

GENESIS

THE TITLE OF THE BOOK

In the Hebrew Bible the title of the book is taken from the first three words “In the beginning” the Hebrew word is *Beresit*. The word Genesis comes from the word “generations” (Hebrew *toledot*) found in Genesis 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 9:12; 10:1, 32; 11:10; 11:27; 25:13; 36:1, 9; 37:2). The Greek translation of the word generations is *genea* which means genesis.

INTERPRETATIONS OF GENESIS

Because of the things recorded in the Book of Genesis there has much several theories of how it should be interpreted.

Genesis Is a Myth

It is compiled of non-factual legendary stories of people and events with no factual support.

Genesis Is Poetry

The language of Genesis is not meant to be taken literally but is actually poetry. This is also known as the Framework Hypothesis.

Genesis Is Etiology

Invented stories to explain the origin of things.

Genesis Is History

It is the history of the universe given by God and written down by Moses. Where the book can be verified outside of the Genesis record the facts have been verified.

AUTHOR OF GENESIS

JEPD Theory

There is what is called the Documentary Hypothesis this Theory which says that there are four different authors of the first five books of the Bible. This is also called the JEPD Theory—J-Jehovah, E-Elohim, P-Priestly and D-Deuteronomy. It is said that two documents were used to write the Book of Genesis. In Genesis chapter one the word God (E-Elohim) is used 31 times and in chapter two starting with verse 4 the phrase “Lord God” (J-Jehovah) is used. This has led some to believe there are different authors of the Book of Genesis.

Moses

Even though the Bible never says that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis it is generally agreed by conservative scholars that he is the author. Since Moses was not alive when the events found in Genesis happened, we can conclude that He is the editor or the one who compiled the book under the divine guidance of the Lord. Adam most likely passed down the creation account to his children, Noah and his sons passed down the events of the Flood to his children and the

patriarchs passed down what happened in their lifetimes to future generations. What Moses recorded, he either received from previous generations (oral or written) or directly from God. It is also interesting to note that God allowed Moses to be educated in the Egyptian culture (Acts 7:22) which would have been one of the most advanced cultures of his day.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS

The purpose of the Book of Genesis is to give the origin of all things:

- The Universe (Gen. 1:1)
- The Earth (Gen. 1:2-13)
- Animals (Gen. 1:20-25)
- Human Beings (Gen. 1:26-31; 2:7; 18-22)
- Marriage (Gen. 2:23-25)
- Sin (Gen. 3:1-7)
- Death (Gen. 2:15-17)
- Redemption (Gen. 3:15)
- The Families of the Earth (Gen. 10:1-11:9)
- The Jewish People (Gen. 11:10-32)

MAJOR DOCTRINES IN THE GENESIS 1-11

Theology (the Study of God)

- He is Omnipotent (1:1)
- He is Creator (1:3-31)
- He is to be worshipped (4:1-5, 26)
- He is Judge (3:14-24)
- He is gracious (Gen. 6-8)

Pneumatology (the Study of the Holy Spirit)

- Active in Creation (1:2)
- Moved among mankind (6:3)

Anthropology (the Study of Man)

- Man is made in God's Image (1:26-31)
- Man is given dominion over creation (1:26-31; 2:15; 9:1-2)
- Man is a threefold being—body, spirit and soul (Gen. 2:7)
- Woman was made from the rib of man (2:18-22)

Soteriology (the Study of Salvation)

- God provided skins of an animal to cover fallen man (3:21)
- God showed His grace to Noah and his family by protecting them from the Flood (6:8, 14-8:14)
- God's promises mankind a Savior (Gen. 3:15)
- God makes a covenant with man not destroy the world by water (6:18; 9:9-11).

Hamartiology (the Study of Sin)

- The root of sin is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (3:6).
- Sin leads to destruction (6:5-7) and death (3:22)
- Temptation is always present (4:6-7)
- The first murder (4:8-11)
- Judgment for sin (4:11-15)
- The results of drunkenness (9:20-23)
- The act of disrespect (9:20-23)
- The results of pride (11:1-9)

Satanology (the Study of Satan)

- He is subtle (3:1)
- He is the tempter (3:1-6)
- He is a liar (3:1-6)
- He is cursed (3:14)
- He is defeated (3:15)