Genesis, the book of beginnings, follows the history of humanity from creation to Babel (chapters 1-11) & from Abraham to Joseph (chapters 12-50). This book not only stands among all Near Eastern literature, but is also critical to understanding both the Hebrew Scriptures & New Testament Literature. This book explains Israel's origins, purposes, possibilities, & destiny.

The English word "*genesis*" comes via Latin, from the Greek title of this book. In Hebrew the book was named from its first word, which means "*in the beginning*." Thus, Genesis means "*origin*" or "*source*." Genesis is the first of five books of the Hebrew Scriptures called the "*Pentateuch*." The other books are Exodus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy. These five books are also called the "*Torah*" which means "*instruction*" is often interpreted in English as "*Law*."

TIME LINE:

- Creation

- 6500: Earliest culture in Mesopotamia
- 5000: Noah
- 4800: Tower of Babel
- 3110: Egyptian Dynasties begin
- 2165: Abraham born
- 2065: Isaac born
- 2056: Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah
- 2006: Jacob born
- 1991: Egyptian Middle Kingdom
- 1897: Joseph sold into slavery
- 1804: Death of Joseph

GENEALOGY:

ADAM - EVE

CAIN ABEL SETH

Enosh
Kenan
Mahalehl
Jared
Enoch
Methuselah
Lamech
Noah

SHEM HAM JAPHETH

Arphaxad
Shelah
Eber
Peleg
Reu
Serug
Nahor
Terah

ABRAHAM NAHOR HARAN

ISHMAEL ISAAC

ESAU JACOB

12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

NAMES OF GOD:

Elohim	"Plurality of Majesty"	Gen. 1:1
El Elyon	"Most High"	Gen. 14:22
El Olam	"Everlasting God"	Gen. 21:33
El Shaddai	"God Almighty"	Gen. 17:1
Adonai	"Lord (Master)	J oshua 5:14
G-d	"I am the One Who Is"	Exod. 3:14
G-d Jireh	"The Lord will Provide"	Gen. 22:14
G-d Nissi	"The Lord is my Banner"	Exod. 17:15
G-d Shalom	"The Lord is Peace"	Judges 6:24
G-d Sabbaoth	"The Lord of Hosts"	1 Sam. 1:3
G-d Maccaddeshcem	"The Lord who Sanctifies You"	Exod. 31:31
G-d Raah	"the Lord my Shepherd"	Psalm 23:1
G-d Tsidkenu	"The Lord our Righteousness"	Jer. 23:6
G-d Shammah	"The Lord is there"	Ezek. 48:35
G-d Elohim	"The Lord, the God of Israel"	Judg. 5:3; Isa. 17:6
Theos	"God"	Matt. 1:23
Kurios	"Lord"	Matt. 5:33
Despotes	"Master"	Acts 4:24
Pater	"Father"	John 4:24; 15:16

12 Tribes of Israel:

Names	Meaning	Mother
1. Reuben	"Look, a son"	Leah
2. Simeon	"Hearing"	Leah
3. Levi	"Attachment"	Leah
4. Judah	"God to be praised"	Leah
5. Dan	"Justice"	Bilhah (Rachel's servant)
6. Naphtali	"My wrestling"	Bilhah
7. Gad	"Luck" or "Fortune"	Zilpah (Leah's servant)
8. Asher	"Happy"	Zilpah
9. Issachar	"Reward"	Leah
10. Zebulun	"Dwelling"	Leah
11. Joseph	"Increaser"	Rachel
12. Benjamin	Son of the right hand"	Rachel

PROLOGUE: 1:1-11:9:

1. Creation: 1:1-2:25
2. Fall: 3:1-5:32
3. Flood: 6:1-9:29
4. Descendants (nations): 10:1-11:9

Beginning of Humanity

I. CREATION OF THE HEAVENS & EARTH: 1:1-2:25

A. Beginning of Creation: 1:1-2

B. Days of Creation: 1:1-3

C. Creation of Adam & Eve: 2:4-25

Genesis 1 is universal in scope;
Genesis 2 is anthropocentric.
Judgment of all these things that were "good" is a statement of purpose with aesthetic ends.

II. THE FALL OF HUMANITY: 3:1-5:32

A. The Fall of Humanity: 3:1-24

Temptation: 3:1-5
Fall: 3:6-7
Judgment: 3:8-24

B. After the Fall of Humanity:

Conflict: 4:1-15
Ungodly line of Seth: 4:16-24
Godly line of Seth
(Adam to Noah): 4:25-5:32

III. THE FLOOD: 6:1-9:29

A. Two causes for Judgment: 6:1-5

Ungodly Multiply: 6:1-4
Ungodly Sin Continually: 6:5

B. The Flood Judgment: 6:6-22:

Ungodly to be destroyed: 6:6-7
Godly to be spared: 6:8-22

C. The Flood Itself: 7:1-8:19

Enter into the Ark: 7:1-10
Universal Flood: 7:11-24
Flood Recedes: 8:1-19

D. Results from Flood: 8:20-9:17

Noah worships God: 8:20-22
God's Covenant to Noah: 9:1-17

E. After the Flood:

The sons of Noah: 9:18-19
Ham's Sin: 9:20-24
Curse on Canaan: 9:25-27
Noah's Death: 9:28-29

IV. JUDGMENT ON TOWER OF BABEL: 10:1-11:9

A. Family lines after the Flood: 10:1-32

Japheth Family: 10:1-5
Ham Family: 10:6-14
Canaan Family: 10:15-20
Shem Family: 10:21-32

B. Tower of Babel: 11:1-9

Construction of the Tower: 11:1-3
Rebellion at the Tower: 11:4
Judgment on all Family Lines: 11:5-9

4 PATRIARCHS OF THE FAITH: 11:10-50:26

1. Abraham: 11:10-25:8
2. Isaac: 25:19-26:35
3. Jacob: 27:1-36:43
4. Joseph: 37:1-50:26

Beginning of the Jewish People

I. ABRAHAM'S LIFE: 11:10-25:18

A. Abram's Family: 11:27-32

B. God's Call & Covenant with Abraham: 12:1-25:18

Initiation of the Abrahamic Covenant: 12:1-20

Separation to the Covenant: 13:1-14:24

Abram's Separation from Lot (13:1-13)
God's promise to Abram (13:14-18)
Abram rescues Lot (14:1-16)
Abram refuses Reward (14:17-24)

Ratification of the Abrahamic Covenant: 15:1-16:16

God's Promise of Children (15:1-21)
The birth of Ishmael (16:1-16)

The Institution of the Abrahamic Covenant (Abraham's Circumcision): 17:1-27
The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah: 18:1-19:38:
Sarah's Faith is Tested (18:16-33)
Abraham's Faith is Tested (18:16-33)
Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah (19:1-29)
The Sin of Lot (19:30-38)
The Test of Abimelech (20:1-18)

The Consummation of the Covenant: 21:1-25:18
Isaac's Birth (21:1-34)
Isaac's Offering (22:1-24)
Sarah's Death (23:1-20)
Isaac's Marriage (24:1-67)
Abraham's death (25:1-18)

II. ISAAC'S LIFE: 25:19-26:35

Birth of Jacob & Esau, & Selling of Esau's birthright: 25:19-34
Isaac & Abimelech: 26:1-35

III. JACOB'S LIFE: 27:1-36:43

Jacob receives Esau's blessing: 27:1-28:9
Jacob's Life at Haran: 28:10-31:55

Jacob's Dream (28:10-22)
Jacob's Labors (29:1-30:43)
Jacob's Flight (31:1-55)

Jacob's Return: 32:1-33:20

Jacob's Fight with the Angel (32:1-32)
Jacob's reconciliation with Esau (33:1-20)

Jacob's Later Life: His Residence in Canaan: 34:1-31

The massacre at Shechem (34:1-31)
The renewal of the Abrahamic Covenant at Bethel (35:1-15)
The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac (35:16-29)
The Descendants of Esau (36:1-43)

IV. JOSEPH'S LIFE: 37:1-50:26

A. Corruption of Joseph's family: 37:1-38:30

Family sins against Joseph (37:1-36)
Joseph's family sins with Canaanites (38:1-36)

Joseph's Exaltation: 39:1-47

Joseph's Test in Potiphar's House with Egyptian Woman (39:1-23)
Joseph's Test with the Egyptian Society:
His interpretation of the Cupbearer & the Baker (40:1-23)
Joseph's Test with Pharoah's Dreams (41:1-36)
Joseph's exaltation over Egypt (41:37-57)

The Salvation of Jacob's Family: 42:1-50:26

Joseph's brothers Visit Egypt (42:1-38)
Joseph's Brothers' Second Journey to Egypt (43:1-45:28)
Jacob's Family Safe in Egypt (46:1-47:26)
Jacob's Blesses the Family in Egypt (47:27-49:32)
Jacob Dies in Egypt (49:33-50:14)
Joseph Dies in Egypt (50:15-26)

Internal Evidence for Moses as Author for Pentateuch:

1. Pentateuch Itself affirms Moses as its Author: Exod. 17:14; 24:4, 7; 34:27; Num. 33:1-2; Deut. 31:9.

2. Other Hebrew Scriptures affirm Moses as its author: Josh. 1:7-8; 8:32, 34; 22:5; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Kings 14:6; 21:8; Ezra 6:18; Dan. 9:11-13; Mal. 4:4.

3. New Testament Literature affirms Moses as author of Pentateuch: Matt. 19:8; Mark 12:26; John 5:46-47; 7:19; Rom. 10:5

4. Eyewitness details point to a participant being the author and not an editor who lived centuries later: Exodus 15:27; Num. 2:1-31; 11:7-8

5. The author's information about Egyptian customs, names, words, & geography would have been difficult to obtain in Canaan centuries after Moses' time: Genesis 13:10; 16:1-3; 33:18; 41:43; cf. Acts 7:22.

7 Perennial Theological Themes:

1. God is Creator of all;
2. Humanity is made in the image of God;
3. Entrance of Sin into the world which has radically changed everything;
4. God's judgment meets human sin at every point.
5. God's continue disclosure of Himself & ways to His people;
6. God sustains creation by His preserving grace;
7. The necessity of faith in God.

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