

PRE-HISTORY

(Genesis 1–11)

The events in Genesis 1–11 bear no date and are therefore known as pre-history. Four important events occur during this time:

1. **Creation** (Gen. 1–2). Creation is God’s announcement that He wants to accompany human beings on their life journey. The story of creation tells us who this God is who wants to join humankind on their journey through life. The rest of the Bible tells us how God wants to achieve this.
2. **The Fall** (Gen. 3–6:4). Human beings are the highlight of the creation. Created in the image of God, they have the position of power to reign over creation. The tragedy is that due to their disobedience, they disappoint God. In the Bible, the dark side of human nature is revealed at an early stage.
3. **The Flood** (Gen. 6:5–18). God regrets creating human beings (Gen. 6:6) and decides to use water to destroy them. God shows mercy by saving Noah and his family. After the flood, God makes a promise to never again repeat this event. The rainbow is proof of His promise. Yes, God is with us all the time.
4. **The Tower of Babel** (Gen. 11). Human beings once again disobey God. They decide to make a name for themselves by building the Tower of Babel. They do not proclaim the image of God throughout the world but prefer to congregate near the tower. God ruins their plans by creating confusion in their languages. It is nevertheless clear that the majority is unwilling to follow God.

The first 11 chapters of Genesis describe how human beings miss the mark. The rest of the Bible tells us how God accompanies human beings on their journey through life in order to create a community of believers—a family of faith!