



Genesis – 50 chapters

Title:

Genesis- “Beginnings” Heb. “In the Beginning”

Author:

Anonymous, attributed to Moses

Occasion and Purpose:

Written at the Exodus for the new nation to understand their identity, heritage and responsibility.

A polemic against false Gods, showing that the God of Israel is the one true God.

Themes:

1. God’s good creation
2. Universal sinfulness
3. Inability for humans to save themselves
4. God’s sovereign control
5. God’s grace
6. Promise (made and tested)
7. Election
8. Covenant

Summary:

The story of beginnings. The beginning of creation, sin, man's rebellion against God and God's plan of redemption. The Genesis story focuses on the life of Abraham and his family. God called Abraham and blessed him and his family. His descendants Isaac and Jacob also walked with God. God miraculously provided for Jacob’s family and the story ends with them in Egypt, prepared for the next phase of God's salvation in history.

Organization:

Prehistory	Creation	First account – God’s perspective – 1:1-2:3	1:1-2:25
		Second account – Human perspective – 2:4-25	
	Fall	Temptation, fall and punishment – 3:1-24	3:1-5:32
		Cain and Abel, death and depravity – 4:1-26	
		Descendents of Adam – 5:1-32	
	Flood	Human depravity – 6:1-8	6:1-9:29
		The Flood – 6:9-8:22	
		Covenant with Noah – 9:1-17	
		Sons of Noah – 9:18-29	
	Nations	Table of Nations – 10:1-32	10:1-11:32
		Tower of Babel – 11:1-9	
		Descendents of Shem – 11:10-26	
Descendents of Terah – 11:27-32			
Patriarchs	Abraham	Promise, Covenant, Journey to the land – 12:1-20:18	12:1-25:11
		Abraham and Isaac – 21:1-25:11	
		(Ishmael) – 25:12-18	
	Isaac	Isaac and Jacob	25:19-28:9
	Jacob	Jacob flees – 28:10-29:14	28:10-35:29
		Jacob multiplies – 29:14-30:43	
		Jacob returns – 31:1-35:29	
		(Esau) – 36:1-43	
	Joseph (Judah)	Joseph sold into Egypt – 37:1-36	37:1-50:26
		(Judah and Tamar) – 38:1-30	
		Joseph’s rise to power and Famine – 39:1-41:57	
Reconnection with Joseph’s brothers – 42:1-45:28			
Prosperity in Egypt – 46:1-50:26			

Key Verses:

1:1; 1:26-7; 6:5; 12:1-3; 15:5-6; 50:20

“Toledoth” Formula

2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1,32; 11:10,27; 25:12,19; 36:1,9; 37:2