

ONEXONE

GENESIS

1. Introduction:

The word Genesis is the Greek word for origin or beginning; our Bible uses the Greek name for this book because the early church and Jerome used the Septuagint's structure and names for the Old Testament and its books. In the Hebrew Bible this book is named Bereshith which comes from the first word of the book of Genesis which is, "in the beginning". The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings; in this book we see the beginning of God's revelation, the universe, the earth, sea life, animals, mankind, marriage, family, languages, nations, music, industry, Satan's temptations, sin, sacrifice, God's redemptive plan and the nation of Israel.

2. Author and Date:

Both Jewish and Christian Traditions teach that Moses is the author of the first five books of the Bible. Not only that, but the Bible in both the Old and New Testament teaches that Moses is the author of the law which in the Jewish Bible is Genesis-Deuteronomy the first five books of the Bible (Exodus 17:14, Numbers 33:2, Joshua 1:7, 8:31, 1 Kings 2:3, 2 Kings 14:6, Ezra 6:18, Nehemiah 13:1, Daniel 9:11, 13, Malachi 4:4, Matthew 8:4, Mark 12:26, Luke 16:29, 24:27,49, John 5:46, 7:22, Acts 15:1, Romans 10:19, 1 Corinthians 9:9, 2 Corinthians 3:15).

Concerning the date of writing Scholars hold one of two views: first some Moses wrote Genesis during the first 40 years of his life while he was still in Egypt (1487B.C). Majority of scholars hold the second view which is that Moses wrote Genesis as well as his other four books in the wilderness during the last forty years of his life (1447-1407B.C).

How could Moses have known about the events of Genesis which took place so long before he was born? Moses either received his information by direct revelation or more than likely he received his information by historical and family records. There is evidence in the book of Genesis that Moses did use historical and family records in order to get his information.

The historical documents Moses used are referred to as the generations, for example: Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3). The Generations of the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 2:4- 4:26). The Generations of Adam (Genesis 5:1-6:8).The Generations of Noah (Genesis 6:9- 9:28). The Generations of the Sons of Noah (10:1-11:9).The Generations of Shem (Genesis 11:10-26).The Generations of Terah (Genesis 11:27-25:11).The Generations of Ishmael (25:12-18).The Generations of Isaac (25:19-35:29).The Generations of Esau (Genesis 36:1-8).The Generations of Esau the father of the Edomites (Genesis 36:9-43). The Generations of Jacob (Genesis 37:2-50:26).



These documents cover a period of well over two thousand years of human history. Moses who was inspired and moved by the Holy Spirit selected the correct material from these documents in order to give us an inspired and inerrant record of the beginning of God's redemptive plan to save mankind.

3. Outline and Chapter Summary:

The Book of Genesis can be divided into two major sections. First in chapters 1-11 you have the beginning of the world and its nations. Second in chapters 12-50 you have the beginning of the nation of Israel. Each of these two sections can also be subdivided into four sections.

- I. The beginning of the world and its nations (chapters 1-11).
 - A. The creation of the universe and mankind (chapters 1-2).
 - B. The fall of man (chapters 3-5).
 - C. The flood (chapters 6-9).
 - D. The Tower of Babel and the dispersion of the nations (chapters 10-11).

- II. The beginning of the nation of Israel (chapters 12-50).
 - A. The life of Abraham (chapters 12:1-25:11)
 - B. The life of Isaac (chapters 25:12-26:35).
 - C. The life of Jacob (chapters 27-36).
 - D. The life of Joseph (chapters 37-50).

4. Points to Ponder:

- A. Chapters 1-11
 - God is powerful
 - God is gracious
 - God uses chosen vessels.

- B. Chapters 12-50
 - Abraham is a friend of God like us!
 - God built Abraham's faith through his life circumstances and experiences.
 - Isaac is an illustration of a man of prayer.
 - The life of Jacob reveals that an affect life is one that is surrendered and governed by God.
 - The life of Joseph is an illustration of Romans 8:28, God is working all things for my good and His glory.