

# Genesis

## I. Introduction to “Step by Step”

A. The Bible consists of 66 books, written over a 1500 yr span, by 40 authors, in 3 languages. It is the most published, translated, transmitted, owned and read books of all time.

- Yet sadly it is often the most neglected.  
Too many households have Bibles sitting on shelves collecting dust rather than being read and transforming lives.
- It is our goal to help you become a more diligent student of the word.

B. Overview of the Bible

- The Bible you hold in your hand is a single book because of its source and central theme.

Source – God – 2 Tim 3:16

Central Theme – salvation

We are introduced to it in Genesis; follow its “scarlet chord” until its culmination in Revelation.

- The Bible is also many books, 66 in all.

C. Divided into 2 collections

- O.T. 39 books
- N.T. 27 books
- O.T. – can be further divided by content

Gen – Deut	(5)	history	forming a nation
Josh – Ester	(12)	history	history of a nation
Job – Song	(5)	poetry	human heart
Is – Mal	(17)	prophecy	what is to come
- N.T. – also divided by content

Gospels	(4)	history	life of Christ
Acts	(1)	history	formation of the church
Epistles	(21)	doctrine	practice of church
Revelation	(1)	prophecy	culmination of all things

## II. Genesis

A. Genesis was written by Moses who lived 400 years after its story is completed and 1000's of years after it begins.

B. In many ways Genesis serves as a long introduction to Exodus – a book of redemption.

- Before we can understand redemption we must first be introduced to God, man, sin and suffering.
- That does not mean that Genesis lacks importance, instead we see the real value.

No part of the Bible can be understood without Genesis.

- Genesis introduces us to all that the rest of scripture will unveil.
- Genesis will answer the all-important question - "How did it all begin?"  
Revelation answers... "How will it all end?"

The 64 books in between fill the gaps.

J.S. Baxter contrasts Gen/Rev. (p26)

## III. Outline of Genesis

A. Genesis naturally divided into 2 parts.

- Gen 1-11 4 major events creation, fall, flood, Babel
- Gen 12-50 4 main characters Abraham, Israel, Jacob, Joseph

B. Perhaps the main theme of Genesis is the sovereignty of God; seen on every page.

- Sovereign in: creation, redemption, selection, protection.

C. Let's examine the parts.

- 1<sup>st</sup> event - Creation/chapters 1-2
  1. Genesis opens with a testimony from heaven.  
- "In the beginning God..."
  2. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> great truth heaven wants us to know.  
- We might call it an axiom upon which all other truth hangs.  
- We will have no problem with all that follows once we accept this first statement.

Also, this one verse undoes all false religious systems.

J.S. Baxter pg.34

J.S. Baxter, in his commentary on Genesis points out that this one statement is also basal pronouncement that undoes all false religious philosophies.

*“In the beginning God...” – denies atheism with its doctrine of NO god.*

*“In the beginning God...” – denies polytheism with its doctrine of MANY gods.*

*“In the beginning God created...” – denies fatalism with its doctrine of CHANCE.*

*“In the beginning God created heavens and the earth...” – denies pantheism with its doctrine of making earth god.*

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..” – denies materialism which asserts the eternity of matter.*

3. Chapters 1-2 go on to give further details behind creation.

-The climax of creation is man and we see the first glimpse of the value God places upon us.

We were created for fellowship.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> event - The fall/chapter 3
  1. It does not take long for the divine romance to be interrupted.
  2. This one event explains all the pain, suffering, evil and death the world feels.
    - Rom 5:12
  3. It does not take long for a false religious system based upon work and ignorance of the power of sin and the holiness of God to be formed.
    - Sewed fig leaves
  4. It also does not take long for the plan of God for salvation to unfold.
    - Gen 3:15 proto evangelium
    - This plan will be developed over the next 2,000 years, finding its fulfillment
      - 1st in the cross
      - 2nd in you, when you respond
- 3<sup>rd</sup> event - The flood/chapters 6-8
  1. The flood is a graphic picture of both wrath and redemption.
    - Wrath – judgment falls when man turns his back on God
    - Gen 6:5
    - This judgment is in 2 parts.
      - 1<sup>st</sup> – life the world becomes a dark place
      - Demonic, hard, vile
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> – death flood came

-Flood is also a picture of redemption.

Gen 6:8

Redemption is a result of grace

Noah found grace –

Salvation is always by grace

Eph 2:8-9

In the midst of a dark world one can chose to follow God.

Impacted his family

Preached the gospel

Worshipped the Lord

- 4<sup>th</sup> event - Babel/chapter 11
  1. We have allowed the evolutionary model twist our understanding of the Ancient World.
    - The men of Genesis did not have bones in their noses or wear the skin of a wooly mammoth.
    - They were a highly sophisticated society.
      - 1 language, longevity of life, nearness to creation allowed for ideal environment for civilization to develop.
  - Gen 4:20-24
    - farming, music, metal works
  2. After the flood things changed dramatically.
    - Climate
    - Longevity
    - New language
  3. This was designed by God as a safeguard against sin.
    - End times globalism leads to universal rebellion against God.
    - Those who rise to power are rarely the most godly.

D. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of Genesis hinges on the story of 4 main characters.

- Abraham
  1. The divine romance continues as God sovereignly selects a man from whom the Messiah would come.
  2. Genesis introduces us to Abraham the father of the Jewish people, and tells the story of their beginning.
    - The rest of the O.T. tells their story.

3. Genesis 11:26 introduces us to this man who was chosen by God and given a promise which includes: (Gen 12:1-3)
  - Land
  - Nation
  - Savior/Messiah
4. Chapters 12-25 follow his story.
  - Isaac – the son of the promise
    - After a miraculous birth the promise is passed to Isaac.
    - He gives birth to two sons.
  - Jacob – the swindler
    - A long journey to learn to trust.
  - Joseph – a portrait of Christ
    - Sold to slavery is destined for salvation of a nation.

#### **IV. Finally – the Bible is about Jesus**

Luke 24:27

John 5:39

A. Because of that we will see portraits of Jesus in every book.

- Genesis is no exception
  1. Gen 1            creator
  2. Gen 3            1<sup>st</sup> man Adam
    - Redeemer of man – Jesus left heaven to redeem a filthy bride
    - Communion broken
    - Adam gave himself
  3. Gen 14          High Priest
- But nowhere is the picture more clear than Genesis 22.