

GENESIS

The Beginning

GENESIS

Written by – Moses?

Matches customs and practices of that time

Babylonian style up to Joseph, then Egyptian

Locations focussed on Mesopotamia, and later Canaan

GENESIS

Written by – Moses?

Matches customs and practices of that time

Babylonian style up to Joseph in Egypt

Locations focussed on Mesopotamia, and later Canaan

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GENESIS

Chapters 1 - 11

- Creation!
- Adam and Eve – the Fall

Cain and Abel

Noah and the flood

- The Tower of Babel

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Chapters 12 - 50

- Abraham
- Isaac and Ishmael

Jacob and Esau

Joseph and his brothers

Ends with:

Israel and family settle in Egypt

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10 sections beginning with the phrase “The account of...”

1. The heavens and the earth (2.4-4.26) includes:

- the creation of Adam and Eve in more detail
- the Fall,
- Cain and Abel,
- a genealogy of Cain - 7 generations ending with Lamech, a nasty piece of work,
- the birth of Seth, third named son of Adam and Eve

GENESIS

10 sections beginning with the phrase "The account of..."

2. The account of Adam 's line (5.1-6.8) includes:

- A genealogy from Adam to Noah through Seth
 - 10 generations

N.B. - similar names to the genealogy of Cain, not to be confused! eg. 2 Enochs and an Enosh, only one "walked with God"

- 6.1-8 a description of evil goings-on

GENESIS

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3. The account of Noah (6.9 - 9.29) includes:

- The story of the flood
- God’s covenant with Noah
- Noah’s blessing on Shem and Japheth, curse on Ham (the father of Canaan)
- Noah’s death

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10 sections beginning with the phrase "The account of..."

4. The account of Shem, Ham and Japheth (10.1-11.9):

- Another long genealogy, names of well known O.T. people groups appear in this list.
- 10.5 seems to be an editor's note!
- The story of the Tower of Babel

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10 sections beginning with the phrase "The account of..."

5. The account of Shem (11.10 - 11.26):

- A genealogy of 10 generations,
from Shem to Abram

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10 sections beginning with the phrase "The account of..."

6. The account of Terah (11.27 – 25.11):

- This is actually the 14 chapters of Genesis which covers the whole story of Abraham, birth to death.
- Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
- Birth and early years of Ishmael and Isaac;
- The search for a wife for Isaac

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7. The account of Abraham's son Ishmael (25.12-18):

- A list of his 12 sons, and where they settled
- It says that the sons of Ishmael "lived in hostility to all their brothers"

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10 sections beginning with the phrase “The account of...”

8. The account of Abraham’s son Isaac (25.19 – 35.29):

- This includes most of the stories of Jacob and Esau
- Stories of Jacob tricking, and being tricked, wives falling out, and the nomadic life
- We see more customs of those times

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10 sections beginning with the phrase “The account of...”

9. The account of Esau (36.1 – 37.1):

- This is another genealogy, and describes Esau as “the father of the Edomites”, a tribe and land which crops up a fair bit through the O.T.

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10 sections beginning with the phrase "The account of..."

10. The account of Jacob (37.2 – 50.26):

- This is the whole story of Jacob's family and takes us to the end of the book of Genesis.
- Stories of Joseph and his brothers
- Ch.46 to end all about Jacob (Israel) in Egypt, settling in Goshen with every one of the extended family.
- Ch.49 Jacob blesses his sons and prophesies over each of them.

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The Book began at the beginning of time, and ended with the death of Jacob (Israel) with all his family now settled in Egypt

There is then silence for 300 years, until Moses is born and his account begins in Exodus.

	B.C.		EPOCH
CREATION	?	}	Stone Age
ADAM & EVE	?	}	Until...
		}	
NOAH	?	}	Bronze Age
BABEL		}	~3500BC
Abraham born	2166	}	

Genesis Ch. 1-11

	B.C.		EPOCH
CREATION	?	}	STONE AGE
ADAM & EVE	?	}	Until...
NOAH	?	}	BRONZE AGE
BABEL		}	~3500BC
Abraham born	2166		
Abraham's call	2091	}	
Ishmael born	2080	}	
Isaac born	2066	}	
		}	Genesis Ch. 12-50
Jacob & Esau born	2006	}	MID – BRONZE AGE
	1950	}	
Joseph taken to Egypt	1898	}	
Jacob (Israel) settles in Egypt	1876	}	

NB – Abraham to Jesus
similar time period of
Jesus to us now

GENESIS

Many illogicalities (no sense)

Some parts unbelievable

Numbers don't add up

How can we understand the stories and narrative? How accurate is any of it?

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We are crossing time, culture and language so shouldn't expect to understand in the way that Moses and the people of Israel did

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If Moses had
– a mobile phone ...

How could he describe it to
the People of Israel?



CREATION	?	}		Stone Age
ADAM & EVE	?	}	Genesis Ch. 1-11	Until...
NOAH	?	}		Bronze Age ~3500BC
Abraham born	2166			
Abraham's call	2091	}		
Ishmael born;	2080	}		
2066 Isaac born	2066	}	Genesis Ch. 12-50	
Jacob & Esau born	2006	}		MID – BRONZE AGE
	1950	}		
Joseph taken to Egypt	1898	}		
Jacob (Israel) settles in Egypt	1876	}		
	UNTIL			
	1446?		The Exodus	
			Genesis written after the Exodus?	
	1200			IRON AGE from 1200 BC
Start of Classic Greek period	800		Israel (Northern Kingdom) destroyed by the Assyrians	

GENESIS



The stories are paintings, not photographs.

GENESIS

The stories of Genesis came to us through oral tradition before being written down – needed to be simple, poetic, easily spoken.

Not a science book

Not a history book

But a theology book – God's relationship to Man, and Man's relationship to Man

GENESIS

Genesis succeeds as a history, and as a group of stories, because it gives an understanding of how everything came to be as it is, and God's relationship with Man from the beginning.

It crosses over 3,000 years of human generations, and every culture and language on the earth.

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This book is reliable in that:

It is authentic to the culture and language of the time it seems to have been written. It is supported by archaeology and other literature of the same period.

When there may be arguments over parts of it let's follow the advice of another ancient...

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St Augustine of Hippo wrote re. Genesis:

“In matters that are so obscure and far beyond our vision which we find in Holy Scripture; passages that can be interpreted in very different ways without prejudice to the faith we have received; in such cases we should not rush headlong and so firmly take our stand on one side, that if further progress in the search for truth undermines this position, we too fall with it.”