

In the Beginning

A Study Through the Book of Genesis



Lesson 1: Book Introduction

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

I. Overview and Purpose:

- A. The book of Genesis is divided into two parts
 - 1. The first part focuses on the beginning and the spread of sin in the world.
 - 2. It culminates in the devastating flood that destroyed the earth in the days of Noah.
- B. The second part of the book focuses on God's dealings with one man, Abram (Abraham), through whom God promises to bring salvation and blessing to the entire world, through the end of time.
- C. Abraham and his descendants learn firsthand that it is always safe to trust the Lord God.
- D. GENESIS: this word from the Greek means "origin," "source," "generation," or "beginning."
- E. The purpose of the book is to record the creation of the world and to show His desire to have a people set apart to worship Him.

II. Author:

- A. The authorship of the book is traditionally ascribed to Moses. Although the book does not name its author, the whole of scripture along with church history as well as Bible scholars are unified in their adherence to the Mosaic authorship of Genesis.
 - 1. The following are scripture references to the testimony to the Mosaic authorship:
Ex. 17:14; Num. 33:2; Deut. 1:1; Josh 1:7; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Kings 14:6; Ezra 6:18; Neh. 13:1; Dan. 9:11-13; Mal. 4:4; Matt. 8:4; Mark 12:26; Luke 16:29; John 7:19; Acts 26:22; Rom. 10:19; 1 Cor. 9:9; and 2 Cor. 3:15.
 - 2. The early church held to Mosaic authorship.
 - 3. The first century Jewish historian Josephus also held to Mosaic authorship.

III. The Time and Audience of Geneses:

- A. Genesis divides into three geographical settings: The Fertile Crescent (1-11), Israel (12-36), and Egypt (37-50).
- B. The setting of chapters 1-11 changes rapidly and spans more than 2000 years. It covers 1500 miles and discusses the acts of creation, the Garden of Eden, the Noahic flood, and the Tower of Babel.
- C. The middle section covers less than 200 years in the small country of Canaan. Immorality and idolatry are rampant in Canaan and despite the Godliness of Abraham, some of his descendants suffer great immorality.
- D. The last section deals with how God dramatically saves the Israelite nation from extinction by moving 70 people to Egypt so that they may grow and multiply out of the immorality of the Canaanites.
- E. The people of Israel are the original audience of the book. The approximate date of writing is 0450-1410 BC in the wilderness during Israel's wanderings.

IV. The Setting of Genesis:

- A. The region that is presently known as The Middle East.

V. The Christ of Genesis:

- A. Jesus is the Seed of the woman (3:15).
- B. Jesus is from the line of Seth (4:25).
- C. Jesus is the Son of Shem (9:27).
- D. Jesus is the descendent of Abraham (12:3).
- E. Jesus is the descendent of Isaac (21:12).
- F. Jesus is the descendant of Jacob (25:23).
- G. Jesus is of the Tribe of Judah (49:10).
- H. Adam was a “type” of Him who was to come (Romans 5:14).

VI. The KEYS of Genesis:

- A. The key word: Beginnings. Genesis is the beginning of the universe, life, man, the sabbath, death, marriage, sin, redemption, family, cities, art, language, and sacrifice.
- B. The key verses: Genesis 1:27, Genesis 3:15, and Genesis 12:2-3.
- C. The key chapter: chapter 15, the Abrahamic Covenant
 - 1. Given in 12:1-3 and ratified in 15:1-21.
 - 2. The promise of a great land (15:8).
 - 3. The promise of a great nation (13:16).
 - 4. The promise of a great blessing (12:2).
- D. The key people: Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Joseph

VII. Introductory Videos: (on YouTube)

- A. Chapters 1-11: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQI72THyO5I&t=18s>
- B. Chapters 12-50: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo>