

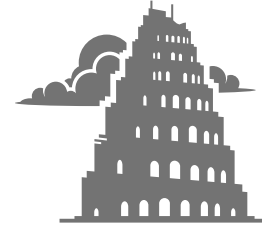


BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: GENESIS



BEST NAME

There are SO many to choose from, but I'll go with **Methuselah**. You don't live to be 969 years old without a good name!



COOLEST CREATION

Creeping things. EVERY. DAY. OF. THE. WEEK.



FAVORITE STORY

I am stickler for the **first creation story** in chapter one. I also really like the **Tower of Babel**.

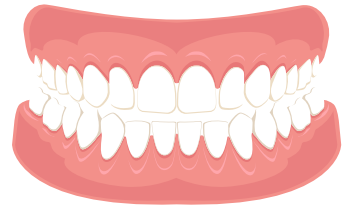
4 SITTINGS

Try reading Genesis in 4 sittings:

- **Sitting One:** Chapters 1-11, The Primeval History
- **Sittings Two and Three:** Chapters 12-36, The Matriarchs and Patriarchs
- **Sitting Four:** Chapters 37-50, The Joseph Novella.

BEST BLESSING

Jacob offers Joseph a blessing that is stronger than the blessings of eternal mountains and the bounties of everlasting hills. Not too shabby. Also of note, Judah gets teeth that are whiter than milk. Something to be said for long-term dental hygiene, right?



WORST BLESSING

Jacob, on his deathbed, tells his sons Simeon and Levi that he wishes to "never come into your council nor be joined by your company." Yikes. Harsh. Let's also not forget that Jacob swindled his brother out of his birthright for a bowl of stew. Buyer beware!



TROUBLESOME STORIES

Dinah is a very hard text. I also struggle with the story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac. There are also many instances where God's perceived absence and/or desire for vengeance are troubling. The flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah come to mind.

THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

We are created in God's image; Reconciliation and restorative justice lead to transformation, but divisiveness and punitive justice lead to brokenness; God is present, even in our growing pains; Don't forget to pay attention to the people unnamed and the voices unheard - their absence and silence speaks volumes.

IF GENESIS WAS A BAND, IT WOULD BE CALLED...

GENESIS, DUH! BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE! GENESIS IS A BAND THAT RE-CREATED ITSELF (SEE WHAT I DID THERE?) MANY TIMES. PHIL COLLINS, ONCE THE DRUMMER, BECAME THE LEAD SINGER. SIDE NOTE: I CAN'T DANCE WAS MY FAVORITE SONG AS A 9TH GRADER.

