

GENESIS

Introduction

The title of the book, Genesis, comes to us from the Septuagint, a translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek. It was completed about 150 years before the birth of Christ.

Genesis means “beginning.” In Jewish custom the first word of a book became its title. So you see, the book of Genesis starts with “in the beginning.” Beginning (Genesis) is the title of the book.

In terms of authorship, Genesis is the first of five (5) books written by Moses. They are called the Pentateuch which means “the law.” God used Moses to establish for us a solid foundation in terms of how the world came to be. It’s a book that describes how God Himself created the world, and everything in it, including humanity. Moses wrote this book toward the end of the 40 years the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness. It was during this time that God had established laws. God wanted the people to know how the universe, the earth, all of life, including humankind, began when God spoke everything into existence. When Adam and Eve were created, they were complete and mature, and as we shall see they started in paradise, but were cast out after the fall.

The book of Genesis starts with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and ends with the death of Joseph in Egypt. The history of the universe and the human race in general occupies only the first 11 chapters. The last 39 chapters are devoted to what we call redemptive history; as the nation of Israel grows out of the faith of one man, Abraham. Almost 80% of the book of Genesis is devoted to 365 years covering from the birth of Abraham, to the death of Joseph.

We invite the Holy Spirit to help us as we start this long process of surveying the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

May God continue to bless you and yours, and it’s my prayer that you be covered, protected, and provided for through the blood of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit!

Amen!

OUTLINE

I. God's Working Schedule (1:1-2:19)

- A. **First day: creation of light** (1:3-5): "Then God said, 'Let there be light.'" He then divides the light from the darkness.
- B. **Second day: creation of space and water** (1:6-8): He separates the atmospheric, upper water from the earthly, lower water.
- C. **Third day: creation of plant life** (1:9-13): First He separates the water from the land. The earth then brings forth green grass, plants, trees, and vegetation of every kind.
- D. **Fourth day: creation of sun, moon, and stars** (1:14-19)
- E. **Fifth day: creation of fish and fowl** (1:20-23)
- F. **Sixth day: creation of land animals and people** (1:24-31, 2:7-20)
 - 1. The brute creatures: livestock and all wild beasts (1:24-25)
 - 2. The blessed creature, who is given two things:
 - a. The image of God (1:26-27)
 - b. The instructions from God (1:26-31; 2:15-19)
 - (1) People are to rule over all nature (1:26, 28),
 - (2) to fill the earth with their own kind (1:28),
 - (3) to cultivate and care for their beautiful home, the Garden of Eden (2:15),
 - (4) to eat from any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:16-17)
 - (5) and to provide names for all the other creatures (2:19-20).
- G. **Seventh day: God rests** (2:1-6): His creative work is complete and is pronounced good. God blesses and sets apart the seventh day.

II. God's Wedding Schedule (2:20-25)

- A. **The making of Eve** (2:20-22): Eve, the first woman, is formed from the flesh and bone of Adam's side.
- B. **The marriage of Eve** (2:23-25): Eve is returned to Adam's side. "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." This marks history's first marriage.