

# Genesis

## Introduction

**Bible Study**

## Background

Genesis is one of five books written by **Moses**, all five being known as the Torah or Pentateuch

A passage that points to Moses as author:

John 7: 22 Christ said:  
“**Moses** gave you circumcision”

(NSB)

“Since the reason for circumcision is mentioned only in Genesis 17, Jesus had to be referring to **Moses’ compilation of the story**”

Written around 1450-1410 BC

Genesis was written and inspired by God to encourage the Israelites while they were preparing to enter the promised land

What was the source of the material?

1. Direct revelation from God

### **Daniel 2:20**

<sup>20</sup>Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His

<sup>22</sup> He **reveals** deep and secret things; He knows what *is* in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

### **Amos 3:7**

<sup>7</sup> Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He **reveals** His secret to His servants the prophets.

# What was the source of the material?

## 2. Oral tradition passed down

### **Psalms 78:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, *to* my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,

<sup>3</sup> Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.

<sup>4</sup> We will not hide *them* from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.

<sup>5</sup> For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children;

<sup>6</sup> That the generation to come might know *them*, The children *who* would be born, *That* they may arise and declare *them* to their children,

<sup>7</sup> That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;

What was the source of the material?

### 3. Ancient documents

It appears that much of Genesis was compiled from **earlier documents** or records that were passed down from generation to generation

(Expositors)“Much like the writers of the Gospels and the later historical books of the Old Testament, the writer of the book of Genesis appears to have composed his work from ‘archival’ **records** of God’s great deeds in the past”

A compilation of ancient documents:



Genesis 2:4 “This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created...”

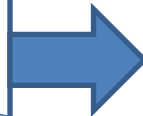
Genesis 5: 1 “This is the book of the genealogy of Adam”

Gen. 10: 1 “Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth”

Gen. 2: 4

“This is the *history* of the heavens and earth...”

“history” (Heb.)



Generations(margin)  
or genealogy

There are eight other passages where the same word is used  
most likely from other ancient documents

Gen. 6:9 “This is the  
*genealogy* of Noah”

Gen. 11:10 “This is the *genealogy*  
of Shem”

Gen. 11: 27 “This is the  
*genealogy* of Terah”

Gen. 37: “This is the *history* of  
Jacob”

Purpose for the book:

To record the creation of the world by God **and** to have a people set apart to worship him

Themes:

**Beginnings:** universe,  
earth, people

**Disobedience:** Man's  
wrong choice

**Sin:** what is does to the lives of  
people

**Obedience:** blessings that God  
gives as a result

**Promises:** God gives them

**Israel:** a people set apart to be  
an example to the world

(JFB) “The information contained in it was of the greatest importance to the Hebrew people, as without it **they could not have understood** the frequent references made in their law to the purposes and promises of God regarding themselves”



Chapter 1-11—outlines a **general history** (of mankind)

Chapter 12-50—outlines a more **specific history** (of Israel)

It is mostly a historical narrative, but does have some  
**specific commands:**

Ch. 2: 17 “Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil  
you shall not eat”

Ch. 2: 24 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and  
mother and be joined to his wife”

Ch. 17: 1 “Walk before me and be blameless”

The origin of the Sabbath: Ch. 2: 2-3

# Key places found in Genesis

## Map of Ancient Near East



Genesis means: Beginnings  
or origins



The story of God's **purpose** and **plan**  
for creation

By **revelation**, Genesis reveals the origin both of the  
universe and the human race

Genesis sets the stage for the  
rest of the books of the Bible

Most of the books of the Bible  
draw on Genesis in one way or  
another

(BKC) "For those who recognize it as the word of God, whom they  
seek to serve, Genesis is a source of comfort and edification"

Through this book we understand who we are and where  
we come from.....and it begins with God

Christ confirmed Genesis by  
quoting it:

**Matthew 19:4-6 (Gen. 1: 27; 2:24; 5: 2)**

He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who  
£made *them* at the beginning ‘*made them male and female,*’ £

<sup>5</sup>and said, ‘*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and  
be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*’?£

<sup>6</sup>So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has  
joined together, let not man separate.”

How important is it?

(Aid to Bible Understanding) “Genesis is the only source known to  
humans providing a logical, coherent history of things back to the  
beginning”

## **John 4:24**

<sup>24</sup>God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth

(AID) “The Genesis account sets forth the truth of man’s beginnings and of God’s dealings with him”

“Everything recorded in Genesis being true and not mythical, we are able to know the truth about man’s history”

(JFB) “There is an antecedent probability, that the supreme ruler of the world should have caused an authentic history of the first ages to be written for the instruction of mankind”

Moses, by writing the book for Israel, showed them that God created the world and all that is in it

Israel would learn what kind of God that he is:

1. Everything that exists is under God's control

2. The basis of the law is God

3. God is a redeeming God

## The value of Genesis:

Shows the work of creation and God's purpose in creating man

Gives the reason for death and mankind's troubles

Hope of deliverance

Origin of the nations

Origin of false religion