

# The Book of Genesis

## The Book of Genesis

### Overview

#### Introduction:

1. The word “Genesis” is a Greek word meaning, “Beginning, origin, source, or generation.”
2. In Hebrew, the book is known by its first word, Bereshith – “In the beginning.”
3. The book of Genesis may be viewed as a book of “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
4. The book of Genesis was written to record the history of the world – and God’s dealings with man – from the Creation to the time of the Exodus.
5. Thus, the book of 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 that was made was very good.
- II. The Beginning of Man (Genesis 2:4-25)
  - A. This passage compliment 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. God created a perfect home for man – the Garden of Eden.
  - E. God provided the perfect work for man.
  - F. God created perfect companionship for man – marriage of man and woman.
- 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.

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- 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
  
- 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; etc.).
  - C. Also, 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. The Flood was a historical event that demonstrated 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; and 2 Cor. 5:10).
  
- 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 dispersed following the Flood.
  - B. This reveals the origin of the nation of Israel and the origin and history of the people they would come in contact with in Egypt, the wilderness, and Canaan.
  - C. The Tower of Babel demonstrates the corruption in the world and the origin of different languages.
  
- VII. The Beginning of God’s Plan of Redemption (Genesis 12 - 50)
  - A. The Life of Abraham (Genesis 12:1 – 25:10)
  - B. The Life of Isaac (Genesis 25:11 – 26:35)
  - C. The Life of Jacob (Genesis 27 – 36)
  - D. The Life of Joseph (Genesis 37 – 50)

## Summary:

- 1. The book of Genesis gives a history of the beginning of the world.
- 2. Yet, it is also the beginning of man, his fall, his need for salvation, and God’s plan of redemption.