
Genesis

— The Book of Beginnings —

Some Facts

- More than 2000 years of history!
- (longer than the whole of the rest of the Bible put together)
- 50 Chapters
- Sets up the whole of the rest of the Bible

- Lots to cover!

Roadmap

- Structure of Genesis
- Big beginnings
- Promises
- Two lines
- How to use this in study

Structure of Genesis

-Can be roughly divided into 5 big “Accounts”, with short links between them.

-Prologue: Creation (1:1 - 2:3)

1. Heaven and earth/Adam (2:4 - 4:26)

-Growth of humanity and wickedness (5:1 - 6:8)

2. Noah (6:9 - 9:29)

-Re-Growth of humanity (10:1 - 11:9)

Shem’s line (11:10 - 26)

3. Terah/Abraham (11:27 - 25:11)

-Ishmaelites (25:12-18)

4. Isaac/Jacob (25:19 - 35:29)

-Edomites (36:1-43)

5. Jacob/Joseph (37:1-50:26)

-Terah, Isaac, and Jacob’s “accounts” are more about their children.

-The “links” are mainly genealogies.

-10,10,1,1,1

Big Beginnings

- The world (ch1)
- Humans (ch1-2)
- Sin and death (ch3)
- The world (again) (ch9)
- The promises (ch12)
- Israel (ch25-50)

Other beginnings

Marriage, farming, sacrifices, cities, music, metalwork, eating meat, rainbows, capital punishment, languages, Babylon, Egypt, Assyria, Canaan, circumcision, Ishmaelites, Edomites, and pretty much everything else...

Big Beginnings

-The world (ch1)

- Made over 6 days
- Made by God speaking
- Made orderly (separation, according to kinds...)
- "formless and empty" v1

-Humans (ch1-2)

- Made in God's image
- Made to rule

Big Beginnings

-Sin and death (ch3)

- "the fall" - Adam and Eve break their one rule
- God curses creation:
 - Serpent will crawl and be crushed by Eve's offspring
 - Woman will have pain in childbirth and be ruled over by man
 - Man will have difficulty growing food
 - Ultimately, death
- Humans forced to leave God's presence in Eden (new enmity)

Implications:

- All humans now sin
- All humans now die

Big Beginnings

-The world (again) (ch9)

- After the fall, humans are so bad that God kills the world
- Only Noah survives with his family
- All creation has to start again
- Humans now live much shorter

- This does not destroy sin

Big Beginnings

-The promises (ch12)

- Abraham is told a nation will come from him
- More on this later

-Israel (ch25-50)

- The second **half** of Genesis is all about Israel and his children
- This is the nation that God promised Abraham
- The rest of the old testament is all about Israel
- By the end of the book there are 70 “Israelites”

Big Beginnings

- Prologue: Creation (1:1 - 2:3) ————— The world / Humans
- 1. **Heaven and earth/Adam (2:4 - 4:26)** ————— Sin and Death
 - Growth of humanity (5:1 - 6:8)
- 2. **Noah (6:9 - 9:29)** ————— The world again
 - Re-Growth of humanity (10:1 - 11:9)
 - [Shem's line (11:10 - 26)]
- 3. **Terah/Abraham (11:27 - 25:11)** ————— Promises
 - Ishmaelites (25:12-18)
- 4. **Isaac/Jacob (25:19 - 35:29)** ————— Israel
 - Edomites (36:1-43)
- 5. **Jacob/Joseph (37:1-50:26)**

Promises

2 Huge, Important Promises

Genesis 3 - First promise of the Messiah

“And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

- Happens when God is cursing the world
- A promise of Satan's eventual defeat
- The defeater will be from the offspring of Eve

Promises

2 Huge, Important Promises

Genesis 12 - God's promise to Abraham

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

- Multiple promises:
 - Great nation (Israel)
 - Renown and blessing
 - Blessing for all (Messiah!)

Promises

2 Huge, Important Promises

Genesis 15 - God's promise to Abraham Continued...

“Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

...

“To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates”

Promises

When are these promises fulfilled?

- Serpent's head crushed by woman's offspring
- Abraham made into a great nation
- Abraham having renown and blessing
- All people on earth being blessed through Abraham
- Abraham's offspring being as many as the stars
- Abraham's descendants having canaan

Two Lines

At every stage there are always two types of people:

The chosen line, and the rest

- The chosen line is not always the most righteous
- People who are “big deals” in the world are often not the ones chosen by God.

After Gen 10 we hardly hear about world powers

- Often younger brothers will be chosen, not older

Why is the “chosen” line important?

Think promises!

	<u>Not Chosen</u>	<u>Chosen</u>
ch4-5	Cain - Firstborn and city builder	Seth
ch6	Nephilim - “men of renown”	Noah - “found favour in the eyes of the Lord”
ch9-10	Ham - Origin of Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, and Canaan	Shem
ch10-11	Joktan - Expansive territory	Peleg
ch12-19	Lot - City-dweller, origin of Moab and Amon	Abraham - Righteous by faith
ch16-21	Ishmael - Firstborn, archer, father of the Ishmaelites	Isaac
ch25-36	Esau - Firstborn, hunter, father of the Edomites	Jacob - Born second, a “deceiver”
ch29-50	11 of Jacob’s sons - Including righteous Joseph	Judah - Not very righteous, born fourth
ch38	Zerah - Technically the firstborn	Perez

Two Lines

Lines reflected in short and long “accounts”

- 1. Heaven and earth/Adam (2:4 - 4:26)** -Cain ends
-Growth of humanity (5:1 - 6:8)
-Seth begins
- 2. Noah (6:9 - 9:29)**
-Re-Growth of humanity (10:1 - 11:9)
Shem's line (11:10 - 26)
-Seth continues through Noah
-Ham ends
- 3. Terah/Abraham (11:27 - 25:11)**
-Ishmaelites (25:12-18)
-Noah continues through Shem
-Shem continues through Abraham
-Ishmael ends
- 4. Isaac/Jacob (25:19 - 35:29)**
-Edomites (36:1-43)
-Abraham continues through Isaac
-Esau ends
- 5. Jacob/Joseph (37:1-50:26)**
-Isaac continues through Jacob

Putting it together

Things to think about when studying a passage in Genesis:

- Which “Account” is this passage in?
- Does this passage contain the start or end of something?
- What promises do we have so far?
- What promises might this passage affect?
- Who is the promised line at this point?
- Why is this passage important to the whole Bible story?
- Why is this passage important to us?

Remember: Genesis is a **history** book

Many of the things that people do in it are not godly examples.

We need to be careful when copying how people in the book lived.