

## Old Testament Survey

### *Genesis*

Date: June 20, 2021  
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*The Divines at the Westminster Assembly, 1643-1653*

*What's a catechism?* A tool to teach Christian theology through questions and answers. “Read and recite for great delight!”

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 1. *What is the chief end of man?* A. Man's chief end is to glorify God,<sup>a</sup> and to enjoy him forever.<sup>b</sup>

*Why does this matter?*

- Thomas Boston: “Respect to the glory of God is as salt that must be served up with every dish. The great work of our life is to glorify him; it is the end of our first and second creation.”
- John Flavel: “...it is the duty and wisdom of every Christian to renounce, deny, and forsake all inferior interests and enjoyments, when they come in competition with the glory of God, and our enjoyment of him...”
- Thomas Watson: “The glory of God is a silver thread which must run through all our actions.”

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<sup>a</sup>Ps 86:9; Isa 60:21; Rom 11:36; 1 Cor 6:20; 1 Cor 10:31; Rev 4:11

<sup>b</sup>Ps 16:5-11; Ps 144:15; Isa 12:2; Luke 2:10; Phil 4:4; Rev 21:3-4

**DQ: Why is Genesis important? What part of redemptive history would be missing if we didn't have Genesis? What theology would be missing if we didn't have Genesis?**

Authorship: Moses

- Most likely by compiling written records and oral history.
- JEDP – Documentary Hypothesis: Asserts the Pentateuch was a collection of several sources stitched together. Firmly disproven at this time, but still present in some circles, including evangelicalism.
  - **Jawhist:** Mid 9<sup>th</sup> cent. BC from southern kingdom of Judah.
  - **Elohist:** 8<sup>th</sup> cent. BC from Northern kingdom of Israel.
  - **Deuteronomic:** 7<sup>th</sup> cent. BC during reign of Josiah.
  - **Priestly:** 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> cent. BC Babylonian exile and after.

Historical Context: Genesis is the first book of the Pentateuch, which was originally one book known as *The Law*, *Book of Moses*, or *book*.

- 2 Chron 25:4: "...he did not put their children to death, according to what is written in the Law, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded..."
- Mark 12:26: "And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him..."
- Matt 22:40: "On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**DQ: Why do many people value the story of their family origins? How would Genesis be important to the Israelites?**

Recipients: Covenant Israel Under the Leadership of Moses

Outline:

Primeval History – 1-11  
Patriarchal History – 12-50

Literary Structure: The Story of the Formation of a Righteous Lineage

12 Toledot (תולדות) Sections—"Generations," "Account," or "Story of the Family"

1. Creation of Heaven and Earth (1:1-2:3)
2. The *Toledot* of Earth's Family (2:4-4:26)
3. The *Toledot* of Adam's Line (5:1-6:8)
4. The *Toledot* of Noah (6:9-9:29)
5. The *Toledot* of Noah's Sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth (10:1-11:9)
6. The *Toledot* of Shem (11:10-26)
7. The *Toledot* of Terah: Abraham (11:27-25:11)
8. The *Toledot* of Ishmael (25:12-18)
9. The *Toledot* of Isaac: Jacob (25:19-35:29)
10. The *Toledot* of Esau and Family (36:1-8)
11. The *Toledot* of Esau (36:9-37:1)
12. The *Toledot* of Jacob: Joseph (37:2-50:26)

## Major Theology

1. Metanarrative Recapitulated
  - a. Creation
    - i. Gen 1:28-29
    - ii. Gen 4:1
    - iii. Gen 6:1
    - iv. Gen 37:1
  - b. Fall
    - i. Gen 3:9-13
    - ii. Gen 4:2, 6-7
    - iii. Gen 6:5-7
    - iv. Gen 37:4
  - c. Redemption
    - i. Gen 3:21
    - ii. Gen 4:15
    - iii. Gen 6:8
    - iv. Gen 50:16-20
  - d. Consummation (*inaugurated* or *not-yet*)
    - i. Gen 3:15
    - ii. Gen 4:25-26
    - iii. Gen 9:11
    - iv. Gen 50:24-25
2. Alternative Metanarrative – C.S.E.R.
  - a. Covenant
  - b. Sin
  - c. Exile
  - d. Restoration

## DQ: Can you think of other storylines that fit these metanarratives?

3. Covenant Theology
  - a. Defining Covenant
    - i. It is an **elected** relationship of **obligation** under divine **sanction**.
    - ii. *Elected*: Established beyond blood ties.
    - iii. *Obligation*: Binding nature on the parties involved (Parity or Suzerainty covenants).
    - iv. *Sanction*: under the authority and approval of the gods (Triangular relationship)
  - b. Covenantal Framework – ANE Suzerain-Vassal Treaty
    - i. Preamble—introductory statement
    - ii. Historical Prologue—recounting of mighty deeds
    - iii. Stipulations—the do's and don'ts
    - iv. Public Reading—covenant to be read regularly and publicly
    - v. Witnesses—the witnesses to the agreement
    - vi. Blessings and Curses—the results for being good or bad
    - vii. Blood Ritual or Oath Formula—often a physical sign of the covenant

- c. Covenant in Genesis
  - i. Covenant of Creation (Gen 1-3)
    - 1. Preamble: Gen 1:1
    - 2. Historical Prologue: Gen 1:2-1:29; 2:8-15
    - 3. Stipulations: Gen 1:28; 2:16-17a
    - 4. Witnesses: Gen 1:31
    - 5. Blessings and curses: Gen 1:28; 2:3; 2:17b
  - ii. Covenant with Abraham (Gen 15)
    - 1. Preamble: Verse 1
    - 2. Historical Prologue: Verse 7
    - 3. Stipulations: Are there any?
    - 4. Public Reading: No instruction to do so.
    - 5. Witnesses: Verse 18ff; see Heb 6:13
    - 6. Blessings and Curses: Are there any?
    - 7. Blood Ritual: What is Abram doing (v. 12)? Who passes through the blood (v. 17)?
- 4. Preservation of a Holy Seed
  - a. Gen 1:28, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...”
  - b. Gen 3:15, redemption through the seed of woman
  - c. Gen 9:25-27, Noah cursing his grandson, Canaan
  - d. Gen 11:5, Tower of Babel built by “children of man”
  - e. Gen 19:19-21, Isaac the son of promise, not Ishmael
  - f. Gen 25: 22-23, Struggle between Jacob and Esau
  - g. Gen 34, Defiling of Dinah, Jacob’s daughter
  - h. Gen 38, Judah and Tamar, sinfulness of spilling seed
  - i. Gen 47:27, Israelites “fruitful and multiplied greatly” in Egypt

**DQ: What does the preservation of a holy seed have to do with Jesus?**

Messianic Hope

- 1. Gen 3:15, The Protoevangelium – “First Gospel”
- 2. Gen 22:14, Sacrifice of Isaac
- 3. Gen 49:8-10, Scepter shall not depart from Judah