

8/8/04

### Introduction To Genesis

The book of Genesis introduces to us a love story involving two characters, God and man. It presents salvation history after the fall of man, through Adam, through the promised Messiah, who is the only Redeemer of fallen mankind.

Verse one of the book of Genesis is the introduction to the first chapter, which is the foundational record of creation as a summary.

Gen. 1:1-2:3

**1.** This first section is the foundation and introduction to the first division of the book of Genesis. Gen. 1-11

**2.** Then the first eleven chapters are the foundation and introduction to the second division of Genesis.

Gen. 12-50

**3.** Then the book of Genesis becomes the foundation and introduction to the following four books of the Law, the Pentateuch, given to the nation of Israel by the hand of Moses, Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

**4.** Then the Pentateuch becomes the foundation and introduction to the historical, poetical and prophetic book of the nation of Israel throughout the Old Testament.

**5.** The entire Old Testament is the foundation and introduction of the New Testament.

**6.** The New Testament is the fulfillment of all that was promised to Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph

### **I. The book of Genesis.**

**A.** The title Genesis comes from the Greek from the Septuagint.

**1.** The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Hebrew scripture.

**2.** The translation was done by the 70 scholars from Alexandria in Egypt, about the third century B.C.

**3.** The name Septuagint is represented by the Roman numbers LXX.

**4.** Genesis is the first book of five called Pentateuch in the LXX, known as the torah, the law, Lk. 24:44)

**a.** The Septuagint Greek word Pentateuch is made up of two words.

**1)** Pente, which means five.

**2)** Teuchos, which means book.

**b.** The word Septuagint comes from the Latin septuaginta, for seventy.

**5.** Pentateuch comprises 1/7 of the entire Bible and is 2/3 as large as the New Testament.

**B.** The book of Genesis is the book of beginnings, revealing the origin of all things.

1. The word Genesis means origin or source, providing by Divine revelation the origin and initial explanation of all the creation, expulsion from the garden and redemption of man.
2. The Hebrew title comes from the first two words of the book “beresit” in the beginning.
3. The beginning of the material universe, with order, design and complexities. Gen. 1:1
4. The beginning of the revelation of God, who is self-existing, self-determining, self-sufficient and self-willed. Is. 45:5. Eph.1:11; Gen. 21:33
5. The beginning of man. Gen. 1:26-27
6. The beginning of marriage and the family. Gen. 2:24-25
7. The beginning of sin and evil. Gen. 3:7
8. The beginning of salvation and the covenant of redemption. Gen. 3:15
9. The beginning of sacrifices, the method to approach God to atone sin. Gen. 3:21; 4:3-4; 8:20; 15:10
10. The beginning of grace versus judgment. Gen. 6:8
11. The beginning of language, government, culture, nations, religion, a chosen people.
12. The beginning of many of the great doctrines of the Bible are found in the

first eleven chapters of Genesis, as the foundation to the progressive Revelation of God’s word to follow.

- a. The doctrine of the Triune God. Gen. 1:1, 2, 26
- b. The doctrine of God the Creator. Gen. 1:1
- c. The doctrine of marriage. Gen. 2:2-25
- d. The doctrine of the fall, sin, death, Satan and evil. Gen. 3: 1-8
- e. The doctrine of confession and repentance. Gen. 3:12-13
- f. The doctrine of redemption. Gen. 3:15
- g. The doctrine of the curse on the earth and man. Gen. 3:16-19
- h. The doctrine of atonement. Gen. 3:21
- i. The doctrine of the depravity of man. Gen. 4:6-8,
- j. The doctrine of salvation. Gen. 5:1, 24
- k. The doctrine judgment. Gen. 6:1-7
- l. The doctrine of grace. Gen. 6:8
- m. The doctrine of covenant. Gen. 9:1-17

#### C. The author is Moses

1. Many have opposed the authorship of Moses, especially those in so called higher criticism, giving as its source, various sources and a compilation of them.

- a. These so called critics have espoused a theory that the Pentateuch was written by various individuals and coming up with the hypothesis known as the J. E. P. D.
  - b. The theory began in 1876-77 by J. Wellhausen's works Die Komposition des Hexateuchs, teaching that Joshua is part of the Pentateuch and is known as the "documentary hypothesis".
2. The book of Genesis is attested to by the traditional Jewish Masoretic text, which has revealed itself to be a most trustworthy text.
  3. Jesus attested that the book of Genesis was written by Moses by the words of Jesus as He mentioned Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and others. Matt. 19:3-6.8; Mk. 12:26; Lk. 16:31; Jn. 5:46; 7:23
    - a. The book of Exodus attests to the authorship of Moses as well as Jesus. Ex. 17:14; 24:4; Mk. 12:26; Lk. 16:31; 20:37; 24:44
    - b. The book Leviticus bears testimony to Moses. Lev. 26:46; 27:34.
    - c. The book of Numbers bear testimony to the authorship of Moses, the phrase "The Lord spoke to Moses" appears 52x's in the thirty-six chapter. Num. 32:2

- d. The book of Deuteronomy bears witness to the authorship of Moses, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy more than any other book of the Old Testament.
- e. The Pentateuch gives to us the first two-thousand-five-hundred years of man's history, with consistent spiritual unity.

*This is the book of Genesis!*

## **II. The book of Genesis in relation to the Pentateuch and Revelation.**

- A. Genesis in relation to the first book of five called Pentateuch.
  1. In Genesis we have creation and devastation through sin, focusing on man's free-will and the sovereign promise of God for redemption, through a bloodline and descent that will find it's fulfillment in Jesus, the Messiah. Gen. 3:1-7, 15; 12:13
    - a. The book is the foundation to all that follows in the next four books.
    - b. The promises made to Abraham of making him a nation and giving him a land, are the basis for Moses being called to give birth to the nation of Israel.

2. In Exodus we have redemption of the nation of Israel from Egypt, through the blood of the Lamb, focusing on faith on God to save and deliver them by His power, in order to tabernacle among them. Ex. 19:5
3. In Leviticus we have God's standard to walk and worship with Him through sacrifice, obedience, a mediating priest and social order, focusing on holiness. Lev. 1-7
4. In Numbers we have forty years of death versus patience, due to disobedience and rebellion against God, throughout the wilderness march, focusing on the severity and goodness of God. Num. 14:29-31
5. In Deuteronomy we have instruction renewed to the second generation for the occupation of the land, focusing on the faithfulness of God to His promise. Deut. 4:1
6. Without the book of Genesis, the following four books of the Pentateuch would have to basis for their existence, nor any Biblical evidence for the existence of the nation of Israel by the promise of God.
7. The book of Genesis validates why man is not to worship any other god, because there is but one God, the One who

created everything and every person! Ex. 20:4; Deut. 4:19; 5:8

**B. Genesis in relation to the book of Revelation.**

\* There are similarities as well as contrasts.

1. Genesis answers man's questions as to how everything began, Revelation tells man how it will all end.
2. In Genesis out of eternity, God proclaims the beginning of time as man knows it, Revelation ends man's time as we know it and ends with eternity.
3. Genesis and Revelation both have the tree of life is present and the river of life.
4. Genesis has the garden that is closed to man, in Revelation man has the city of God, that is open to man, the New Jerusalem.
5. Genesis we see a curse imposed, Revelation we see the curse removed.
6. Genesis we see the beginning of sorrow, pain and death, Revelation we see no more death or sorrow.
7. Genesis the dominion of man is forfeited, Revelation the dominion of man is restored.
8. Genesis we see Satan and evil triumph, Revelation we see the triumph of the Lamb.

9. Genesis we see fellowship with God broken, Revelation we see fellowship with God resumed.
10. Genesis we see the promised of complete redemption and restoration, Revelation is the affirmation of the completion of God's promises.
11. Genesis we see the rebellion of man by the kingdom of Babylon at the tower of Babel, Revelation we see the kingdom of Babylon destroyed.
12. Genesis we see the caused of sin, affliction with great anticipation, Revelation we see the caused fulfillment with perfect realization.

***The book of Genesis in relation to the Pentateuch and Revelation!***

**III. The of the book of Genesis and it's structure.**

- A. The book falls into two major divisions.
  1. The primeval history, that pertaining to the first stage of man's history, we see God as sovereign over His creation. Gen. 1-11
    - a. Over creation, to order the physical universe.
    - b. Over the fall, to give the promise of redemption.

- c. Over the flood, to bring judgment on a sinful world.
    - d. Over the rebellion of the tower of Babel, to disperse the rebellious idolatrous man.
  2. The patriarchal history, that pertaining to the fathers, we see God as sovereign over human regeneration. Gen. 12-50
    - a. Over the call of Abraham.
    - b. Over the birth of Isaac.
    - c. Over the providence of Jacob.
    - d. Over the protection and exaltation of Joseph.
  3. The primeval history is an introduction to the book of Genesis and the Pentateuch.
    - a. To draw the connection between the God who created everything and the God of the Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
    - b. To show the goal of the call of the Patriarchs and the Sinai covenant have as their goal the establishment of God's original purpose in Creation, to live in perfection in eternity with God.
    - c. The focus of the first two chapter of Genesis is the land and the blessing of man and it is the same focus in the following four books of the Pentateuch for Israel.
- B.** The book of Genesis also falls into ten minor divisions.

\* These are natural division by a key word, “toledoth”, which means a genealogical list, translated “generation” in the KJV, history in the NKJV.

1. Generation “toledot” history, story, account of heavens and earth. Gen. 2:4-4:26
2. Generation of Adam. Gen. 5:1-6:8; Rom. 5:12; 1Cor. 15:45
3. Generation of Noah. Gen. 6:9-9:29; Heb. 11:7; 1Pet. 3:20
4. Generation sons of Noah. Gen. 10:1-11:9 (10:32 of them nations divided)
5. Generation of Shem. Gen. 11:10-26
6. Generation of Terah. Gen. 11:27-32; 25:11(Abraham went from an idolater to a man of faith. Josh. 24:2; Rom. 4:3, 18-25; Heb. 11:8, 19
7. Generation of Ishmael. Gen. 25:12-18 (flesh, the endeavors of man)
8. Generation of Isaac. Gen. 25:19-25:29 (man of altars) Heb. 11.20
9. Generation of Esau. Gen. 36:1-37:1 (flesh, the depravity of man, some divide the Edomites as a separate one) Rom. 9:11-14
10. Generation of Jacob. Gen. 37.2-50:26 (man of action) Heb. 11:21

*This is the of the book of Genesis and it’s structure!*

#### **IV. The book of Genesis and it’s purpose.**

- A. To reveal to man that God created all things.
  1. Man has no excuse for corrupting the proper worship of God.
  2. Man is without excuse in the worship of polytheism, dualism, deism, pantheism, monism and atheism
    - \* The fool has said in his heart... Ps. 14:1
- B. To reveal to man that God created man to be in fellowship with Him.
  1. Man is the climax of God’s creation.
  2. The plants, animals and earth was made
- C. To reveal to man that God makes Himself responsible for man’s provisions.
  1. God placed man in a garden with all provisions.
  2. God still gave provisions after the fall but under more difficult circumstances.
- D. To reveal to man the failure of Adam at the fall, so as to recognize sin-nature.
  1. God was not responsible for the fall.
  2. God created man with volition, having choice.
- E. To reveal to man the promise of a Savior Redeemer.

1. God would send His Son in the image of man to redeem man. Gen. 3:15
  2. God would be born of a virgin.
- F.** To reveal to man the required provision for atonement for restored fellowship with God.
1. God killed an innocent animal to cover both their sin and nakedness.
  2. This would be the token for the forgiveness of sins, blood.
- G.** To reveal to man the two lines of mankind, the ones who reject God are ruled by their sin nature are the wicked and those who follow God are the godly.
1. Individually hardness of heart. Cain
  2. Public societal depravation. Violence, murder, etc.
- H.** To reveal to man that God judged the entire Antediluvian world of Noah for their corruption of their sins.
1. God recorded the corruption of the people.
  2. God stated the continual evil imaginations of man and striving against his maker.
  3. God gave a way of escape through Noah for 120 years.

- I.** To reveal to man that man is incurably a sinner by nature, even if you start over. Noah after the flood.
1. Noah and his family saw the evil and the judgment of God by destroying the entire world.
  2. Noah and his sons families began sinning again.
- J.** To reveal to man that the nation of Israel is by God's design through a covenant. Abraham.
1. God sovereignly choose Abraham.
  2. God sovereignly would bless all the nations through Abraham.
- K.** To reveal to man that God is faithful to His promises and covenant.
1. Abraham.
  2. Isaac.
  3. Jacob.
  4. Joseph.
- L.** To reveal types and prophecy of future people and events. Rom. 15:4; 1Cor. 10:6, 11
1. Some of the types in Genesis.
    - a. Adam is a type of Him who was to come, Christ. Rom. 5:14
    - b. Cain and Able are types of carnal and spiritual. 1Jn. 3:12

- c. Noah is a type of being saved and faith. 1Pet. 3:21
  - d. Melchizedek a type of Christ. Heb. 7
  - e. Hagar and Sarah a type of law and grace. Gal. ?
  - f. Ishmael and Isaac, types of flesh and spirit and the two covenants. Gal. 4:22-27, 29
  - g. Isaac is a type of Christ, the sacrifice to come. Gen. 22
  - h. Joseph a type of Christ. Gen. 37-50
2. Some rules and principles of interpreting types.
- a. The type should never be used independent of it's direct teaching in Scripture.
    - 1) Example, the rock in the wilderness. Ex. 17; 1Cor. 10:4
    - 2) The tabernacle and sacrifices. Ex. 25-29; Lev. 1-7; Heb 9-10
  - b. The type always serves to illuminate the prophetic element, the antitype is the fulfillment of the prophetic type and interpreted by the New Testament.
    - 1) The lambs offered for sacrifice were types of Christ, Christ was the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. Jn. 1:29
    - 2) The serpent lifted up in the wilderness by Moses was a type of

Christ offered for the redemption and salvation of man. Num. 21:1-9; Jn. 3:14-15

- c. The abuse of types is in fanciful extremes that spiritualize and allegorize beyond the Scriptures, degenerating into a vivid imagination based on personal subjectivism.
3. Some of the prophecies.
- a. The promise of the virgin birth of the Messiah. Gen. 3:15
  - b. The prophecy of the flood. Gen. 6
  - c. The prophecy of the nation of Israel. Gen. 12:1-3
  - d. The prophecy of the birth of Isaac. Gen. 17:19
  - e. The prophecy of God providing His Son on Calvary. Gen. 22
  - f. The prophecy of Joseph's dreams of becoming ruler of Egypt. Gen. 37:5, 9
  - g. The prophecy of the coming of Messiah when Israel would have no authority rule herself. Gen. 49:10
  - h. Jude tells us that Enoch prophesied about the Second Coming of Messiah in Genesis, "Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints." Jude 1:14



*This is the book of Genesis and it's purpose!*

**V. The book of Genesis and it's message.**

- A.** There is only one God.
1. Elohim is the Creator of all, worship Him. Col. 1:16
  2. Elohim wanted man to know the nature of God, the created world and mankind, so that the not worship the creature more than the Creator. Rom. 1
    - a. He did not want man to be ruled by superstition, fear or ignorance.
    - b. He wanted man to enjoy His Creator and the world God created for man.
- B.** There is only one way to know God.
1. Through His revelation.
  2. Through the provisions of God. Gen. 3:15
    - a. Special revelation,
      - God's revealed word,
    - b. General revelation,
      - 1) Creation. Rom. 1:20-21
      - 2) Conscience. Rom. 2:14-15
      - 3) History.
- C.** There is only one chosen people for salvation history.
1. Through the man Abraham.
  2. Through the nation of Israel.

3. Through faith on the covenant.
4. Through the coming Messiah.

- D.** Think of the ratio of the book of Genesis.
1. The creation has two chapters. Gen. 1-2
  2. The fall has one chapter. Gen. 3
  3. The rebelliousness of man has eight chapters. Gen. 4-11
  4. The covenant of salvation history through the nation of Israel has thirty-nine chapters.
  5. The main message of the book of Genesis is the Revelation of God to man for salvation lest he perish.

*This is the book of Genesis and it's message!*

**VI. The book of Genesis and key words, phrases and verses.**

- A.** key words.
1. God. appears thirty-five times. Gen. 1:1-2:3
  2. Earth, twenty-six times. Gen. 1:1-2:6
  3. Firmament, nine times. Gen. 1:6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 20
  4. Created "bara", four times. Gen. 1:1, 21, 27; 2:3
  5. Made "asah" and formed "yatzear", nine times. Gen. 1:7, 16, 25, 31; 2:3, 7, 8, 19

**B. Key phrases.**

1. God said, twelve times in the first chapter.
2. God saw, seven times in the first chapter.
3. Let there be, eight times. Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26
4. And it was so, seven times. Gen. 1:3, 7, 9, 11, 15, 24, 30
5. And God made, seven times. Gen. 1:4, 7, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27
6. God saw that it was good, seven times. Gen. 1:4, 7, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31
7. According to its kind, thirteen times. Gen. 1:11-7:14

**C. Key verses.**

1. The declarative statement of creation. Gen. 1:1
2. The divine conversation about man's creation. Gen. 1:26; 2:7
3. The institution of marriage and family. Gen. 2:18, 21-25
4. The promise of the Messiah. Gen. 3:15
5. The token of atonement. Gen. 3:21
6. The sin nature of that masters him. Gen. 4:7; 6:5
7. Noah found grace with God. Gen. 6:8
8. The command for capital punishment. Gen. 9:4-5
9. The tower of Babel. Gen. 11:4
10. The call of Abraham. Gen. 12:1-3

*This is the book of Genesis and some of its key words, phrases and verses!*

**VII. The book of Genesis and its outline.****A. G. Campbell Morgan.**

1. Generations. Gen. 1:1-2:25
2. Degeneration. Gen. 3:1-11:32
3. Regeneration. Gen. 12:1-50:26

**B. World Biblical Commentary.**

1. The origin of the world. Gen. 1
2. The origin of the nations. Gen. 2-11
3. The origin of Israel. Gen. 12-50

**C. Simple division.**

1. The primeval history, that pertaining to the first stage of man's history, we see God as sovereign over His creation. Gen. 1-11
2. The patriarchal history, that pertaining to the fathers, we see God as sovereign over human regeneration. Gen. 12-50

*This is the book of Genesis and its outline!*