

# Genesis: Prehistory



## Background

- What is the meaning of the term “Genesis”? What does this tell us about this book? What is the Hebrew title for this book? What does this tell us about this book?
- Why do some people doubt that Genesis tells real, accurate history? What can we know for certain about the historical veracity of Genesis?
- What does the Lecture suggest is the underlying issue regarding the historicity of Genesis? How should we respond?
- What does the Lecture conclude about the historicity of Genesis? Does this conform to the historical claims that Genesis (and the Bible) makes about itself? What difference does this make?  
What does the Lecture mean when it claims that Genesis is “more than history”? What does this tell us about Genesis and how we should read it?
- What the main question being addressed regarding Genesis & science in this section? Why is it necessary to address this question?
- What is the main point the creation narrative is making? Why is it making that point?
- What does Genesis claim that is relevant to the question of biological origins? How should we respond to these claims?
- What is the main question being addressed regarding Genesis & mythology in this section? Why is it necessary to address this question?
- What are the possible explanations for surface similarities between Genesis and Babylonian myths? What difference does this make?

## Outline

- What are the two main sections of Genesis? How are these related to history?
- What are the four main events of the Prehistory? What does this teach us about the organization of the prehistory, and Genesis in general?
- What is the “Toledoth Formula”? What is the meaning of the word “Toledoth”? And what does this tell us about the organization of Genesis?
- Describe the typical cycle described in the prehistory? What are some examples of this you noticed in your reading of Genesis? What does this tell us about human nature? What does this tell us about God? Why does this matter?

## Content

- What are the key verses of the prehistory? What does each highlight? What does each tell us about the overall content and message of the prehistory?
- From what standpoint is the first creation account described? How is this account organized? What is the meaning of this pattern? What is the significance of the seventh day? What is the significance of God’s evaluation of creation? What does this all tell us about the world we live in? How does this matter?
- What is the description and significance of humanity in the first creation account? What does it mean to be created in the image of God? What does this tell us about the purpose(s) for which humanity was created? Why does this matter?
- From what standpoint is the second creation account described? How does this account begin?

- What is the recipe for humanity given in this chapter? What does each part tell us about humanity? How are we similar to animals? How are we different? What difference does this make for how we should understand ourselves and others?
- What are the responsibilities for which humanity was created? Why does this matter?
- What are the relationships for which humanity was created? What is the ideal for each of these kinds of relationships? Which of these relationships is primary? Why? What difference does this make?
- What happened in chapter 3? What is the significance of this for the entire Bible story?
- Describe the process of temptation and sin described in Genesis ch. 3. How can recognizing this pattern in your own life help you resist temptation?
- Describe the consequences of the first sin described in this chapter. How are each of the relationships negatively affected by sin?
- What are the two errors we can think about ourselves? Why is each of these errors dangerous? How does the Biblical worldview protect us from each of these errors?
- How is grace and hope from God shown, even in the midst of judgment and consequences? What difference does this make?
- What does the story of Cain and Abel teach us? What do their sacrifices tell us about our relationship with God? What part does envy play in this story? How can we protect ourselves against this temptation? What does Cain's actions and their consequences tell us about how we should think and live in relationships?
- What does the story of Cain's descendants teach us about culture and how we should think about culture and technology?
- How does chapter 5 contribute to the story of the prehistory? What does this tell us about humanity in general? Why does this matter?
- How does the flood story begin? Who are the "sons of God"?
- What was God's evaluation of humanity at the beginning of the flood story? Why does this matter?
- What was the purpose of the flood? What is the point of the flood story? How does this contribute to the Bible story? What lesson(s) should we learn from this? How does this apply?
- How does the flood story end? What does this tell us about humanity? What does this tell us about God and His plan? Why does this matter?
- Describe the content and point of chapters 10 & 11. How do they contribute to the Bible story? What do they imply about the story that will follow? What difference does this make?

## Themes

- Explain each of the theological themes in your own words. What does each tell about the content, message and significance of the prehistory? How should each idea be applied in current life?

## Review

Review the four key events of the prehistory and work toward committing them to memory.  
 Review the four key relationships of humanity and work toward committing them to memory.  
 Review the four key themes of the prehistory and work toward committing them to memory.