



## Reading the book of Genesis

### *DID YOU KNOW?*

1. God, after having created the human being, entrusted him with four (4) main missions:  
a) to dominate over the animal kingdom; b) procreate to multiply; c) fill all the earth's space and d) dominate the earth (Ge.1: 27-28).
2. Adam and Eve were created by God himself (Ge. 1: 26-27), that is to say, they had neither earthly father nor mother. These first man and woman gave birth first to two sons: Cain and Abel, then to Seth – after the murder of Abel by his brother. Before his death, Adam also had other sons and daughters (Ge. 5: 4).
3. Marriage was instituted by God in the Garden of Eden after he had brought the woman (Eve) to the man (Adam) (Ge. 2: 18-25).
4. Adam first called the new creature that looked like him: “woman”, because it was taken out of him (Ge. 2:23); then he gave her the name Eve, which means “mother of all the living” (Ge. 3:20).
5. Before sin, humans and animals were vegetarians (Ge. 1: 29-30). But, after the flood, God authorized humans to eat meat (Ge. 9: 3-4).
6. Jubal, one of Cain's great-grandchildren, was the inventor of the wind instruments (flute and harp) (Ge. 4:21). His father Jabal, for his part, was the father of all those who lived in tents and near herds (v. 20).
7. Tubal-Cain, another great-grandson of Cain, was the inventor of metallurgy (brass instruments and irons) (Ge. 4:22).
8. After Abel's death, human beings stopped worshiping God. It was only after the birth of Seth who himself was the father of Enoch that they began to worship God again (Ge. 4:26).
9. Methuschélah (or Mathusalem) holds the record for longevity. According to Genesis 5: 25-27, he lived 969 years. Besides, he was the son of Enoch who walked with God three

hundred years and who was no longer at the age of 365 years, because God took him (Ge. 5: 22-24).

10. To show that he underlines a historical fact, the author of the book of Genesis (Moses probably) intentionally uses expressions like: “this is the written account of” or “this is the account of” (Ge. 5: 1; 6: 9; 10: 11; 11: 11, 26).
11. All the earth had one language and the same words and lived in the same land after the flood (Ge. 11: 1), But because men planned to build a tower to compete with God, He confused their language and scattered them all over the earth. This is why the city and the tower were called Babel (Ge. 11: 8-9).
12. The two main characters in Genesis are Abraham and Jacob. The story of Abraham covers fourteen (14) chapters (Ge. 12; 25) and the story of Jacob covers twelve (12) chapters (Ge. 25-35; 48- 49).
13. Abraham, when he was Abram, was the first in the Bible to be called “Hebrew” (Ge. 14:13), a name that was to be used later to identify his descendants (Israel) (Ge. 41:13; Ex. 2:13, 5: 3; 1 S. 13: 7; 2 Co. 11:22; Ph. 3: 5).
14. God declared Abraham righteous because he believed in Him (Ge.15: 6). Later, he was even called “father of faith” (Ro. 4).
15. God had predicted that Abraham's descendants would be in slavery in a foreign land for 400 years (Ge.15: 13-16).
16. God changed the name of Abram to “Abraham” because he would become the father of a multitude of nations (Ge. 17: 5) and that of his wife “Sarai” to “Sarah” because she would bear a son and would be the mother of a multitude of nations (Ge.17: 15).
17. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants (Ge. 17:11).
18. Isaac prayed that his wife Rebecca could give birth. God answered him twenty years later (Ge. 25: 20, 21, 26b).
19. Whenever God appeared in a special context to the patriarchs, the patriarchs always built altars as a sign of worship (Ge. 8:20, 12: 8; 26: 25, 28: 18-19).
20. The name Jacob which means “supplanter” was changed by God to “Israel” because he had struggled with God (Ge.32: 28).

21. Jacob, apart from his twelve sons, also had a daughter named Dinah (Ge. 34: 1).
22. Joseph became governor of Egypt at the age of 30 (Ge. 41:46). Pharaoh gave him an Egyptian name which is Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath, daughter of Potiphara from a noble Egyptian family to be his wife, to very quickly erasing his Jewish origins (v.45). However, Joseph gave Hebrew names to his sons, proof that he insisted on preserving his identity (Ge. 41: 51-52).
23. The Egyptians, a people too proud of itself, despised the Hebrews. Even Joseph, despite the high rank he held in their society, felt their discrimination against him. For instance, the Egyptians could not eat at the table with a Hebrew (Ge. 43:32). Also, chapter 46 (verses 33-34) reveals that the occupation of shepherds of the Hebrews was an abomination to the Egyptians.
24. Jacob and the rest of his family went to live in Egypt while his son Joseph was in charge of the country. There were 70 of them and lived in a place called Goshen (Ge.46: 27; Ge. 46:28) where they continued to be shepherds.
25. Jacob died in Egypt (Ge.49: 33), but, according to his wish (Ge. 47: 27-31), Joseph, his son, buried him in Canaan (Ge. 50: 4-6).