

The Characters of Genesis

God	First person of the triune God of the Bible; the Father, the Sovereign Being perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness who is worshipped as creator and ruler of the universe
Spirit of God	Third person of the triune God; distinguished from God in Gen 1:2
LORD	English word for Yahweh/Jehovah in the OT—the proper name of the one true God
Adam	First man created by God; given dominion of the garden of God; husband to Eve; his name means man; father of Cain, Abel, Seth and others; failed to protect his wife from being deceived
Eve	Wife of Adam; mother of Cain, Abel, Seth and others; her name means mother of the living, deceived by the Serpent and ate the fruit
Serpent	Satan, the devil, the fallen angel who opposes God and actively works to thwart God’s will
Cain	Firstborn son of Adam and Eve; a farmer, lived as a fugitive on the earth after murdering Abel
Abel	Second son to Adam and Eve, a keeper of sheep; murdered by Cain
Seth	Third son of Eve, the father of the line from whom Jesus, the Son of God, would descend
Noah	Builder of an ark to the saving of his soul, a great man of faith and a ‘preacher of righteousness’
Shem	Firstborn son of Noah, the son of the line from whom Abraham and Jesus would descend
Ham	Second son of Noah and the father of the Canaanites
Japheth	Third son of Noah whose descendants settled in Asia Minor and Europe
Terah	Father of Abram from the Ur of Chaldeans
Abram/Abraham	Father (patriarch) of the Jews (Hebrews) and the father of a multiple of nations including but not limited to Israel; the only man in the Bible described as a ‘friend of God’
Sarai/ Sarah	Wife of Abram and mother of Isaac; her only son, the child of promise
Lot	Nephew to Abram, son of Haran, grandson of Terah; a herdsman, settled in Sodom; became the father of the Moabites and Ammonites
Pharaoh	Generic name for the king of Egypt
Melchizedek	King of Salem and priest of God Most High, a very mysterious character in Genesis having neither a beginning nor end in the narrative; the priestly lineage of Jesus
Hagar	Sarah’s Egyptian female servant and mother of Ishmael by way of Abraham
Ishmael	Outcast son of Abraham by way of Hagar; considered to be a prophet in Islam
Angel of the LORD	Second person of the triune God; a preincarnate appearance of Jesus, the Son of God in the OT
Isaac	Only son of Abraham and Sarah; the inheritor of all the promises of the Abrahamic covenant; the husband of Rebekah and father of Esau and Jacob; a herdsman, envied for his wealth
Rebekah	Great granddaughter of Terah, sister of Laban, wife of Isaac, mother of Esau and Jacob
Laban	Father of Leah and Rachel, brother to Rebekah and great grandson of Terah
Esau	Firstborn twin son of Isaac and Rebekah; despised his birthright to the Abrahamic Covenant
Jacob/Israel	Twin son of Isaac and Rebekah, father of the 12 sons of Israel, the inheritor of all the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant; deceived his father to gain the blessing
Leah	Daughter of Laban, wife of Jacob, and mother of six of the sons of Israel and Dinah
Rachel	Daughter of Laban, younger sister to Leah, the love of Jacob, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin
Reuben	Firstborn son of Jacob and Leah
Judah	Fourth son of Jacob and Leah, the father of the tribe from whom King David and Jesus will descend
Dinah	Only daughter born to Jacob and Leah; sister to the 12 sons of Israel
Joseph	Beloved son of Jacob whose mother was Rachel; hated by his older brothers, used by God to save his family from starvation as the governor in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh
Potiphar	Captain of the Egyptian guard who bought Joseph as a slave
Asenath	Egyptian wife of Joseph and mother of Manasseh and Ephraim
Manasseh	Firstborn son of Joseph and Asenath; becomes one of the 12 tribes of Israel
Ephraim	Second son of Joseph and Asenath; becomes one of the 12 tribes of Israel and received the greater blessing from his grandfather Jacob