



GENESIS

THE BEGINNING

DID YOU KNOW?

- It is the book of beginnings
- It is the first of the five books which make up the Torah (Hebrew) or Pentateuch (Greek)
- In the Hebrew Bible, it is titled “Bereshith”, which is translated “in the beginning”





THEME

THIS NARRATIVE COVERS THE ORIGINS OF HUMANITY AS A WHOLE, WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON THE BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW PEOPLE.

MESSAGE

IT OFFERED ISRAEL A PERSPECTIVE ON HER ROLE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF WORLD HISTORY.

PURPOSE

FOR MOSES' GENERATION TO TRUST GOD BY UNDERSTANDING THEIR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE DESTINY AS THEY ANTICIPATED ENTRANCE TO THE PROMISED LAND.



KEY FACTS

Author:	Moses
Recipients	Israelites
Date:	1445 BC
Key Word	Create (Hebrew "bara")
Key Verse:	"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (1:1)

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

GENESIS SPANS THE ACT OF CREATION AND ISRAEL AWAITING
HER PROPHETIC DESTINY.

GENESIS INTRODUCES GOD

- God is an absolute personal being
- He cares about His creation
- He cares about the human struggle of the fallen world



HOW GOD INTERACTS WITH HIS CREATION

He speaks to them

He creates them

He calls them

He blesses them

He makes covenants (promises) with them

He visits them

He intervenes personally in their lives



MAJOR PLAYERS

Adam and Eve
Cain and Abel
Noah's family

Abraham and Sarah
Isaac and Rebekah
Jacob's Wives & 12 Sons

THREE BASIC SETTINGS

Ancient history of the world: Creation – birth of Terah (c/ 2296 BC)

Genesis 1-11

Geographical location: The Fertile Crescent

Birth of Terah – Joseph's arrival in Egypt (1899 BC)

Genesis 12-36

Geographical location: mainly in Canaan

Joseph's arrival in Egypt – Joseph's death (1806 BC)

Genesis 37-50

Geographical location: mainly in Egypt

Structural Markers in Genesis

Sections of Genesis

GENESIS IS DIVIDED INTO DISTINCT SECTIONS,
EACH INTRODUCED BY STRUCTURAL MARKERS:

- Gen 2:4
- Gen 5:1
- Genesis 6:9
- Genesis 10:1
- Genesis 11:10
- Genesis 25:12
- Genesis 19
- Genesis 36:1
- Genesis 9
- Genesis 37:2

GENESIS CAN BE DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN
SECTIONS:

- Primeval History
- Patriarchal History

COVENANTS

Adamic	a covenant where God created Adam and required Adam to obey God in order to receive God's blessing
Noahic	Promise from God to never flood the earth again (Gen 9:11)
Abrahamic	Promises from God of land, seed and blessing (Gen 12:1-13)
Davidic	An unconditional agreement between God and King David where God promises to establish David's lineage forever
Mosaic	a set of conditions that God decreed to Moses for the nation of Israel

CREATION (Genesis 1:1-2:25)

- ✓ Establishes that God as the creator of man and nature (Elohim)
- ✓ Establishes that creation was instantaneous
- ✓ Establishes that there was order in creation (“according to their kinds”)
- ✓ Establishes that creation came about by the power of God’s spoken word (“then God said”)
- ✓ Establishes that God is distinct from both man and nature

Assessment

Major crisis and disruption for the beautiful new world God created.

Action

Adam and Eve sinned.

Consequence

- ❑ Expulsion from the Garden of Eden
- ❑ Severed communication with God
- ❑ Spiritual death and human suffering
- ❑ Physical death (Romans 5:7)
- ❑ Generations of rebellious descendants

THE FALL
(GEN 3:1 – 5:32)

Provision of Redemption

- God's grace to Adam and Eve was evident as He provided for their redemption by predicting their ultimate salvation.

Proto-Evangelium

- The promise of the annihilator to the wicked instigator is called the proto-evangelium. This signifies that the gospel was announced by God Himself to our first parents. It is the messianic blessing.

Expressions of Grace

- He was gracious to them
- He rescued them
- He gave them hope

THE LINEAGE AND HOPE OF REDEMPTION

Adam to Noah	Traces the line from which the messianic blessing would come (Gen 4:25 – 5:32)
Humanity's dignity	People retained the image of God even in their fallen condition (Gen 5:1; 9:6)
Enoch	Translation provided hope (Gen 5:24)
Lamech's description of Noah	Noah as the “comforter” provided hope (Gen 5:29)





THE FLOOD AND ITS AFTERMATH

- God's Judgement
- God's judgement was to destroy humanity through the flood. This cataclysmic event was a response to the pervasive sinfulness and corruption of mankind.
- God's Intention
- God's intention, however, was to restore creation. Despite the destruction, there was a plan for renewal and hope.
- Why was Noah Preserved?
- Noah was preserved because he walked with God and was righteous, as noted in Genesis 6:9. His faithfulness set him apart in a time of widespread wickedness.
- Postdiluvian World
- Despite the flood, man's sinful nature continued in the postdiluvian (after the flood) world. Humanity's inclination towards sin did not vanish with the floodwaters.

NATIONS

(GENESIS 10:1-11:9)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ These were descendants of Noah's sons
- ❖ All the people spoke one language
- ❖ Their sinful nature drove them to desire to build a tower in an attempt to reach the heavens
- ❖ God confused their language and dispersed them all over the earth
- ❖ The nations choice to turn away from God led Him to choose Abraham to bless the world through his descendants

PATRIARCHAL HISTORY

(Genesis 11:10-56:20)

Great patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph

Goal: to give the Israelites an incentive to cooperate with God's covenant purposes by accepting the Mosaic covenant

ABRAHAM

(GENESIS 11:10-25:11)

- Born as Abram which means “great father”
- He was the son of Terah, from the bloodline of Noah’s son Shem
- God changed his name to Abraham which means “father of a multitude”
- God made covenants with Abraham
- The messianic covenant from Gen 3:15 was restated in the Abrahamic covenant
- A formal covenant relationship was made between God and Abraham in Gen 15
- From the first covenant, Abram had total faith in God’s promises
- God in turn credited him with righteousness
- Despite God’s promise of offspring, Abraham and his wife Sarah were childless for years
- Sarah in turn insisted that Abraham father a child with their Egyptian slave, Hagar
- Hagar’s son is name Ishmael and he became the father of the Arab peoples.
- God gave Abraham a son through his wife, Sarah, when they were both very old
- Abraham asked the Lord to bless Ishmael and the Lord did but he declared that his covenant will be with Isaac (Gen 17:21)



ISAAC

(GENESIS 25:12-26:35)

- He was God's chosen son of the Abrahamic covenant
- He had two sons, Esau and Jacob
- Jacob was chosen by God (Gen 25:23)
- Esau's weaknesses were evident in the despising of his birthright (Gen 25:27-34) and his rebellious marriages to Hittite women (Gen 26:34-35)
- God reconfirmed the Abrahamic covenant to Isaac with promises of blessing and protection (Gen 26)



JACOB

(GENESIS 27:1-36:43)

- He was deceptive – a cheat and a liar
- His father, Isaac blessed him and sent him to find a wife from Rebekah’s brothers household
- The Abrahamic covenant was reconfirmed to Jacob (Gen 28:10-17) at Luz
- Jacob called that place Bethel (house of God) and vowed that the Lord would be his God
- Jacob married Leah and Rachel
- Jacob had twelve sons from his marriages to Leah and Rachel
- These sons would become the twelve tribes of Israel (Gen 29-30:34)
- The messianic line of Christ come from Judah, one of Jacob’s sons from Leah
- God told Jacob to return to Bethel
- God wrestled with Jacob and then changed his name from Jacob to Israel



JOSEPH

(GENESIS 37:1-50:26)

Focus: Joseph was the human instrument God used to relocate the sons of Jacob to Egypt

- God revealed his purpose for Joseph in a dream
- His brothers became envious and sold him into slavery (Gen 37)
- After many years of servitude, Joseph was promoted to second in command over all of Egypt (Gen 39-41)
- He was reunited with his brothers, brought his father and the families to Egypt (Gen 46)
- They settle in Goshen in the delta region
- Jacob blessed Joseph's sons (Gen 48:8-22)
- Jacob pronounced prophetic blessings on each of the tribes (Gen 49:1-28)
- The prophetic blessing on Judah is that the Messiah will come from his lineage
- Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh each became a future tribe of Israel

