

Summer Reading Assignment: *Genesis*

Every great story has a great beginning. The *Book of Genesis* is an ancient attempt by tribal Hebrews to answer fundamental questions about existence: Where did we come from? Why are we here on Earth? Why does it seem that things have gone terribly wrong?

Genesis is unlike the creation myths of other peoples and cultures (which we will study in the Fall) in many ways, most importantly because it tells the story of a God who loves His creation and who continually strives to reconnect with it/us, ultimately seeking to restore creation to its original goodness and beauty. *Genesis* describes not only the beginnings of a chosen nation, Israel, but also the beginnings of all things. The text reveals the stories of creation, the fall of man, the great flood, the Tower of Babel, covenants with God's people, and the lives of the Biblical Patriarchs (fathers of a great race/nation).

1. Read *Genesis*. If you have read parts of it before, read it again. This time, read it from start to finish. The big question about this book is "Just what is God doing in each of these beginnings?"
2. After reading, write a five (5) paragraph essay in which you address the major events of the text as follows:

Paragraph 1: In 10-12 sentences briefly introduce the text, giving the author and an approximate date it was written down. You will probably use a source for this information; if you do, make certain you cite where you got your information following MLA in-text citation format (available in your *Brook Hill Guide*). The rest of the paragraph should summarize the story of creation and the fall of man. Be sure to include what curses men/women/serpent must endure.

Paragraph 2: In 8-10 sentences give a retelling of the story of the great flood and the Tower of Babel. Be sure to include the purpose of the flood and the main characters involved. Also when describing the Tower of Babel be sure to describe WHY it was wrong to build the tower.

Paragraph 3: In 8-10 sentences describe the life of the patriarchs, Abraham and Isaac. Be sure to include details about their lives (wives/children/famous events etc.) and discuss the covenant made with Abraham, and the "almost" sacrifice of his son.

Paragraph 4: In 8-10 sentences give a brief summary of the lives of Jacob and Joseph. Make sure you include the story of Jacob and his wives contests to have children, the jealousy between the brothers and Joseph, and how Joseph obtains second in command in Egypt.

Paragraph 5: In 8-10 sentences give a conclusion paragraph that describes which story is your favorite and why. How did this particular story make an impact on you? What about this story is so memorable and how can you apply it to the modern world/your daily life?

Biblical citations, which should appropriately appear throughout the text, should follow the form in the *Brook Hill Guide*. The paper should be double-spaced with a 12 point font (per MLA format demonstrated in the *Guide*) and should be no more than three (3) pages long.

Other Requirements:

- Have the proper MLA format for your paper:
- Typed/ Double Spaced
- Centered Title
- Proper Heading: (Your Name, My Name, Humanities 9, Date) on the top left-hand corner
- 12 point/sized font
- Times New Roman, Garamond, or Arial font
- One tab indention for each new paragraph
- Your Last name and the page number in the top right hand corner (done in the header)

Stay away from:

- Contractions
- Informal Diction (slang words/abbreviations/texting shorthand like: lol or bc)
- 1st or 2nd person (do not use I, we, us, you, or me until the final paragraph that discusses your personal response to Genesis) otherwise all pronouns should be in 3rd person (he, she, it, they, the reader, one)
- Fragments/Run-ons (make sure you have a clear subject, verb and an object for each sentence)
- Telling minute/insignificant details (Genesis is very long and full of rich history and cultural facts. You could write papers on just one chapter; but there are 50 chapters, so stick to the main points I gave to discuss in each paragraph)

Finally, do the reading and writing yourself. Do not give in and copy from other sources—that is plagiarism, and I take it very seriously. I am not asking you to do this assignment merely to make you read some ancient book and then torture you with writing. I will use this first essay to discern what the various issues you struggle with in your writing are, and to get to know you a bit. If you copy from the internet or from some study Bible, you rob me of both of those opportunities (and you tell me something about yourself that you do not want to start off Humanities 9 with).

Be prepared for a short reading quiz in the first week (or so) of class to prove you read.

The due date for the essay is **MONDAY, AUGUST 22nd**.

Good luck on your work! Please contact me via email if you have questions about the assignment. I sporadically view my email throughout the summer, but as the school year gets closer (about 2 weeks before school) I will check it more often. You can reach me at: ddickerson@brookhill.org

Enjoy your summer!
Mr. Dickerson