

Genesis

1. Introduction to Genesis

1) Title

- In the Hebrew Bible the title comes from the first Hebrew word of the book, so the title is “in the beginning”
- A Greek translation of Genesis (called the *Septuagint*) titled it “Genesis”

2) Author

Although Genesis doesn't have “This book was written by...” to help us with this, there is clear evidence from the Pentateuch and the rest of the Bible that God moved **Moses** to write this section of Scripture.

3) Theme—**beginnings**

4) Purpose

- Generally speaking, the purpose of Genesis is to give an account of the beginning of **all things**
“Genesis” is a Greek word that means **origins** or **beginnings**.
- There is a more specific reason for this book though, and that reason is the nation of Israel. **The purpose of Genesis** is to show the **origin, purpose, and destiny** of Israel as God's chosen people—*Where* Israel came from, *why* God choose them, and *what* God has planned for them.
- Genesis includes the “beginnings” or origins of—
 - (1) The universe, 1:1
 - (2) Man, 1:26–27
 - (3) Marriage, 2:21–24
 - (4) Sin in mankind, 3:1–7
 - (5) Blood sacrifice, 3:21
 - (6) Murder, 6:2
 - (7) Human government, 9:6
 - (8) The nations, 10:32
 - (9) Human languages, 11:1–9
 - (10) The family of Israel, 12:1–3

5) Message

☞ Genesis tells the **historical** background of the **nation** of Israel.

- Specifically, this involves the creation of the universe, man as God's representative ruler over creation, the entrance of sin, judgment through the Flood, disobedience and judgment at Babel, call of and covenant with Abram, reaffirmation of Abrahamic covenant to Isaac and Jacob (later renamed “Israel”), and their temporary relocation to Egypt.

6) Time Span

- Because it is extremely difficult to determine the date of creation with exactness, we can only give a fairly accurate idea. The following chart illustrates the time period covered by Genesis

Genesis 1–11 Covers probably 5–10/15,000 years				Genesis 12–50 Covers approximately 300 years				
Creation Gen 1–2 ?	The Fall Gen 3 ?	The Flood Gen 6–9 ?	Babel Gen 11 c. 4800 BC	Abraham Gen 12 c. 2100 BC	Isaac Gen 21 c. 1950BC	Jacob Gen 25 c. 1900BC	Joseph Gen 37 c. 1880 BC	Genesis Closes c. 1800 BC

- Genesis does not tell about *everything* that took place in every part of the world! It is a *selective* history, telling about important events necessary for the book’s purpose. The Bible gives the record of *God’s* activity in history, moving and acting to fulfill His purpose.
- *Everything* the Bible says is true and right—without error—so everything it does say is perfectly accurate and dependable.

2. Outline of Genesis

Genesis uses a word translated “generations” or “account” that introduces the main sections of the book.

Basic Outline

- 1) History **Before** the Patriarchs, 1:1–11:26
- 2) History **Of** the Patriarchs, 11:27–50:26

“Patriarch” refers to the fathers of Israel, namely, **Abraham**, **Isaac**, and **Jacob**

More Detailed Outline

1) History **Before** the Patriarchs, 1:1–11:26

a. **The Creation, 1:1–2:3**

- (1) The origin of the universe, 1:1–5
- (2) The creation of the world, 1:6–2:3

b. **The Account of the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth, 2:4–4:26**

- (1) Man’s origin and environment, 2:4–25
- (2) The temptation and Fall, 3:1–24
- (3) The progression of sin, 4:1–16
- (4) The spread of sinful civilization, 4:17–26

c. **The Generations of **Adam**, 5:1–6:8**

- (1) The genealogy from Adam to Noah, 5:1–32
- (2) The corruption of the race, 6:1–8

d. **The Generations of **Noah**, 6:9–9:29**

- (1) The Noahic Flood, 6:9–8:22
- (2) The Covenant with Noah, 9:1–17
- (3) The Curse of Canaan, 9:18–29

e. **The Generations of the **Sons of Noah**, 10:1–11:9**

- (1) The table of nations, 10:1–32
- (2) Dispersion at Babel, 11:1–9

f. **The Generations of **Shem**, 11:10–26**

2) History **Of** the Patriarchs, 11:27–50:26

a. **The Generations of **Terah**, 11:27–25:11**

- (1) The making of the covenant with Abraham, 11:27–15:21
- (2) The provisions for Abram’s promised seed, 16:1–22:19

b. **The Generations of **Ishmael**, 25:12–18**

c. **The Generations of **Isaac**, 25:19–35:29**

- (1) The transfer of the promised blessing to Jacob, 25:19–28:22
- (2) Covenantal blessings of Jacob in his sojourn, 29:1–32:32
- (3) The return of Jacob to Canaan, 33:1–35:29

d. **The Generations of **Esau**, 36:1–37:1**

e. **The Generations of **Jacob**, 37:2–50:26**

- (1) The selling of Joseph into Egypt, 37:2–36
- (2) The corruption of Judah’s family, 38
- (3) Joseph’s rise to power in Egypt, 39–41
- (4) Israel’s move to Egypt, 42:1–47:27
- (5) The provision for the continuation of the promised blessing, 47:28–50:26