a new work in your life or begin a closer walk with you? Perhaps He would like to see you begin a more consistent habit or daily Bible reading? Perhaps this study may be the impetus to a new chapter in your walk with the Lord.

And so it Begins!

Enthusiastically,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Pastor Don Lawrence

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DON

Welcome to "And So It Begins" Daily Reading Journal. To help you with the discipline of reading and journaling every day, we encourage you to team up with an accountability partner. Find an encourager and be an encourager as you study these fascinating Scriptures together.

This journal can be used several ways: personal devotions, husband-wife devotions, family devotions, small group Bible study, etc.

Those who consistently do their daily Bible reading and journaling tend to be those who have a set daily routine. Typically they do their reading at the same time and in the same place each day. It is also best to get away from distractions: television, computer, cell phone, I-Pad, etc.

It is our prayer that as you read "And So It Begins" and jot down your thoughts and observations in this journal, the Holy Spirit will touch your heart and draw you into a deeper and more consistent daily walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Pastor Don Lawrence

# DAILY READING AND REFLECTION PLAN

## Week 1

|       |                   |
|-------|-------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 1 |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 2 |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 3 |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 4 |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 5 |

## Week 2

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 6  |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 7  |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 8  |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 9  |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 10 |

## Week 3

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 11 |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 12 |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 13 |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 14 |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 15 |

## Week 4

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 16 |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 17 |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 18 |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 19 |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 20 |

## Week 5

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 21 |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 22 |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 23 |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 24 |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 25 |

## Week 6

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 26 |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 27 |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 28 |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 29 |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 30 |

## DAILY READING AND REFLECTION PLAN

### Week 7

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 31 |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 32 |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 33 |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 34 |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 35 |

### Week 8

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 36 |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 37 |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 38 |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 39 |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 40 |

### Week 9

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 41 |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 42 |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 43 |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 44 |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 45 |

### Week 10

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis chapter 46 |
| Day 2 | Genesis chapter 47 |
| Day 3 | Genesis chapter 48 |
| Day 4 | Genesis chapter 49 |
| Day 5 | Genesis chapter 50 |

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1. Who created the heavens and the earth? Vs. 1

2. What is the significance of the fact that the trees and plants were all seed-bearing? Vs. 11-13

3. In who's image is man created? Vs. 26-27

4. Some say that each day of creation actually represents an era, or thousand years. What phrases in this chapter either confirm or contradict that claim?

1. Where did the fresh water come from? 2:4-6

2. What two trees were in the middle of the garden? Vs. 8-9

3. What was man's responsibility in the Garden of Eden? Vs.15

4. When people today talk about "living the good life", in what ways is that reference similar to the Garden of Eden and in what ways is it different?

1. How did the serpent convince Eve to eat the fruit? Vs. 1-6

2. After eating the forbidden fruit, what did Adam and Eve do when they heard God walking in the garden? Vs. 6-9

3. What was Adam and Eve's punishment for eating the fruit? Vs. 16-19,23

4. Who did Eve and Adam blame for their disobedience? Vs. 11-13  
Why do we tend to blame others for our sins?

1. How are Cain and Abel's offerings described? Vs. 3-5

2. What did Cain do to Abel? Vs. 8

3. When God asked about Abel, what did Cain say? Vs.9

4. What did God tell Cain he needed to do to be "accepted?" Vs. 6-7  
Why do we struggle to simply do what is right?

1. What happened to Enoch? Vs. 21-24

2. How many years did Methuselah live? Vs. 25-27

3. How old was Noah when he had sons? Vs. 32

4. Why do you think people lived so long in those days?

# JOURNALING NOTES





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1. In the midst of a corrupt world, how is Noah described? Vs. 8-9

2. Other than Noah, how is the rest of humanity described? Vs. 5,11-12

3. What was God going to do with Noah and his family? What was God going to do to the rest of humanity? Vs. 11-13, 17-22

4. Verse six says that man's wickedness "filled God's heart with pain". How does that make you feel knowing that your sins fill God's heart with pain?

1. In addition to Noah and his family, who entered the ark? Vs. 1-3, 13-16

2. Once Noah, his family and the animals entered the ark, how many days did it rain and how many days did the waters flood the earth? Vs. 12, 24

3. What happened to every living thing on the earth? Vs. 21-23

4. What do you think of God's actions in sending the flood?

1. Upon what mountain did the ark come to rest? Vs.3-4

2. What did the dove have in it's beak when it returned to Noah? Vs. 10-11

3. What is the first thing Noah did when he came out of the ark? Vs. 18-21

4. Have you, or anyone you know, survived a flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake or some other natural disaster? If so, how did it impact your (or their ) relationship with God?

1. What food did God make available to Noah and his family? Vs. 2-3

2. What was the promise God made through the covenant with Noah and his family? Vs. 8-11

3. What is the sign of that covenant? Vs. 12-17

4. A covenant is a form of a promise. Which of God's promises do you cherish the most? Why?

1. What were the names of Noah's sons? Vs. 1

2. How is Nimrod described? Vs. 8-9

3. How was the earth repopulated after the flood? Vs. 1, 32 & 9:18-19

4. Beyond your immediate family, how much do you know about your family lineage? What are the benefits to knowing family lineage?

# JOURNALING NOTES







1. In addition to a city, what were the men planning to build? Vs. 4

2. How did God keep the men from building the tower? Vs. 5-9

3. Who settled in Haran? Vs. 31

4. Why did God not want the tower of Babel to be built?

1. What did God promise Abram? Vs 2-3

2. Why did Abram lie about who Sarai was? Vs. 11-16

3. What was God's reaction to the lies about Sarai? Vs. 17-19

4. How have "all peoples of the earth been blessed" through Abram? Vs. 3

1. Why did Abram and Lot go separate directions? Vs.5-9

2. Where did Abram settle? Where did Lot settle? Vs. 10-12

3. Abram's offspring would be how numerous? Vs. 16

4. Abram and Lot (uncle and nephew) traveled and lived together for many years. What are some of the challenges of living with relatives?

1. What happened to Lot? Vs. 8-12

2. What did Abram do when he heard what had happened to Lot? Vs. 13-16

3. Why would Abram not accept any gifts from the King of Sodom? Vs. 21-24

4. Why did Abram not want the King of Sodom to be able to say, "I made Abram rich"?

1. What did God tell Abram concerning Abram's offspring? Vs. 2-5

2. What was credited to Abram when he believed the Lord? Vs. 6

3. What did God prophesy concerning Abram's descendants? Vs. 13-14

4. Which of the Lord's promises to you is the most difficult to believe? Why?

## JOURNALING NOTES







1. What was Sarai's solution to Abram's lack of descendants? Vs. 1-3

2. What was Hagar's attitude toward Sarai and how did Sarai treat Hagar? Vs. 4-6

3. What did the angel tell Hagar to name her child and how did he describe the child? Vs. 11-12

4. Why do people so often choose sinful ways instead of following God's plan?

1. To what did God change Abram's and Sarai's names? Vs. 5,15

2. How long was God's covenant with Abraham to last? Vs.7-8

3. What was Abraham to do which became the sign of the covenant? Vs. 9-14

4. *What is one of the most difficult things you've ever done for the Lord?*

1. What did the Lord tell Abraham would happen by the next year? Vs. 10

2. How did Sarah respond to the news the Lord told Abraham? Vs. 10-12

3. What lie did Sarah tell and why did she tell that lie? Vs.15

4. Why are so many people so quick to tell lies?

1. What did the men of Sodom want to do with the two angels who were staying in Lot's house? Vs.5

2. Why didn't Lot's future sons-in law leave with him? Vs. 12-16

3. How did God destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? Vs. 23-25

4. Homosexuality used to be called a "sin against nature." Why do you think it was called that?

1. What did Abraham say about Sarah? Vs.1-2

2. What did Abimelech do with Sarah? Vs.2

3. What did God tell Abimelech? Vs.3,7

4. How serious an offense does God consider adultery? Why?

# JOURNALING NOTES





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1. How old was Abraham when his son was born and what did he name his son? Vs. 1-5

2. What did Abraham do with Hagar and Ishmael? Vs. 8-14

3. What did Abimelech ask of Abraham? Vs. 22-24

4. Twice in verse 17 it says that "God heard the boy crying." Do you believe God hears the cries of your heart? Why or why not?

1. What did God command Abraham to do? Vs. 1-2

2. When Isaac asked about the lamb for the sacrifice, what did Abraham tell him? Vs. 6-8

3. What happened when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac on the altar? 9-18

4. If one of your children wanted to be a missionary to the Middle East, meaning you would rarely ever see them, what would you do?

1. How old was Sarah when she died? Vs.1-2

2. What did Abraham ask of the Hittites? Vs.3-4

3. From whom did Abraham acquire the land and how much did he pay?  
Vs. 7-20

4. If you could be buried any place in the world, where would you like to be buried? Why there?

1. What did Abraham ask his chief servant to do? Vs. 3-4

2. How would the servant know which girl he should choose for Isaac?  
Vs. 12-14

3. Who did the servant choose to become Isaac's wife? Vs. 15-21, 50-51

4. How does a Christian select a spouse? Is this different than the rest of our culture?

1. How old was Abraham when he died? Where was he buried? Vs. 5-11

2. What were the names of Rebekah's twin sons? Vs. 24-26

3. How did the younger of the twins end up with the birthright? Vs. 27-34

4. Sometimes destinies are changed in moments. How can one avoid making bad choices in pressured decisions?

# JOURNALING NOTES





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1. Why did God promise to bless Isaac? Vs.4

2. Who did Isaac say Rebekah was? Vs. 7 Where did he learn to tell such a lie?

3. After sending Isaac away, why did Abimelech come to Isaac? Vs. 26-29

4. How does your conduct impact God's blessings upon you?

1. Who's idea was it for Jacob to deceive Isaac? Vs. 5-10

2. How did Jacob deceive Isaac? Vs. 14-29

3. How did Esau react when he learned of what Jacob had done? Vs. 30-41

4. What are some common things which tear families apart?

1. Why did Isaac send Jacob to visit Laban? Vs. 1-5

2. What did Jacob see in his dream? Vs. 12-15

3. What did Jacob promise to do as a result of his dream? Vs. 20-22

4. Have you ever made any promises to God?

1. What was the agreement between Jacob and Laban? Vs. 14-20

2. How did Laban deceive Jacob? Vs. 21-25

3. What was the new agreement between Jacob and Laban? Vs. 26-30

4. If you were Jacob, how would you have responded to Laban's deception?

1. What made Rachel jealous? Vs. 1-2

2. What was Rachel's solution to her problem? Vs. 3-8

3. What did Leah do after she had stopped having children? Vs. 9-13

4. Why is jealousy sometimes able to make people do horrible things?

## JOURNALING NOTES





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1. What prompted Jacob's decision to leave Laban? Vs. 1-3

2. How did Leah and Rachel respond to the news that they would be leaving? Vs. 14-16

3. What agreement did Jacob and Laban make? Vs. 45-55

4. Have you ever moved away from close family members? How did that make you feel?

1. How did Jacob respond to the message that Esau was coming to meet him?  
Vs. 3-8

2. What were some of the things Jacob mentioned to God when he prayed for God to save him? Vs. 9-12

3. What were the gifts Jacob sent to Esau? Vs. 13-16

4. In verses 22-30 Jacob "wrestled" with God. Have you ever "wrestled" with God concerning something in your life?

1. How did Esau treat Jacob when they were reunited? Vs. 1-5

2. What did Esau want to do with all of the gifts Jacob had sent him? Vs. 8-9

3. Although Esau invited Jacob to live in Seir, where did Jacob end up staying? Vs. 16-20

4. Jacob had wronged Esau earlier in their life and yet Esau embraced Jacob when they were reunited. What does this tell us about Esau's character?

1. How did Shechem want to resolve the situation after what he had done to Dinah? Vs. 1-4

2. To what did Dinah's brothers tell Shechem and Hamor they would agree? Vs. 13-17

3. What did Simon and Levi do to Hamor, Schechem and the men of the city? Vs. 24-29

4. Where the actions of Dinah's brother's justified?

1. To what did God change Jacob's name? Vs.9-10

2. What did God promise Jacob? Vs. 11-13

3. What are the names of Jacob's twelve sons? Vs. 23-26

4. Did God keep His promise to Jacob? Explain.

# JOURNALING NOTES





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1. What are the names of Esau's wives? Vs. 2-3

2. Why did Esau move away from Jacob? Vs. 6-7

3. Where did Esau settle? Vs. 8

4. What are some challenges faced when families (beyond age 21) try to live together?

1. How did Joseph's father and brothers respond to Joseph's dreams?

Vs. 5-11

2. When Joseph went to check on his brothers, what did they do to him?

Vs. 12-28

3. In Egypt, for whom did Joseph end up working? Vs. 36

4. If you were enslaved and taken to a foreign country, what emotions would you experience?

1. What happened to Tamar's husband, Er? Vs. 6-7

2. Why didn't Onan want Tamar to bear him children? Vs. 8-10

3. Why did Tamar deceive Judah? Vs. 11-14

4. Who do you think is the victim in this chapter: Judah or Tamar? Why?

1. Why did Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his household and everything he owned? Vs. 1-6

2. What accusation did Potiphar's wife make against Joseph? Vs. 6-18

3. What did Potiphar do to Joseph when he heard his wife's accusations? Vs. 19-20

4. Sold into slavery by his brothers, taken to a foreign country, unjustly thrown into prison. What do you do when life isn't fair?

1. To whom did Joseph say all interpretations of dreams belong? Vs.8

2. What did Joseph say would happen to the cup bearer? Vs. 9-13

3. What did Joseph ask the cup bearer to do? Did he do what Joseph asked?  
Vs. 14-23

4. Are your dreams usually pleasant or bad?

# JOURNALING NOTES





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1. What did Joseph say was the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams? Vs. 25-32

2. What did Pharaoh do to Joseph as a result of his interpretations? Vs.39-43

3. What are the names of Joseph's two sons? Vs. 50-52

4. Thus far, what lessons do we learn from Joseph's life?

1. Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt? Vs. 1-5

2. What did Joseph tell his brothers they must do to prove they were not spies? Vs. 18-20

3. How did Jacob respond to the plan about taking Benjamin to Egypt?  
Vs 36-38

4. If you were Joseph, what would you have done with your brothers after what they had done to you?

1. Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt a second time? Vs. 1-2

2. Why did Jacob allow Benjamin to go to Egypt this time? Vs. 3-14

3. How did Joseph react to seeing Benjamin? Vs. 29-34

4. Who do you miss the most that you wish you could spend time with again?

1. What did Joseph do to his brothers? Vs. 1-5

2. After the brothers were brought back to Joseph, what did he tell the brothers would happen to them? Vs. 17

3. What did Judah offer to do? Vs. 33-34

4. Is there some justice in Judah's offer? (See Genesis 37:26)

1. What did Joseph say was the ultimate reason he was sold as a slave into Egypt? Vs. 4-8

2. What did Joseph instruct his brothers to do? Vs. 9-11

3. What did Pharaoh tell Joseph to do concerning his brothers and father? Vs. 17-19

4. Can you look back at certain events in your life and now see God's involvement, even though you didn't see it at that time?

# JOURNALING NOTES





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1. What did Jacob (Israel) do in Bersheba? Vs.1

2. What did God promise Jacob? Vs. 2-4

3. How many direct descendants of Jacob went to Egypt? Vs. 26-27

4. What challenges would you face if you were to move to a foreign country?

1. When their money was gone, what did Joseph take in exchange for food?  
Vs. 13-17

2. What were the final things Joseph took in exchange for food and seed? Vs.  
18-21

3. How much of their crop were people required to give to Pharaoh? Vs. 23-26

4. Do you think Joseph took advantage of the people during the famine? Why  
or why not?

1. What did Jacob consider Joseph's two sons to be? Vs.1-6

2. How did Jacob describe God? Vs.15-16

3. What was Joseph's concern with the way his father blessed his sons? Vs. 13-14, 17-20

4. List five words or phrases to describe God in regards to your relationship with Him.

1. What are the names of Jacob's twelve sons? Vs. 2-27

2. Which of the two sons did Jacob speak the most about? Vs. 2-27

3. Who all was buried where Jacob was going to be buried? Vs. 29-32

4. Compare this list of sons with the list of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Numbers 1:5-15 and 1:20-45) What difference do you see? Why the difference?

1. What did Joseph's brothers fear after their father died? Vs. 15

2. What did Joseph say in regards to his brother's fears? Vs. 19-21

3. What did Joseph tell his brothers that God would do? Vs. 24-25

4. What would you say is the most important lesson for us from the Book of Genesis?

# JOURNALING NOTES

A vertical image showing a detail of Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. The image focuses on the two hands reaching toward each other: the hand of God on the right and the hand of Adam on the left. The fingertips are just inches apart, creating a sense of tension and divine spark. The background is the cracked and aged plaster of the original artwork. A dark grey rectangular box is superimposed over the upper portion of the image, containing white text.

GENESIS 1:1  
"IN THE BEGINNING"...