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## **The Book Of Genesis Paper**

Genesis is sourced from a Hebrew word that translates to “beginning”. The main aspect of the book of Genesis is the commencement of a “Genesis” (pun intended). As a freshman this fall who relocated from Denver, Colorado to New York City, New York, I believe The Book of Genesis is significantly linked with what I am currently experiencing, which is the start of a new chapter in my life, where I am given the freedom to make my own ethical decisions. The most informative chapter, in my opinion, was the origin of sin and forgiveness, and is something we can all relate with as human beings, which is committing a sin and asking for forgiveness.

We can see in Genesis 12:10-13:2 Abraham lies and claims his wife is his sister in order for them not to kill him, which results in him receiving special treatment such as food, livestock, and servants. Toward the end, Sarah causes the Pharaoh to be sick as a result of Abraham, and they are caught lying about their marriage. They are eventually kicked out, but they take everything they own, so they are still extremely wealthy. This is repeated in Genesis 20:1-18, but this time with Abimelech, King of Gerar. This time was different because God warns Abimelech in a dream that she is a married woman and that he must return to her or he will die. Abimelech does exactly that, but he confronts Abraham about it and has him pray for him to be healed, and he

also gives him livestock and servants to accompany him. I believe Abraham was right because he would have been killed in his defense.

Although the lessons in Genesis 12:10-13:2 and Genesis 20:1-18 are very informative, I want to circle back towards the start of the book, when we are introduced to the creation of the universe in the first section of the book, where God created everything, transforming a stormy, watery commotion into an enchanting oasis where humans could thrive. Adam and Eve, two major characters, are also introduced in this section. We know that Adam translates to humanity and Eve translates to life in Hebrew, and so we can infer that these two individuals are symbolic of the vision God intended to establish for his creation. We are also introduced to the tree of "Knowledge of Good and Evil" later on in the book, and reveals the ethical choices God permits Adam and Eve to make. The Book of Genesis quotes "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:" (Genesis 3:22). We can argue from this verse that this tree portrays the choice between obeying God's definition of good and evil or taking the opportunity to define good and evil for oneself. This pivotal action in the chapter serves as the foundation for understanding the biblical concept of sin. The temptation to eat the forbidden fruit resulted in chaos, as seen by various examples in the book of Genesis, such as Adam and Eve feeling ashamed of seeing each other nude. The Bible quotes "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings." (Genesis 3:22) meaning that after eating the forbidden fruit, they felt ashamed of each other viewing each other for the wrong reasons. But we can also see more examples later on in the book, such as Cain killing his sibling Abel out of jealousy, and Lamech

engaging in polygamy and bragging about his aggressive image. This was a big issue in The Bible, since we now know that without God's instruction and judgment, humanity is awful at defining good and evil. It evolved so horribly that God sent a huge flood to wipe away his entire creation. This devastating flood symbolizes God's sadness and fury over all the evil in his creation, leaving only hope for the pure, and so Noah is chosen by God to protect the goodness of his creation. After all of these events, we can see that they all come back to one common ground and reflect a motif that when humans do not define God's authority and define good and evil for themselves, the world becomes tragic.

I included my personal interpretation of my favorite part of Genesis because I personally resonate with the overall message God wanted to convey to the readers. This section of the Bible resonates deeply with me, simply because I often stray and define my own version of good and evil rather than God's version of good and evil. A prime example of this occurred recently after I moved to New York City, when I disobeyed the NYC subway's transportation laws. The NYPD fined me \$100 for making the unethical decision to ride the subway without paying the \$2.75 fare. While the lesson learned was to never board a train without paying the subway fare, it is also fair to say that the universal lesson of this traumatic experience served as a reminder to stay true to the principles that God intended for his creation to follow. I believe it was God's way of warning me for being dishonest to the subway system. We all have our own experiences and stories that allow us to relate to Adam and Eve's choice to sin, but it is more important to take the time to reset and ask for forgiveness, or to create your own "Genesis flood", in order to remove all the negative parts of your life and leaving only room for the good parts.