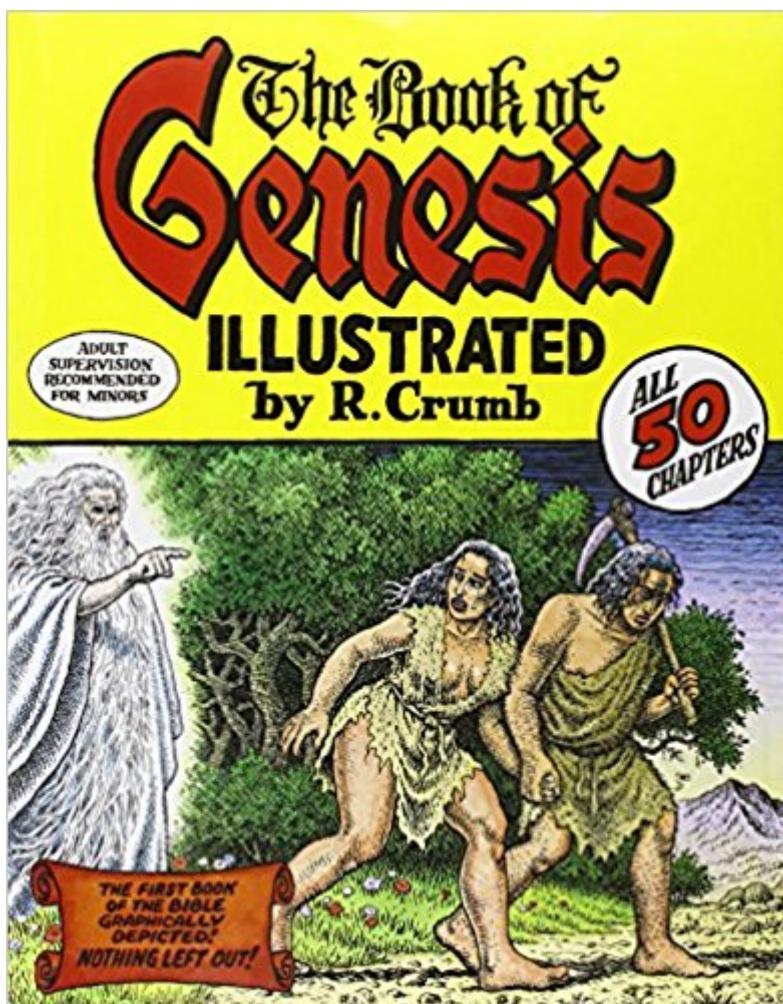


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# The Book Of Genesis Illustrated By R. Crumb



## Synopsis

Nominated for three 2010 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards: From Creation to the death of Joseph, here are all 50 chapters of the Book of Genesis, revealingly illustrated as never before. Envisioning the first book of the bible like no one before him, R. Crumb, the legendary illustrator, reveals here the story of Genesis in a profoundly honest and deeply moving way. Originally thinking that we would do a take off of Adam and Eve, Crumb became so fascinated by the Bible's language, "a text so great and so strange that it lends itself readily to graphic depictions," that he decided instead to do a literal interpretation using the text word for word in a version primarily assembled from the translations of Robert Alter and the King James bible. Now, readers of every persuasion—Crumb fans, comic book lovers, and believers—can gain astonishing new insights from these harrowing, tragic, and even juicy stories. Crumb's Book of Genesis reintroduces us to the bountiful tree lined garden of Adam and Eve, the massive ark of Noah with beasts of every kind, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed by brimstone and fire that rained from the heavens, and the Egypt of the Pharaoh, where Joseph's embalmed body is carried in a coffin, in a scene as elegiac as any in Genesis. Using clues from the text and peeling away the theological and scholarly interpretation that have often obscured the Bible's most dramatic stories, Crumb fleshes out a parade of Biblical originals: from the serpent in Eden, the humanoid reptile appearing like an alien out of a science fiction movie, to Jacob, a "kind" yet depressed guy who doesn't strike you as physically courageous, and his bother, Esau, a "a rough and kick ass guy," to Abraham's wife Sarah, more fetching than most woman at 90, to God himself, a "standard Charlton Heston-like figure with long white hair and a flowing beard." As Crumb writes in his introduction, "the stories of these people, the Hebrews, were something more than just stories. They were the foundation, the source, in writing of religious and political power, handed down by God himself." Crumb's Book of Genesis, the culmination of 5 years of painstaking work, is a tapestry of masterly detail and storytelling which celebrates the astonishing diversity of the one of our greatest artistic geniuses. Nominated for three 2010 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards: Best Adaptation from Another Work, Best Graphic Album, Best Writer/Artist.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (October 19, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393061027

ISBN-13: 978-0393061024

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 1 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 298 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #27,910 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Religion & Spirituality #21 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > Old Testament #40 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Literary

## Customer Reviews

Far removed from the satirical reimagining some might expect from the father of underground comix, Crumb's long-awaited take on the first book of the Bible presents the artist's own sensitive, visually intense reflections. Where most visual adaptations edit down their prose sources, Crumb has, strikingly, included every word of the Book of Genesis within his first major book-length work. His humanistic visual response to this religious text imbues even briefly mentioned biblical characters with unique faces and attitudes, and his renderings of the book's more storied personalities draw out momentous emotions inspired by the book's inherent drama. Throughout, Genesis is a virtual portfolio of Crumb's career-long effort to instill fluid cartoon drawing with carefully rendered lifelike detail. Some might miss Crumb's full stylistic and tonal range, but the source's narrative sweep includes moments of sex and scandal that recall the artist's more notorious comics. Indeed, this monumental visual adaptation's basic strategy may subvert simply by demanding a reconsideration of its source, one that continues to motivate the complex cultural struggles that have, for decades, preoccupied this master cartoonist's landmark work. (Oct.)

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“The best place to witness Crumb’s genius. Largely stripped of the sociopolitical context that has made his comics so controversial over the years, *Genesis*’ portraits of ancient men and women struggling to survive shows that his primary interest lies in chronicling the physical and mental experience of being human.” - [Thrillist.com](#) “Starred Review.

Crumb’s vivid visual characterizations of the myriad characters, pious and wicked, make the most striking impression. His distinctive, highly rendered drawing style imparts a physicality that

few other illustrated versions of this often retold chronicle have possessed. The centenarian elders show every one of their years, and the women, from Eve to Rachel, are as solidly sensual as any others Crumb has so famously drawn. - Booklist "To say this book is a remarkable volume or even a landmark volume in comic art is somewhat of an understatement.... stands on its own as one of this century's most ambitious artistic adaptations of the West's oldest continuously told story. - Paul Buhle, The Jewish Daily Forward "It's a cartoonist's equivalent of the Sistine Chapel. It's awesome. Crumb has done a real artist's turn here. He's challenged himself and defied all expectation. ... I've read Genesis before. But never have I found it so compelling. By placing it squarely in the Middle East and populating it with distinctively Semitic-looking people Crumb makes it come alive brilliantly. - Susan Jane Gilman, Morning Edition, NPR "[A] beautifully drawn and relentlessly faithful rendition of the first 50 chapters of the Bible by an apostle of the 1960s and sometimes profane progenitor of underground comics. Crumb has produced what could be the ultimate graphic novel. - David Colton, USA Today

A little dry after awhile, but the illustrations are interesting the whole time. Love Crumb, great concept and wonderfully done. Would like to see more Old Testament stories!

Some artists can't figure out how to make each person have a different appearance, they just have one or two faces and then variations on those. This is not the case with Crumb. He has perhaps 100 individuals on display here and no two look alike, amazing. The people look like they have hard lives and are not used to regular bathing, as it likely was then. Crumb can be very elitist in his attitudes towards society, but that isn't going on here at all. I was fortunate enough to get to see the entire book on display in Los Angeles and it is beautiful. The detail is stunning when it comes to things like the individual strands of hair in GOD's beard. Having seen the actual pages I have to say that the book comes close but can't help but pale in comparison. The book pages are just too small to take it all in. I hope a larger edition is released at some point. Definitely don't let this book pass you by. It is good and as close to the original pages as we are ever likely to get.

I love Crumb's artwork. He doesn't twist distort or offer commentary on the Book of Genesis he just illustrates it. The book is well done, high quality binding.

R. Crumb finally got around to doing what he was put on this earth to do: namely, implement his

bold and bawdy style of cartooning in the service of telling the ancient "origins" stories recorded in Genesis. Be sure to read the introduction because there you'll learn of Crumb's intentions and interpretive method. Most remarkable is Crumb's commitment to the original text--the reader will find no Cecil B. Demille-style interpolations or Eugene Peterson-style paraphrasings here. No, Crumb's artistic license comes in the illustrations themselves--with impressive results. Crumb's efforts here make for good "lay" reading, as well as a pretty good textbook for an Introduction to Biblical Studies class. On the other hand, the images that illustrate texts like Genesis 19:31-36 (Lot and his daughters) ought to make it clear that Crumb's work is not the kind of art you want to show to the kids in your Sunday School class.

I heard R. Crumb on NPR discussing this work. He did it "straight" with no comedy and used the KJV and another modern version of the Bible as his guide. Took him almost 4 years to do the artwork for all 50 chapters of Genesis. Not for young kids because of some of the lewd artwork, but this is a wonderful telling of the amazing stories in one of the most important books in the Bible. Crumb's artwork with the hyper-expressive faces makes it come alive. Loved it! Crumb is still doing some amazing work in his old age. Hope he keeps it up!

This is exactly what it says it is: "The Book of Genesis Illustrated by R. Crumb". It is the entire book of Genesis in comic book version. Crumb mostly used The Five Books of Moses: A Translation with Commentary as his source material. Crumb's artwork is absolutely stunning here. He leaves nothing out, so there is some nudity and sex, although not as much as you might think. Leaving nothing out also means that the boring parts are left in; such as "And Methuselah lived 187 years and he begot Lamech. And Methuselah lived after he begot Lamech 782 years, and he begot sons and daughters. And all the days of Methuselah were 969 years. Then he died." There is much more not-so-interesting data about who begot whom and how long they lived, but Crumb's artwork even makes the monotonous passages bearable. This is an artistic masterwork.

A literal retelling of the whole book of Genesis. The imagery is classic Crumb: heavy/beefy bodies and faces, detailed scenes, probably a far more accurate portrayal of the appearance of people at that time than most conventional biblical art. This is not a comic spoof of the Bible, or a subtle critique of biblical beliefs... it seems to be a straight forward presentation of the mixed bag that is Genesis: mythic tales, folk history, tribal ancestries, stories from different sources forced into a chaotic whole. This is the best presentation of Genesis I have ever read... I gained greater insight

from this book than any translation of the old testament I have ever read. Whether you are a true believer or a committed atheist, this book is worth the price; I read it in one day, then read it again and gave it to a friend... "HWSFS"

R. Crumb illustrating the complete text of the Book of Genesis? How could anyone not be intrigued by such an endeavor? I wasn't sure what to expect, I thought Crumb might approach it with an over-the-top view or perhaps try to make it humorous. It is simply a straight-forward, illustrated telling of the famous text. I'm certainly no biblical scholar and I found this all-inclusive, unabridged look at Genesis to be very interesting. This is a must have for any R. Crumb fan and I think there is a lot to be enjoyed by any fan of comic art as well as people simply looking for writings about the Bible. Crumb's notes at the back offer a very interesting, scholarly interpretation of some of the chapters that I had never thought of or heard before.

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