

Reading Genesis

IN THE
BEGINNING GOD

GENESIS 1:1

Genesis 12:1-3

Introduction

- First book in the Bible.
- Foundational to the rest.
- Features essential truths necessary to grasp the rest of the Bible:
 - God
 - Origins
 - Sin
 - Plan of redemption
 - Entire Biblical account proceeds from Genesis
 - Linage of the Savior
 - *8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would **justify the Gentiles by faith**, preached the gospel **beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."** (Gal. 3:8)*

Introduction

- **Name:** Genesis → “Beginning”. Transliterated from heading of the book in the LXX. (Jn. 1:1)
- **Author:** Moses (who was the inspired writer of the first five books of the Old Testament – “The Law”)
 - The earliest division by the Jews of the O.T. was “the Law and the Prophets (later prophets divided into prophets and psalms/writings) – Matt. 5:17; cf. Lk. 16:29,31; 24:27,44
 - Jn. 5:45-47 → Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words? (cf. Jn. 7:22; Gen. 17:10)

Mosaic Authorship of the Law

- Matt. 5:17 → "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
- Luke 16:29, 31 → 29 But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ... 31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"
- Luke 24:27, 44 → 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ... 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (ESV)

Introduction

- ***When did Moses write?***

- The giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai is dated about 1450. Moses who was about 80 at the time, lived to be 120.
- “...a careful examination of the Biblical genealogies (Gen. 5 and 11) reveals that Adam lived till the time of Lamech (the father of Noah); Lamech to the time of Shem; Shem to the time of Jacob. Jacob would, without a doubt, transmit what he knew to Joseph...” (Leupold, Genesis)

The Nature of the Contents

- Not as some would falsely assert fable, myth, parable or analogy to illustrate spiritual truth.
- But actual history of the beginning of the heavens and the earth, man, sin, the flood, nations, languages etc.
 - Mark 10:6 → But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female.
 - Matt. 24:37 → But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be...
 - I Tim. 2:13-14 → For Adam was first formed then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived...

Getting The Big Picture...

- Book divides into two parts: (1-11 and 12-50)
 - **1-11 → General history of mankind.**
 - Creation
 - Sin
 - Flood
 - Tower of Babel
 - **12-50 → Specific history of God's chosen people through whom the promised seed, Jesus came.**
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - Jacob
 - Joseph

Getting The Big Picture

- The “outline” supplied by the inspired author.
 - An introduction (1:1-2:3) and 10 sections introduced by “these are the generations of” (KJV), meaning: “this is the account of”, “the history of the development of”, this is what became of”.
 - Ten such histories marking the contents of the book.
 - We will not improve on the Holy Spirit’s “outline”.

Outline of Genesis

- Introduction: Creation (1:1-2:3)
- The history of the heavens and the earth (2:4-4:26)
- The history of Adam. (5:1-6:8)
- The history of Noah. (6:9-9:29)
- The history of the sons of Noah. (10:1-11:9)
- The history of Shem. (11:10-26)
- The history of Terah. (Abraham). (11:27-25:11)
- The history of Ishmael. (25:12-18)
- The history of Isaac. (25:19-35:29)
- The history of Esau. (36:1-37:1)
- The history of Jacob. (Joseph) (37:2-50:26)

Genesis Addresses Life's Most Important Issues

- ***Origins: Where did all this come from?***
 - God is and created all things in the beginning (1:1).
 - He spoke and His powerful word brought all things to be in six days.
 - No big bang, evolution, time, chance and billions of years. No life from non-life, mind from matter.
- ***What kind of creature is man?***
 - “Who am I?”
 - Created by God in His image. (Gen. 1:27-28)
- ***What is man's purpose on earth? Why am I here?***
 - To serve and obey God. (2:15-17)
 - To have fellowship with God (presence of the tree of life).
 - The marriage relationship. (2:18-24)
- ***Why is mankind in this present predicament?***
 - The origin of sin and its consequences. (3:1-24; Rom. 3:23; 6:23)
 - The accountability of man. (3:10-13; Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:10)
- ***How does God's plan of redemption from sin begin to develop?***
 - Gen. 3:15; 9:26; 12:3; 22:18; 28:12-14; 49:10

Characters Who Foreshadowed Jesus In Genesis

- **Adam:** I Cor. 15:45 → Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.
- **Abel:** Heb. 12:24 → and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- **Melchizedek:** Heb 7:17 → For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."