

## **Genesis: Beginnings**

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Genesis**, meaning “beginnings”, is a book detailing the origins of the world, humanity, and the people of Israel, for the purpose of giving the necessary background and context to the freed Israelites for the plan of redemption to unfold.

### **Context:**

Who wrote it?

When was it written?

To whom was it written?

Why was it written?

### **Structure:**

Genesis has a very deliberate structure unifying the entire book. There are two major parts: The beginning of the World (1-11:26) and the beginning of Israel (11:27-50).

In addition, each of these parts are subdivided into sub-sections headed by a phrase with the Hebrew word *toledot* (“generations”) in it. After the introduction section (1:1-2:3), there are 10 (or 11, depending on how you count) toledots in Genesis, with 5 in the first part and 5 in the second part.

This intentional and unified literary structure indicates that this book was created to be read together as a complete story serving a unified purpose in the sweep of the Torah.

### **Overview:**

The beginning...

...of the World (1-11:26).

...of all things (1:1).

...of the earth (1:2-2:3).

...of man (2:4-2:25).

...of sin (3:1-4:26).

...of the rescue plan (3:14-15). | CREATION

...of human decline (4-9). | FALL

...of restoration (8:1-9:17). | REDEMPTION | CREATION

...of human civilization (10-11:26). | FALL

...of Israel (11:27-50).

...of Abraham’s family (11:27-25:18).

...of Isaac’s family (25:19-36:43).

...of Jacob’s family (37:1-50:26).

CREATION

FALL

REDEMPTION



**Creation:**

The Six Days of Creation

	FORMING		FILLING
Day 1		Day 4	
Day 2		Day 5	
Day 3		Day 6	
Day 7			

**CREATION, the FALL, and the Start of REDEMPTION History:**

What is the purpose of the creation account, and how can we apply this to the prevailing views of our culture? How is Jesus central to this aspect (see John 1:1-18)?

Satan tempts Adam and Eve to disobey God. What is the nature of the fall? What has this effected?

God justly curses the serpent and humanity as punishment for their rebellion. Is that the end of the story (see 3:14-15)?

How is Jesus seen in these passages? How has Jesus addressed the fall?

**Noah and a New Creation:**

In response to the sin of Cain, God provides Seth. How is Seth’s family part of redemption history?

Cain’s descendents fall further into depravity until “every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continuously” (6:8). What is God’s solution?

God saves Noah and his family, and cleanses the world for a new start with Noah as the new Adam. How is this a picture of the Christian’s life in Christ (see 1 Peter 3:21-22)?

**Babel and Israel:**

Noah's family descends into idolatry and repeat the sins of Adam and Eve in the building of the tower of Babel. How does God show justice and mercy in response?

Out of the dispersion, Abraham is called from a pagan existence to start the holy nation of Israel. What is God's covenant with Abraham (12:1-3, 26:3-4, 28:14-15)?

Joseph is persecuted unjustly by his brothers, but this is used by God to save the people of God. Do we see this pattern in other places in redemption history?