

September 6, 2020 Terms

Create, Creation, Creator – God’s act of bringing the world and all of life into being. Genesis 1 includes the days of creation, and Genesis 2 tells about the creation of humanity as the starting point of human history.

Genesis/Book of – found in the Old Testament and it is the first book. Means “beginning”. It is the first book of the Bible and it covers the time from the very first beginnings of history until the journey of the Israelites into Egypt. It is a book about how the universe, the earth and its creatures, and the community of faith all began with God, and nothing exists except by the will and power of God. Genesis also deals with relationships between God and creation. The relationship between God and the community of faith receives the most attention. This community began with the relationship established between God and Abraham.

September 13, 2020

Abraham – also known as Abram. The Old Testament patriarch known as the father, or ancestor, of the Hebrew people. He was noted for his obedience to God. Born near Ur in Mesopotamia, Abraham wandered with his family close to Haran. Abraham, in obedience to God, left Haran and led his family to Canaan, the land of promise. God made a covenant, or agreement, with Abraham, promising that he would be the father of a great nation and that through him God would bless all the families of the earth. A son, Isaac, was born to Abraham’s wife, Sarah. The faith of Abraham was tested when God asked him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham consented, and God spared the son. In the New Testament, Abraham is often mentioned because of his great example of obedience and trust.

Sarah – also, Sarai. Both of these words mean “princess”. Sarah was the wife of Abraham, who in her old age became the mother of Isaac. This birth fulfilled God’s promise to Abraham. Her name was changed from Sarai to Sarah at the same time that God gave Abraham his covenant name. She is described as the mother of the Hebrew people and in the New Testament, she and Abraham are mentioned as excellent examples of faith.

September 20, 2020

Canaan – in the Old Testament, the territory bounded on the west by the Mediterranean Sea, on the east by the Jordan River, on the south by Sinai and on the north by Syria. It was sometimes called the Promised Land because this was the land promised to Abraham. This territory was invaded and finally conquered by the Israelites after they left Egypt and crossed the wilderness. The people of the land were Canaanites, and they spoke a Semitic language. Canaan came to be called Palestine. The areas today includes the countries of Israel, Lebanon, and part of Jordan.

September 27, 2020

Isaac – The son that God promised to Abraham and Sarah. His name means “he laughs”. Isaac was born to them in their old age. The boy Isaac and his father shared a deep faith in God and in each other. Later in life, Isaac married Rebekah and they had Jacob and Esau. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are considered the patriarchs, or fathers, of the Hebrew people.