

The Book of Exodus

An Overview of the Book of Genesis

Part I

Text: Exodus 24:12-18
Genesis 1 – 11

Introduction:

1. The Book of Genesis by “Generations”
 - a. 2:4 The generations of the heavens and the earth
 - b. 5:1 The generations of Adam
 - c. 6:9 The generations of Noah
 - d. 10:1 The generations of the sons of Noah
 - e. 11:10 The generations of Shem
 - f. 11:27 The generations of Terah
 - g. 25:12 The generations of Ishmael
 - h. 25:19 The generations of Isaac
 - i. 36:1 The generations of Esau
 - j. 37:2 The generations of Jacob
2. The book of Genesis was written by Moses to record the history of the world – and God’s dealings with man – from the Creation to the time of the Exodus.
3. It was intended to show Israel their origins and remind them of their history.
4. Genesis is a book of beginnings...

- I. The Beginning of the Universe (Genesis 1:1 ~ 2:3)
 - A. The book begins with the record of the Creation Week – seven days in which God created the universe.
 1. Day 1 – *Light*
 2. Day 2 – *Firmament / Atmosphere*
 3. Day 3 – *Land / Vegetation (grass, trees, plant life)*
 4. Day 4 – *Sun, Moon, Planets, Stars*
 5. Day 5 – *Fowl, Fish (sea life, including whales)*
 6. Day 6 – *Land-dwelling animals / Man*
 7. Day 7 – *God rested (ceased His creative activity)*
 - B. Everything was made in seven, 24-hour periods of time.
 - C. Everything that was made was very good.
 - D. Moses records that this week would become a pattern for God’s people to follow, working for six days and resting on the seventh.

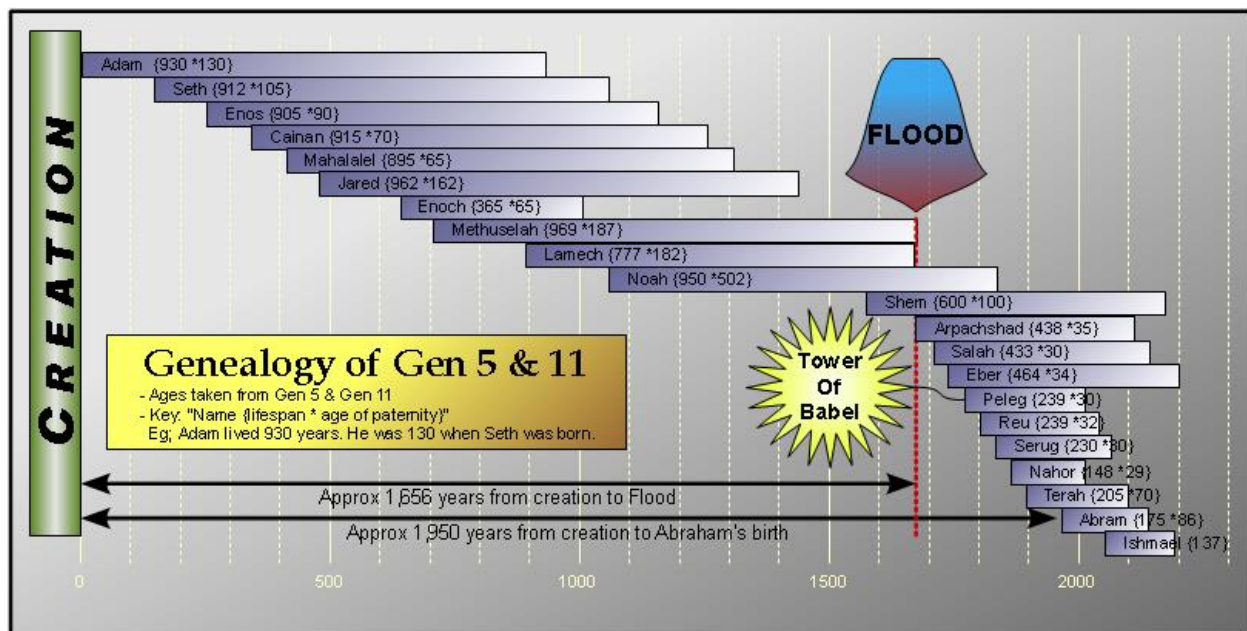
- II. The Beginning of Man (Genesis 2:4-25)
 - A. This passage compliments and supplements what is revealed in the previous section.
 - B. Now, the focus is on man’s place in the creation of God.
 - C. God made the world as a perfect dwelling-place for man.
 - D. In that world, God created a perfect home for man – the Garden of Eden.
 - E. God provided the perfect work for man.
 - F. And, God created the perfect companion for man – Woman.

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III. The Beginning of Sin

(Genesis 3)

- A. Sin was introduced into God's perfect creation by Satan, using the form of a serpent.
- B. Sin was introduced into the world by temptation.
- C. Sin was introduced into the world by deception.
- D. Sin was introduced into the world by lust.
- E. Sin was introduced into the world by disobedience.
- F. Sin resulted in...
 - 1. Guilt
 - 2. Shame
 - 3. Separation
 - 4. Fear
 - 5. Blame, division, and broken relationships
 - 6. Punishment
 - 7. Death



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- IV. The Beginning of Corruption (Genesis 4:1 – 6:8)
- A. The story of Cain and Abel shows the progression of sin in the world.
 - B. It also illustrates the principle of persecution – the wicked will oppress the righteous (cf. Matt. 23:35; 1 John 3:12-13; Jude 11).
 - C. Furthermore, it introduces the idea of corruption through successive generations.
 - 1. The descendants of Cain inherited and passed on a legacy of error, sin, and corruption (4:16-24).
 - 2. The descendants of Seth – the “seed instead of Abel” – received and passed on a legacy of truth, faith, and righteousness (4:25 – 5:32).
 - D. Eventually, the righteous descendants of Seth began to compromise and intermarry with the wicked descendants of Cain (6:1-8).
 - E. This led to the complete corruption of man and the judgment of the Flood.
- V. The Beginning of Judgment (Genesis 6:9 – 9:29)
- A. The story of the Flood emphasizes the grace and mercy of God.
 - B. However, it also teaches the righteousness, justice, and wrath of God.
 - C. It is meant to remind mankind of the reality of God’s judgment (cf. Matt. 24:37-38; Heb. 11:7; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; 2 Pet. 2:5; 3:1-18).
 - 1. Every judgment of God upon man since the Flood has been less than the Flood.
 - 2. God’s judgment upon Egypt was severe, but not as severe as the Flood.
 - 3. Only one day will be greater than the Flood, the final Day of Judgment when the Lord returns (2 Cor. 5:10).
 - D. The Flood was a historical event that had impact upon the history of Israel; thus, following the generations of Noah, we are given the generations of Shem.
- VI. The Beginning of Division (Genesis 10 – 11)
- A. The genealogy of the sons of Noah shows how the nations of the world would become divided as they spread out following the Flood.
 - B. Thus, the Israelites are reminded of the origin and history of those people that they came in contact with in Egypt and on the journey to Canaan.
 - C. The story of the Tower of Babel demonstrates the rise of corruption in the world and the origin of different languages spoken throughout the world.
 - D. Finally, the generations of Shem give the lineage of Abraham, the father of Israel.

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Part II

- VII. The Life of Abraham (Genesis 12:1 – 25:10)
- A. In Abraham, God planned to prepare both a nation and a bloodline – to bring salvation to the world (12:1-3; 18:17-19).
 - 1. The nation was Israel, formed and forged in Egypt, with a powerful purpose.
 - 2. The bloodline would result in the birth of Jesus (12:3, 7; 13:15-16; cf. Gal. 3:16)
 - B. Thus, the story of Abraham’s life becomes an example and a lesson on faithful obedience that results in the promises of God.



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VIII. The Life of Isaac

(Genesis 25:11 – 26:35)

- A. Abraham was the father of two sons – Ishmael and Isaac.
 - 1. These were not his only children, for he had six sons by Keturah after the death of Sarah (Gen. 25:1-4).
 - 2. However, Isaac was the only son of promise, and “Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac” (Gen. 25:5).
 - 3. Still, God allowed the descendants of Ishmael to become a great nation (Gen. 16:10-12; 17:20; 21:13; 25:12-18).
- B. Isaac demonstrated great submission to the will of God.
 - 1. First, by being a willing sacrifice on the mountain in Moriah (Gen. 22:1-14).
 - 2. Next, by remaining in the Promised Land for the entire span of his life (Gen. 26:1-6).
 - 3. While in the land, he cleaned up the old well and dug new ones to provide life-giving water.
 - 4. He also became prosperous and made peace among his neighbors.

IX. The Life of Jacob

(Genesis 27 – 36)

- A. Isaac was the father of two sons, twins – Jacob and Esau.
 - 1. Though Esau was the firstborn, Jacob would inherit the blessing from God.
 - 2. In order to accomplish this, Jacob used scheming and deception (Gen. 25:27-34; 27:1-46).
 - 3. Though this showed a lack of trust in God, it demonstrated respect and desire for the purpose and promise of God.
- B. Upon fleeing to Haran, Jacob became the father of 12 sons (and 1 daughter).
 - 1. Upon his return to Canaan, Jacob wrestled with the Lord and his name was changed to Israel (Gen. 32:24-32).
 - 2. Thus, his 12 sons became the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel.
 - 3. **By Leah:** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, (Dinah)
 - 4. **By Bilhah:** Dan, Naphtali
 - 5. **By Zilpah:** Gad, Asher
 - 6. **By Rachael:** Joseph, Benjamin
- C. Jacob settled his family in the land of Canaan, while the descendants of Esau became the nation of the Edomites.

X. The Life of Joseph

(Genesis 37 – 50)

- A. Joseph, the favorite son of his father, was envied and disliked by his brothers.
- B. Thus, when they found occasion, his brothers sold him to some Ishmaelite traders who carried him down into Egypt.
- C. In Egypt, Joseph suffered many difficulties, but God blessed and prospered him so that he became second only to Pharaoh in the land.
 - 1. This was the result of his interpretation of Pharaoh’s dreams.
 - 2. Also, this allowed the nation of Egypt to prepare for seven years of famine.
 - 3. Thus, not only Egypt but Jacob’s family would be saved from starvation.
- D. When Jacob’s sons came to Egypt to purchase food, Joseph revealed himself to them and forgave their sin against him.

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- E. He sent for his father and the rest of his family to dwell in Egypt, in the land of Goshen.
- F. Before his death, Jacob pronounced blessings upon his sons and the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh.
- G. Finally, Joseph died, instructing his descendants to carry his body to be buried in Canaan when God delivered them from Egypt.

Summary

- I. The Book of Genesis gives a history of the beginning of the world.
- II. Yet, it is also the beginning of man, his fall, his need for salvation, and God's plan of redemption.
- III. Thus, the focus shifts to Abraham and his descendants.
- IV. We learn how they inherited the land of Canaan and why they were forced to abandon it.
- V. Finally, they are left in Egypt where they will grow to be such a nation that the Egyptians' fear will lead to their persecution and enslavement.
- VI. The Book of Exodus records their liberation from Egyptian bondage and the beginning of their return to the Promised Land.

