
Genesis

The Book of
Beginnings



The Origins of:

The Heavens and the Earth (Visible and Invisible)

7 Day Week (Work and Rest)

Humanity (Image of God)

Dominion and Stewardship

Gender: Male and Female

Family: Marriage, Sexuality, and Children

Sin and Rebellion (Death)

Judgment: Curse (Alienation, Pain and Toil)

Redemption (The Gospel! 3:15)

Worship and Faith

Homicide (Religious Persecution)



The Origins of:

Musical Instruments, Poetry, and
Technology

Death (chp. 5)

Seasons

Government, Law and Order

War

Covenantal Promises (Rainbow)

Nations, Languages, Ethnicities

God's Chosen Family (People): Abraham,
Isaac, Jacob, 12 Tribes of Israel

A Historical Outline

I. Four Events (1-11)

- A. Creation (1-2)
- B. Fall (3-5)
- C. Flood (6-9)
- D. Babel (10-11)

II. Four People (12-50)

- A. Abraham (12-24)
 - B. Isaac (25-26)
 - C. Jacob (27-36)
 - D. Joseph (37-50)
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A Literary Outline

Few books of the Bible mark their individual units more clearly than does Genesis. The term 'toledoth' (generations) is used eleven times to mark the individual units:

1:1-2:3	Prologue
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2:4-4:26	Generations of the heaven and earth
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5:1-6:8	Generations of Adam's line
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6:9-9:29	Generations of Noah
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10:1-11:9	Generations of Noah's sons
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11:10-11:26	Generations of Shem
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“Toledoth’s” Continued

11:27-25:11	Generations of Terah
25:12-25:18	Generations of Ishmael
25:19-35:29	Generations of Isaac
36:1 (v. 9) – 36:43	Generations of Esau
37:2-50:26	Generations of Jacob

Universal Plot Structure

I. Introduction

II. Rising Action (Tension/Opposition)

III. Climax (Crisis – The moment the outcome is unknown and hangs in the balance)

IV. Falling Action (Resolution)

V. Conclusion

Most novels and stories are “U” shaped – decent and ascent

The Bible is “J” shaped – Garden to Glorified Garden!

“Formed and Filled” (reversal of “formless” and “void” (1:2))

I. Creation - God Forms and Fills His Good Earth

II. Corruption and Condemnation (Uncreation) - God Judges Unrighteous Sinners

III. Redemption - God Graciously Forgives and Restores (A New Creation); God Separates a People for His Own Possession to Fill the Earth

Creation and Covenant: The Themes of Genesis

Creation

Corruption: Sin, Rebellion, and Pride

Condemnation: Judgment

Redemption: Grace, Mercy, and Faith

Covenants and Blessing: God Relates to His People Through Promises

Election: God Distinguishes His Children from the Children of the Devil

Genesis 3:15 – “The Promised and Chosen Seed”

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Election and Covenants

In the redemptive-historical context, Genesis is much more concerned with tracing the promised “seed” (and families) than it is in recounting events.

The chosen “seed” is contrasted with the rejected peoples. God chooses Abraham; Isaac not Ishmael; Jacob not Esau.

God relates to His people through promises or covenants. God’s covenants with Noah and Abraham are unconditional and have a “sign” or “symbol”

God’s selection of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah are unconditional and defy human expectation

The Chosen Seed and Elect Line

The emphasize of Genesis to “trace” the chosen line and people of God helps us to understand:

- The significant evil of the “Nephilim”
 - The jeopardy that both Abraham and his son Isaac put their wives in (Sarah and Rebekah)
 - The “miracle” babies: Isaac and Jacob
 - The account of Judah and Tamar in chapter 38. The selfish scoundrel turned sacrificial leader. The selection of Judah rather than Joseph.
 - As Genesis concludes, God’s promises have just begun and appear to be “faint”: Israel owned just a small plot of the promised land (and had journeyed to Egypt during a famine); the family was small but growing; God’s blessings to Israel had begun to take shape so that they would one day overflow into the world!
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