

# Introduction to Genesis

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## **I. Book of beginnings**

- A. The foundation of history**—filling an essential gap in our historical knowledge
- B. Gives the origins of:**
  - 1. The universe, solar system, earth, life on earth, and humanity (chapter 1)
  - 2. Marriage (chapter 2)
  - 3. Sin, death, shame (clothing) and atonement (chapter 3)
  - 4. Religious worship (chapter 4)
  - 5. Human innovation—musical instruments, tools, animal husbandry (chapter 4)
  - 6. Cities and Nations (chapters 4 and 10)
  - 7. Languages (chapter 11)
  - 8. Israel (chapter 12)
- C. The roots of all subsequent revelation are found in Genesis**
  - 1. Characters introduced in Genesis are mentioned in dozens of biblical books
  - 2. Genesis is quoted over 60 times in 17 books of the New Testament
  - 3. There are more than 200 allusions to Genesis in the New Testament
  - 4. Over 100 of these allude to chapters 1 through 11, six of them in Christ's teaching

## **II. Where did Moses get the Genesis material?**

- A. Possibly by direct revelation to Moses** (he met with God on Sinai for 80 days)
- B. Moses compiled family records and genealogies preserved from ancestors**
  - 1. Genesis is not the earliest divine revelation. Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and others received revelations that may have been written down and preserved until Moses' day
  - 2. Prior to the invention of writing, information may have been orally transmitted. The lifetimes of the following men overlapped: Adam/Enoch; Seth/Methuselah; Methuselah/Shem; Shem/Abraham. Writing existed before Abraham's times.

## **III. Methods of dividing the book**

- A. Two parts:**
  - 1. Before Abraham (chapters 1-11) 4 major events: creation, fall, flood, Babel
  - 2. Abraham and after (chapters 12-50) 4 major characters: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
- B. Four parts**
  - 1. Pre-Abrahamic history (chapters 1-11)
  - 2. Life of Abraham (chapters 12-25)
  - 3. Isaac and his sons (chapters 25-36)
  - 4. Life of Joseph (chapters 37-50)

**C. Eleven parts: “Books of Generations” (Heb. *Toledoth*; Gr. *LXX Genesis*)**

1. Of the heavens and the earth (1:1—2:4)
2. Of Adam (2:4—5:1)
3. Of Noah (5:1—6:9)
4. Of the sons of Noah (6:9—10:1)
5. Of Shem (10:1—11:10)
6. Of Terah (11:10—11:27)
7. Of Isaac (11:27—25:19)
8. Of Ishmael (25:12-18)
9. Of Jacob (25:19—37:2)
10. Of Esau (chapter 36; see vv.1 and 9)
11. Of the children of Israel [or Jacob] (37:2—50:26; see Exodus 1:1, or 1:5)

**IV. Types and shadows of New Testament things in Genesis**

- A. Adam & Eve** (chapter 2 with Ephesians 5:31-32)
- B. Adam** (chapter 3 with Romans 5:14/ 1 Corinthians 15:21-22)
- C. Abel** (chapter 4 with Hebrews 12:24/ 1 John 3:12-13)
- D. Abel’s sacrifice**—and all subsequent blood sacrifices (chapter 4 with Hebrews 11:4)
- E. The ark and the flood** (chapters 6-8 with 1 Peter 3:21/ 2 Peter 3:5-7/ Matthew 24:37-39)
- F. Ishmael and Isaac** (chapter 21 with Galatians 4:21-31)
- G. The offering of Isaac on Mount Moriah** (chapter 22 with Hebrews 11:17-19)
- H. The obtaining of a bride for Isaac** (chapter 24 with Matthew 22:2)
- I. Joseph?** (chapters 37 through 45 with Luke 2:32; 24:26)

**V. Names of God in Genesis**

- A. Elohim (1:1)** “God(s)”
- B. Yahweh [Jehovah] (4:26)** “I AM”
- C. El-Elyon (14:19)** “Most High God”
- D. El-Roi (16:13)** “God Who Sees Me”
- E. Adonai (18:3)** “My Lord”
- F. Yahweh-El-Olam (21:33)** “Eternal God”
- G. El-Elohe-Israel (33:20)** “God, the God of Israel (Jacob)”
- H. El-Shaddai (35:11)** “Almighty God”