

Genesis

"The Book of Beginnings"

Background Information

Author: _____

(Joshua 8:31, Ezra 6:18, Matthew 8:4, Mark 13:26, et.al.)

Time written: late 1400s BC, just before Israelites crossed the Jordan River

Purpose: Since Moses wrote nearly 3 centuries after the close of the events found in Genesis, the purpose was to provide a narrative for the Hebrew nation (and us) of events leading up to their history in Egypt.

Time Covered and Outlines

The book of Genesis covers a major portion of the world's history. This one book covers around _____% of earth's history, with much of that found in just the first 11 chapters!

Outline #1: Three major geographical areas

- I. Mesopotamia (chapters 1-11)
- II. Promised Land (chapters 12-36)
- III. Egypt (chapters 37-50)

Outline #2: Major people

- I. Adam and descendants (chapters 1-5)
- II. Noah and descendants (chapters 6-11)
- III. Abraham (chapters 12-25)
- IV. Isaac (chapters 26-27)
- V. Jacob (chapters 28-36)
- VI. Joseph (chapters 37-50)

Major Themes

1. God's revelation of beginnings

Genesis 1-11 reveal the origins of the universe, while 12-50 reveal the origin of a _____

2. Focus on Jewish nation through Abraham (12:1-3; 15:1-20)

3. God's character

Power, wrath, grace, and plan all seen first 8 chapters alone

4. Paradise lost by sin

God's Character in Genesis

1. Creator (1:1-3:1)
2. Faithful to keep promises (12:1-7; 26:3-4; 28:14)
3. Just (18:25)
4. Patient (6:3)
5. Loving (24:12)
6. Merciful (19:16-19)
7. All-powerful (17:1; 18:14)
8. Providential (8:22; Joseph story)
9. Truthful (3:4-5; 24:27)
10. Wrathful (6-8; 11:8; 19:24-25)

Very few books have such a long list, but this is the first book, so it introduces us to the fullness of God's traits.

Jesus in Genesis

1. At creation (Genesis 1:26; John 1:1-3)
2. In hope of redemption (Genesis 3:15)
3. Adam as a type (first man, no earthly father, heir of the world)
4. Noah as a type (savior of the world)
5. Melchizedek as a type (Genesis 14:17-24; Hebrews 7:3)
6. Jacob's ladder as a shadow (Genesis 28:10-22)
7. Joseph as a type (suffering savior)

Key Words

"God" (Hebrew *elohim*; a plural word) (1:1; 1:12; 19:29; 24:42; 28:3; 35:11; 45:9; 50:24)

"Land" (Hebrew *erets*) (1:1; 1:10; 4:16; 12:1; 13:10; 41:36)

"Seed" (Hebrew *zera*; can mean plant seeds or a person's descendants) (1:11; 1:29; 13:15-16; 15:18; 17:19; 28:14; 48:19)

Elsewhere in the World...

Everything in the world centered around the Middle East until the flood (Genesis 6-9). After Babel (Genesis 11), people spread widely. By the time of the Patriarchs, Egypt was already the world power. They had made papyrus and ink for writing, and other inventions. The pyramids were being built by the end of the time period covered.

Elsewhere in Scripture...

The only other book that overlaps with Genesis is _____, which probably occurred around the time of the flood.