



“An Introduction to the Book of Beginnings”

Genesis: The Gospel from the Beginning

A Christocentric Exposition of Genesis 1-11

Genesis 1:1 (Message 1)

Central Objectives: As we begin our study of the book of Genesis, we will (1) examine the historical background of the book, (2) overview the book as a whole, (3) see how the very first verse alone refutes 8 of today’s popular heresies, and (4) apply this very important text to our lives in the 21st century.

Historical Background of Genesis:

Title: The Hebrew title of the book of Genesis comes from the first Hebrew word in the book, *berē’shîṭ*, which translated into English becomes, “in the beginning.” Our English title “Genesis” comes from the Septuagint (also known as LXX), a Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. The word “Genesis” is derived from the Greek translation of *tôledôt*, the key word of the book. In Genesis 2:4, the Septuagint translation is, “This is the book of the *geneseōs* of heaven and earth.”

Authorship: The entire book of Genesis was written by Moses under the full inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Recipients: Moses wrote Genesis for a nation of Hebrew slaves (Israel), whom he led out of slavery in Egypt back to the land of their forefathers. Genesis provides the origin and history of creation and those forefathers.

Relation to the Pentateuch: Genesis does not come to us as an isolated book. It does not stand alone. It is part of a much larger work called the Pentateuch, the first five books of Moses.

Date: Moses wrote the book of Genesis while in Egypt during the first 40 years of his life (1527BC – 1487BC).

Overview of Genesis:

Purpose: The purpose of the book of Genesis was three-fold. (1) The *historical* was to provide comfort and hope that God would deliver the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt. (2) The *doctrinal* purpose was to show that God is faithful to His promises and to reveal that God's plan is based on His sovereign choice. (3) Its *Christological* purpose was to point to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment of all God's plans and promises.

Literary Genre: Historical Narrative

The Importance of Genesis: Many believers today fail to understand the importance of the book of Genesis. Genesis is foundational to all Christian doctrine. Without a proper understanding of Genesis, one cannot rightly understand the New Testament nor the beautiful nuances within the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Interpretation of Genesis: Many so-called scholars today attempt to interpret Genesis allegorically. However, the book of Genesis must be taken as it is written. When one takes the Bible plainly/straightforwardly, they read metaphors as metaphors, poetry as poetry, literal history as literal history, etc. Genesis is written as literal history as it would be a sin to take it in any other manner.

Structure & Outline: The formal structure of Genesis comes from the book itself. Nonetheless, an outline of the various subjects will do better to help us understand the content of the book.

The Literary Structure of Genesis (our current series will include Precursor – Toledot IV)

◆ Precursor: Creation Account (*Genesis 1:1 – 2:3*).

1. An Introduction to the Book of Beginnings (*Genesis 1:1*).
2. The First Five Days of Creation (*Genesis 1:2 – 1:23*).
3. Days Six and Seven of Creation (*Genesis 1:24 – 2:3*).

I. The Account (*toledot*) of the Heavens and Earth (*Genesis 2:4 – 4:26*).

4. The Creation of Man and Woman (*Genesis 2:4 – 2:25*).
5. The Fall of Mankind (*Genesis 3:1 – 3:7*).
6. The Effects of the Fall (*Genesis 3:8 – 3:24*).
7. The Account of Cain and Abel (*Genesis 4:1 – 4:16*).
8. Life Under the Curse (*Genesis 4:17 – 4:26*).

II. The Generations (*toledot*) of Adam (*Genesis 5:1 – 6:8*).

9. The Generations of Adam (*Genesis 5:1 – 5:31*).
10. The Days of Noah (*Genesis 5:32 – 6:8*).

III. The Generations (*toledot*) of Noah (*Genesis 6:9 – 9:29*)

11. The Global Flood (*Genesis 6:9 – 7:24*).
12. God's Covenant with Noah (*Genesis 8:1 – 9:17*).
13. Noah's Failure (*Genesis 9:18 – 9:29*).

IV. The Generations (*toledot*) of the Sons of Noah (*Genesis 10:1 – 11:9*)

14. The Tower of Babel (*Genesis 10:1 – 11:9*).

V. The Generations (*toledot*) of Shem (*Genesis 11:10 – 11:26*).

VI. The Generations (*toledot*) of Terah (*Genesis 11:27 – 25:11*).

VII. The Generations (*toledot*) of Ishmael (*Genesis 25:12 – 25:18*).

VIII. The Generations (*toledot*) of Isaac (*Genesis 25:19 – 35:29*).

X. The Generations (*toledot*) of Esau (*Genesis 36:1 – 37:1*).

XI. The Generations (*toledot*) of Jacob (*Genesis 37:2 – 50:26*).

Outline of Genesis

I. The Historical Section (*Genesis 1-11*).

1. Creation (*Genesis 1-2*).
2. Corruption (*Genesis 3-5*).
3. Catastrophe (*Genesis 6-9*).
4. Confusion (*Genesis 10-11*).

II. The Biographical Section (*Genesis 12-50*).

1. Abraham (*Genesis 12-25*).
2. Isaac (*Genesis 26-27*).
3. Jacob (*Genesis 28-36*).
4. Joseph (*Genesis 37-50*).

8 Heresies refuted by *Genesis 1:1*

- I. Atheism: The belief that God does not exist.
- II. Polytheism: The belief that there is more than one God.
- III. Materialism: The belief that matter is the only reality in the universe.
- IV. Pantheism: The belief that God is everything and everything is God.
- V. Naturalism: The belief that everything can be explained by natural causes.
- VI. Nontrinitarianism: The belief that rejects the Doctrine of the Trinity.
- VII. Deism: The belief that God is indifferent to His creation.
- VIII. Finitistic Theism: The belief that God is in some way limited.

Application for Today:

- 1) If God created everything, then He created you and I; and if He created you and I, then are we not accountable to Him in everything?
- 2) God did not create us out of necessity; He chose to create us to have a loving and personal relationship with Him. Do you experience the fruit of that relationship in your life today?

3) If there is a beginning, then there must also be an end. Are you ready for that inevitable end?

Scripture of the Week:

“For by Him [Jesus Christ] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

† *Colossians 1:16-17* †