

INTRODUCTION TO Genesis

READ ALONG

- 08/30-09/04 Genesis 1-2
- 09/07-09/11 Genesis 3-7
- 09/14-09/18 Genesis 8-11
- 09/21-09/25 Genesis 12-16
- 09/28-10/02 Genesis 17-23
- 10/05-10/09 Genesis 24-29
- 10/12-10/16 Genesis 30-37
- 10/19-10/23 Genesis 38-43
- 10/26-10/30 Genesis 44-50

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

01. GENESIS
02. EXODUS
03. LEVITICUS
04. NUMBERS
05. DEUTERONOMY
06. JOSHUA

BASIC STRUCTURE

50 CHAPTERS

1

Primeval History

- a. Creation (1:1-2:3)
- b. The First Humans (2:4-4:26)
- c. Adam's Descendants (5:1-6:8)
- d. Noah's Descendants (6:9-11:9)
- e. Shem's Descendants (11:10-26)

GENESIS 1-11:26

2

Patriarchal History

- a. Terah's Descendants (11:27-25:18)
- b. Isaac's Descendants (25:19-37:1)
- c. Jacob's Descendants (37:2-50:26)

GENESIS 11:27-50:26

BOOK OF "FIRSTS"

First matter, first light, first animals, first humans, first marriage, first temptation, first sin, first death, first covenant with God, first rain, first rainbow, first city, first nation, first conflict, first war, etc.

KEY PHRASE

"*These are the family records*" occurs 5X in each major section. Genesis divides into 2 major sections: 1) Chapters 1-11 (4 major events: Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel) and, 2) Chapters 12-50 (4 generations: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph/Judah (12 tribes))

KEY THEMES

1. **Creation.** God creates all that exists in the universe.
2. **Imago Dei.** God creates human beings in His own image (1:26-28) and gives them instruction on how to live their lives on earth.
3. **Sin.** In an act of rebellion, the first humans, Adam and Eve, disobey God's law—which is called sin—and the result of sin is death and destruction. Genesis helps us understand why evil and sin, as well as death and destruction are part of our world. The sin deepens and spreads until God decided to destroy the earth and all human beings except Noah and his family. God starts over with this family, but they continue to sin.
4. **Grace.** God promises Adam and Eve that He will send another human being, the offspring of Adam and Eve, to crush the head of the Serpent—the Tempter who persuaded them to sin. God makes a covenant with Abraham and his family to send the Deliverer through Abraham's offspring. In spite of consistent sinfulness, God works (both providentially and miraculously) to keep His promise to Abraham.
5. **Substitution & Atonement.** From God making clothing of animal skins (3:21) to providing a ram for Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah(22:13), there are glimpses of substitutionary atonement for sin in Genesis.

BOOK BASICS



DATE
13th Century BC



TYPE
Narrative



AUTHOR
Moses

Genesis is, strictly speaking, written as an anonymous book. There is no author identified within its writing. However, in both the OT & NT Moses is identified as the author. Moses most likely lived in the 13th-14th Centuries BC, so Genesis was probably written near the end of his life in the 13th Century BC. Genesis covers more time in history than any other book of the Bible (from creation all the way to around 1800 BC).

"Genesis" means origin or beginning and it is truly a book of beginnings. It is written in narrative form and takes the reader from the creation of everything to what went wrong in the world. The book reports the terrible results of human sinfulness as well as the process that God begins to bring about redemption and restoration. This restoration will come through the line of Abraham, with whom God makes a covenant. The entire narrative of Genesis is arranged purposefully to tell a clear story; it begins with God creating life in a perfect world and ends with a dead man being embalmed and placed in a coffin awaiting burial.

Genesis is part of the larger work called the Pentateuch (5 books) or Torah (Law of Moses). These books include: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.