

Genesis

MEANING: Genesis is a Greek word meaning “origin,” “source,” generation,” or beginning.”

AUTHOR: Moses

TIME WRITTEN: 1450 - 1410 B.C.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

- 1st Book in the Bible
- 1st book in the Old Testament
- 1st book in the Pentateuch
- 65 to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 50

VERSES: 1,533

WORDS: 38,267

KEY WORD: Beginnings

TWO KEY VERSES:

1. **Genesis 3:15** - “I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”
NOTE: Christ is that SEED of woman.
2. **Genesis 12:3** - “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

KEY CHAPTER: Genesis 15

1. Contains the Abrahamic covenant given in 12:1-3 and ratified in 15:1-21
2. Contains three specific promises:
 - a. The promise of a great **LAND** - “From the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates (**15:8**).
 - b. The promise of a great **NATION** - “And I will make your descendents as the dust of the earth” (**13:16**).
 - c. The promise of a great **BLESSING** - “I will bless you and make your name great: and you shall be a blessing” (**12:2**)

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT GENESIS: Note: The people we meet in Genesis are simple, ordinary people, yet through them, God did great things.

1. The events of Genesis end some three centuries before Moses’ birth.
2. Genesis spans more time than any other book in the Bible. Covers more than the remaining sixty-five books put together.
3. 4,100 years of recorded Bible history.
 - a. Over one-half of it (2,286 years) is recorded in Genesis.
 - b. The remaining 1,814 years are covered in Exodus through Revelation (65 books).

- c. 2,000 of the 2,286 years are covered in Genesis 1-11.
- 4. Genesis divides itself into three geographical settings.
 - a. The Fertile Crescent - Chapters 1-11 spans more than 2,000 years and 1,500 miles.
 - b. Israel - Chapters 12-36 covers less than 193 years in the little country of Canaan.
 - c. Egypt - Chapters 37-50 covers about 93 years.
- 5. **WHY** God chose Israel to be His redemptive people is explained in chapters 1-11.
- 6. **HOW** God chose Israel is explained in chapters 12-50.
- 7. Genesis is the first of the books that give the history of the religion of the Hebrews.
- 8. Genesis relates the beginning of almost everything, including:

a. The universe	e. marriage	i. Redemption
b. Life	f. Sin	j. Prophecy
c. Mankind	g. Death	k. Language
d. Sabbath	h. Family	l. Sacrifice
- 9. Genesis covers:

a. The creation	e. The call of Abraham
b. The fall of man	f. The promises of the Messiah
c. The spread of civilization	g. Joseph in Egypt
d. The flood	h. Etc.
- 10. Genesis ends some three centuries (300 years) before Moses is born.
- 11. Genesis moves from the general to the specific in its messianic predictions.
 - a. Genesis 3:15 - Christ is the Seed of the woman.
 - b. Genesis 4:25 - from the line of Seth.
 - c. Genesis 9:27 - from the line of Shem.
 - d. Genesis 12:3 - the descendant of Abraham.
 - e. Genesis 21:12 - the descendant of Isaac.
 - f. Genesis 25:23 - the descendant of Jacob.
 - g. Genesis 49:10 - of the tribe of Judah.
- 12. Definition of a **TYPE** - **A historical fact that illustrates a spiritual truth.**
 - a. Adam is a type of Him who was to come.
 - 1. Both entered the world through a special act of God.
 - 2. Both entered the world as sinless men.
 - 3. Adam is the head of the old creation. Christ is the head of the new creation.
 - b. Abel's acceptable offering of a blood sacrifice points to Christ, and there is a parallel in his murder by Cain.
 - c. Melchizedek is a type of Christ in that he is both a priest and a king. Hebrews 7:3
 - d. Joseph is a type of Christ.

- e. Moses will be a type of Christ in later writings.

SUMMARY OF GENESIS

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In one sense, Genesis is not so much a history of man as it is the first chapter in the history of the redemption of man.
- B. As such, Genesis is a highly selective spiritual interpretation of history.
- C. There are two divisions to Genesis.
 - 1. The Four Great Events. (1-11)
 - 2. The Four great People. (12-50)

THE FOUR GREAT EVENTS. (1-11)

- A. Chapters 1-11 lay the foundation upon which the whole Bible is built and center on four key events.
- B. The four great events.

1. CREATION

- a. God is the sovereign Creator of:
 - 1. Matter.
 - 2. Energy.
 - 3. Space.
 - 4. Time.
- b. Man is the pinnacle of of the creation.

2. FALL

- a. Creation is followed by corruption.
- b. In the first sin, man is separated from God —Adam from God.
- c. In the second sin, man is separated form man—Cain from Abel.
- d. In spite of the devastating curse of the Fall, God promises hope of redemption through the Seed of the woman (3:15).

3. FLOOD

- a. As man multiplies, sin also multiplies until God is compelled to destroy humanity with the exception of Noah and his family.

4. NATIONS

- a. Genesis teaches the unity of the human race—we are all children of Adam through Noah.
- b. Because of rebellion at the tower of Babel, God fragments the single culture and language of the post-flood world and scatters people over the face of the earth.

THE FOUR GREAT PEOPLE. (12-50)

- A. Once the nations are scattered, God focuses on one man and his descendants through whom He will bless all nations.

B. The four great people.

1. **ABRAHAM**

- a. The calling of Abraham in chapter 12 is the pivotal point of the book.
- b. The three covenant promises God makes to Abraham (land, descendants, and blessings) are foundational to His program of bringing salvation upon the earth.

2. **ISAAC**

- a. God establishes his covenant with Isaac as the cultural link with Abraham.

3. **JACOB**

- a. God transforms this man from selfishness to servanthood and changes his name to Israel, the father of the twelve tribes.

4. **JOSEPH**

- a. Jacob's favorite son suffers at the hands of his brothers and becomes a slave in Egypt.
- b. After his dramatic rise to the ruler-ship of Egypt, Joseph delivers his family from famine and brings them out of Canaan to Goshen.

C. Genesis ends on a note of impending bondage with the death of Joseph.

D. There is great need for the redemption that is to follow in the Book of Exodus.