

INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS

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I. NAME

The Greek word means “origin, source, generation.”

It is used because this is a book of **beginnings**.

- Beginning of Time
- Beginning of Earth
- Beginning of matter
- Beginning of life and creatures
- Beginning of man
- Beginning of sin
- Beginning of death and judgment
- Beginning of marriage
- Beginning of family
- Beginning of salvation, election, justification
- Beginning of sacrifice and worship
- Beginning of prophecy
- Beginning of Prayer
- Beginning of God’s chosen people
- Beginning of trade, agriculture, industry, music, cities, etc.

II. NEW TESTAMENT THEMES

[Themes brought out in the NT and not usually elsewhere in the OT]

- A. The institution of Marriage (2:24; Mt. 19:4-6)
- B. The Fall of man (Gen.3; Rom. 5:12-21)
- C. The jealousy of Cain (Gen. 4:3-8; I Jn. 3:12; Jude 11)
- D. The Judgment of the Flood (Gen. 6-9; Mt. 24:37-39; Lk. 17:26-27)
- E. Imputed Righteousness of the believer (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:3; Gal. 3:6; James 2:23)
- F. Rival sons of the promise and of the flesh—i.e. Ishmael and Isaac (Gen. 16, 21; Rom. 9:6-8; Gal. 4:21-31)
- G. Esau’s profanity (Gen. 25:33-34; Heb. 12:16-17; cf. Rom. 9:10-13)
- H. God’s people as pilgrims (Abraham & Isaac—Heb. 11:9-10, 13-16; I Pet. 1:11; 2:11)

III. PARALLELS BETWEEN GENESIS AND REVELATION [a few samples]

- A. The rise and fall of Babylon (Gen. 11; Rev. 17-18)
- B. The serpent (Gen. 3; Rev. 12:3, 9, 14, 15; 20:2)
- C. The redeemed (Gen. 3:15; their triumph—Rev. 5, 19-20)
- D. Paradise (Gen. 2; Rev. 21-22)

IV. THEOLOGY

Tremendous scope; separate study would be needed.

The first sentence of the book repudiates:

- Atheism
- Polytheism

- Pantheism
- Fatalism
- Materialism

V. STYLE

“The narrative is so simple, so much like truth, so consistent everywhere with itself, so correct in its dates, so impartial in its biography, so accurate in its philosophical details, so pure in its morality, and so benevolent in its design, as to amply demonstrate that it never could have had an earthly origin.” [Adam Clarke, in Biblical Viewpoint]

VI. OUTLINE

- A. Primeval History (Gen. 1-11)
 - 1. Early Age (Gen. 1-5)
 - 2. Preparatory Age (Gen. 6-11)
- B. Patriarchal History (Gen. 12-50)

VII. THE AUTHOR’S OUTLINE

The ten Toledoth [*“these are the generations”*] divide the book into 11 parts.

- The word is rendered “generations” in English translations.
- It refers to a history of descent; that which comes from a thing or person.
- A. Of the Heavens and Earth (2:4—2:4-4:26)
- B. Of Adam (5:1-6:8)
- C. Of Noah (6:9-9:29)
- D. Of Noah’s sons (10:1-11:9)
- E. Of Shem (11:10-26)
- F. Of Terah (11:27-25:11)
- G. Of Ishmael (25:12-18)
- H. Of Isaac (25:19-35:29)
- I. Of Esau (36:1-37:1)
- J. Of Jacob (37:2-50:26)

VIII. MOSES ARRANGES THE MATERIAL ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF DIVINE SELECTION

Families branching off from the main line are considered first—when removed from view, then the main line is described in greater detail.

- A. The History of Cain before that of Seth
- B. The History of Japheth and Ham before that of Shem
- C. The History of Ishmael before that of Isaac
- D. The History of Esau before that of Jacob
- E. Terah’s death before Abraham’s Call

CONCLUSION

God’s main concern is His people, His chosen line.

Are you part of this line?