



Foundations of Faith: An Introduction to Genesis

Genesis



- **In Hebrew** (*beershith*)—"in the beginning"
- **In Greek** (*genesis*)—origin, beginning

Ken Matthews



If we possessed a Bible without Genesis, we would have a “house of cards” without foundation or mortar.

Genesis 1:1



“In the beginning, God ...”

(ESV)



Background

Who wrote Genesis and why?
What was the date of writing?

Moses wrote the Pentateuch *genesis*

- The first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 34:5-6



“So Moses the servant of the LORD died ...
in the land of Moab and ... no one knows
the place of his burial to this day.” (ESV)

Reason #1



He was uniquely qualified. Moses had a superior education—raised in the courts of Pharaoh; trained to read, write, speak, and lead. (Acts 7:22)

Reason #2



Both Jewish and Christian tradition ascribe the Pentateuch to Moses.

Reason #3



The Pentateuch recounts God's instructions to Moses to write (Num 33:2; Deut 27:3; 31:24)

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘write this as a memorial in a book’” (Ex 17:14, ESV)

Reason #4



Old Testament writers refer to these books as the Law of Moses (Josh 8:31; Ezra 6:18; 7:6; Neh 8:1; 13:1; Dan 9:11)

“And keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses”
(1 Kgs 2:3, ESV)

Reason #5



New Testament writers ascribe it to Moses

(Mt 8:4; Mk 12:26; Lk 16:19; 20:28; Jn 1:45; 5:46; Acts 6:11; 2 Cor 3:15; Heb 9:19)

“For it is written in the Law of Moses.”

(1 Cor 9:9, ESV)

Reason #6



Jesus himself ascribes it to Moses (Mt 8:4; Mt 19:8; Mk 7:10; 12:19; Lk 16:31; Jn 1:17; 7:19)

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he [Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

(Lk 24:27, ESV)

When was it written?



- Genesis was written after the children of Israel left Egypt (1445 B.C.), but before Moses died (1405 B.C.)
- **Of Note:** The time frame of Genesis runs from the creation of the world through the children of Israel in bondage in Egypt. It covers more time than the remaining Bible books combined.

Why was it written?



To record God's creation of the world and his desire to have a people distinctly set apart to worship him.

•Outline

- Foundations of Faith (1—11)
- Stories of Faithfulness (12—50)



Keys to Reading Genesis

Identify the following:

Identify the “*Toledot’s*”



“These are the generations of ...”

(ESV)

There are ten sets of generations (*toledot’s*) recorded for us between Creation itself and Israel’s enslavement in Egypt.

Ten Sets of Generations



- **Gen 2:4**—“These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.”
- **Gen 5:1**—“This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man ... in the likeness of God.”
- **Gen 6:9, 10**—“These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man.”

Ten Sets of Generations



- **Gen 10:1**—“These are the generations of the sons of Noah.”
- **Gen 11:10**—“These are the generations of Shem.”
- **Gen 11:27**—“Now these are the generations of Terah.”
- **Gen 25:12**—“These are the generations of Ishmael.”

Ten Sets of Generations



- **Gen 25:19**—“These are the generations of Isaac.”
- **Gen 36:1**—“These are the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).”
- **Gen 37:2**—“These are the generations of Jacob.”

Identify the Repeated Themes *genesis*

- Bless/Blessing
- Curse
- Covenant
- Steadfast love
- Promises—specifically “the promise”
- Find the stories of redemption, love, judgment, sin, and grace



Answers in Genesis

We find answers to many of life's
questions in Genesis

Questions About God



- Is there a God?

Questions About God



- Is there a God
- Is God powerful?

Questions About God



- Is there a God
- Is God powerful?
- Is God in control?

Questions About God



- Is there a God
- Is God powerful?
- Is God in control?
- Is there something besides God, before God, or that can stand in the place of God?

Questions About God



- Is there a God
- Is God powerful?
- Is God in control?
- Is there something before God?
- Is God concerned about this world?

Questions About God



- Is there a God
- Is God powerful?
- Is God in control?
- Is there something before God?
- Is God concerned about this world?
- Is God concerned about me?

Questions About God



- Is there a God
- Is God powerful?
- Is God in control?
- Is there something before God?
- Is God concerned about this world?
- Is God concerned about me?
- Why is God in charge? What gives him the right to tell me what to do?

Questions About Life



- What is the origin of life, where did we come from?
- What is the sanctity of life, why is human life so important?
- Is there purpose and meaning in life?
- How should we treat other life?

Foundations for a Proper World View *genesis*

- There is a sovereign God (vs the atheist)
- There is only one true God (vs polytheism)
- God is wholly “other” (vs pantheism)
- God is creator (vs secularism or naturalistic evolution)
- God upholds creation (vs deism)
- God made man in his own image to manage his creation (vs hedonism)
- God created everything good (vs Gnosticism)

It speaks to issues that concern us



- Evolution,
- Abortion,
- Sin,
- Marriage,
- Worship,
- Respect & Responsibility,
- Ethics—Right & Wrong,
- Christian Stewardship.



Genesis is at the very
foundation of the Christian Faith

“I believe in God the Father, Creator of
heaven and earth ...”

Next Steps



- I will read and encourage _____ to read through the book of Genesis with me.
- I will pray for my faith to be strengthened through Genesis.
- I will invite _____ to come to church with me as we start this new series.