

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Genesis

INTRODUCTION

Title: In Hebrew: “In the beginning”

In the Septuagint (LXX):

Genesis- “Origin, source, generation (2:4; 5:1; etc.)”

Author: Moses

Theme: Beginning/Covenants/Generations

Purpose: Genesis describes the origin of the human race, the introduction of sin into the world, the confusion of languages, and the Divine choice of Israel based on promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

OUTLINE

I. Primeval History (1-11)

A. Creation (1-2)

B. Fall (3-5)

C. Flood (6-9)

D. Nations (10-11)

OUTLINE

II. Patriarchal History (12-50)

A. Abraham (12-24)

B. Isaac (25-26)

C. Jacob (27-36)

D. Joseph (37-50)

KEY DATES

- Genesis was written by Moses in the years following the Exodus
- Creation: unknown, if genealogies in Gen. 5 and 10 are incomplete.ca. 10,000 - 5000 B.C.
- Flood: As above, unknown.
- Abraham: ca. 2165 B.C. - 1990 B.C.
- Joseph: ca. 1914 B.C. - 1804 B.C.

KEY CHAPTERS

- 1 Creation (broad perspective)
- 2 Creation (focus on man)
- 3 Temptation, Fall, Curses
- 4 Cain & Abel, Cain's line --
civilization
- 6-8 Flood: deliverance in the Ark
- 9 Noahic covenant, curse of Canaan

KEY CHAPTERS

11 Babel: dispersion of nations

12 Abrahamic covenant established

18-19 Sodom & Gomorrah

22 Isaac is offered up

32 Jacob wrestles w/God

37 Joseph is sold by his brothers

49 Jacob blesses his sons

KEY PASSAGES

1:24-27

6th day of creation

1:31

Creation is declared "very good."

2:24

A man shall leave, cleave, and weave

3:15

The promised seed (see below)

KEY CHAPTERS

6:1-4 The "sons of God"

12:1-3 Abrahamic covenant

35:9-12 Jacob becomes
"Israel."

50:20 "God meant it for
good."

KEY PEOPLE

Adam & Eve - the first humans

Cain - Adam's first son; the murderer of his brother Abel; a wanderer.

Abel - murdered second son of Adam

Enoch - Father of Methuselah; walked w/ God; never died but was taken.

Noah - walked w/God, built ark, father of Shem, Ham & Japheth; cursed Canaan.

KEY PEOPLE

Shem - Noah's eldest, ancestor of Abraham

Nimrod - hunter, great King, founder of cities, son of Cush.

Terah - Abram's father, left Ur for Haran

Abraham - father of nation Israel

Lot - Abram's nephew, dweller in Sodom

Sarah - Abraham's wife, Isaac's mother

Melchizedek - priest, king of Salem

KEY PEOPLE

Isaac - son of Abraham & Sarah, father of Jacob

Esau - Isaac's first born, sold birthright

Rebekah - Isaac's wife, favored Jacob

Jacob - (Israel) Father of 12 tribes

Leah - Jacob's less loved first wife

Rachel - Jacob's beloved wife, mother of Joseph,
dies bearing Benjamin

Joseph - Son of Jacob, sold as slave, exalted in
Egypt

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginning*
- Mortenson & Ury, eds, *Coming to Grips with Genesis*
- Ross, *Creation and Blessing*.

SELECTED INTERPRETIVE PROBLEMS

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1. The Structure

A. Organized by
the toledoths
(generation
lists)

B. Organized by
Biographical Material

- Adam and Noah (1:1-11:26)
- Abraham (11:27-25:34)
- Jacob (26:1-36:43)
- Joseph (37:1-50:26)

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2. The Nature of Genesis 1:1-11:26

A. Myth

B. Symbolic theology

C. Historical Narrative (the reasons)

- 64 geographical terms
- 88 personal names
- 48 generic names
- 21 cultural items (woods, metals, buildings, musical instruments)
- NT confirmation

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3. The Understanding of 1:1-5

A. The Gap Theory

B. The Re-creation Understanding

C. The Original Creation
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4. The Meaning of ruach 'elohim (1:2)

A. “The Spirit of God”

B. “A mighty wind” or “A wind from God” (cf. 8:1; Exod 14:21; 15:8)

C. “The breath of God”

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5. The meaning of “Day” (yom) in 1:1-2:3

A. The 24-hour Day theory (reasons)

- “evening and morning”
- numerical adjective
- Ex. 20:11

B. The Day-age theory

C. The Intermittent-day theory

SELECTED INTERPRETIVE ISSUES

D. The Revelatory-day theory

E. The Literary Framework
theory

F. The Analogical-day
Theory – God's Workdays

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6. The Image of God

A. All of Man Is a Reflection of God

B. The Spiritual Part of Man Is a Reflection of God

C. God's Representative(s) over the Earth as he "rules over it"

D. Human Plurality (male & female) in Unity (man) as a Reflection of God's own Personhood

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7. “Your seed and her seed” (3:15)

A. Singular: Satan’s representative and the Messiah

B. Corporate: the continuing enmity between the Wicked and the Righteous

C. Corporate/Singular: a continuing enmity

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8. The Identity of the “Sons of God” in 6:2, 4

A. Fallen Angels (2 Pet 1:4-5; Jude 6-7)

B. The Godly Sons of Seth

C. The Dynastic Rulers

D. The Royal Heroes

E. The Men denoting their Origin from
God

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9. The Extent of the Noahic Flood

A. Known World, Regional, Local

B. Global, Worldwide (reasons)

- The death of all creatures (6:13, 17; 7:21-23)
- The need for the ark (6:14-16, 19-21)
- The depth of the water (7:17-20)
- The duration of the flood (7:24)
- The later biblical testimony (2 Pet. 3:5, 6)
- The worldwide tradition (7:19)

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10. The Curse of Canaan in 9:25-27

A. Ham Cursed, not Canaan

B. Ham's Punishment transferred to
Canaan

C. Canaan Cursed for his own Sin

D. Canaan's Descendants Cursed (cf.
Lev. 18:2-23)

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11. “Until Shiloh Comes” (49:10)
 - A. Shiloh is a personal name (The Messiah)
 - B. Shiloh is the town in the Central Highlands
 - C. Shiloh represents two terms meaning “which is to him,” i.e., “one to whom it belongs”
 - D. Shiloh means “Ruler”
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