

## GENESIS IN OVERVIEW

### 1. THE BIG PICTURE OF GENESIS

	<b>WHAT?</b>	<b>WHERE?</b>	<b>HOW LONG?</b>
<b>Gen 1-11</b>	Creation of <u>the world</u> , the fall & degeneration of the <u>human race</u>	Mesopotamia	20 generations
<b>Gen 12-36</b>	Abraham, Isaac & Jacob: the creation of the <u>covenant people</u> of God	Canaan/Syro-Palestine	3 generations
<b>Gen 37-50</b>	The story of <u>one family</u> : the Joseph story	Egypt	1 family

- What?
- Where?
- How long?

1:1-2:3	Creation account
2:4-4:26	Narrative: toledot of heaven and earth
5:1-6:8	<i>Genealogy</i> : toledot of Adam
6:9-9:29	Narrative: toledot of Noah
10:1-11:9	<i>Genealogy</i> : toledot of the sons of Noah
11:10-26	<i>Genealogy</i> : toledot of Shem
11:27-25:11	Narrative: toledot of Terah (really about Abram, i.e. what grew out of Terah)
25:12-28	<i>Genealogy</i> : toledot of Ishmael
25:19-35:29	Narrative: toledot of Isaac (really about Jacob, i.e. what grew out of Isaac)
36:1-8	<i>Genealogy</i> : the first toledot of Esau
36:9-37:1	<i>Genealogy</i> : the second toledot of Esau
37:2-50:26	Narrative: the toledot of Jacob (about Joseph, i.e. what grew out of Jacob)

- “Toledot” =  
“these are the generations” = “this is the account of” = “this is what became of”
- Narratives/stories and genealogies
- Focus on the chosen people.

## **2. AN OUTLINE OF GENESIS**

- (a) **1:1-2:3** The God of the Bible is the unrivalled creator – and He made this world very good (read 1:1-5, 1:26-28, 1:31-2:3 for a feel of the section)
- Creation is a process of forming and filling
  - Creation is by the voice of God
  - People, made in God's image, are to rule the world under him
  - Creation is perfect: good, good, very good... and culminates in rest.
  - The creator God is without peer and competitor – and we belong to him.
  - What about Genesis 1-2 and science?
- (b) **2:4-4:26** The story of creation will be the story of man – made for perfect relationships, yet rebelling and experiencing the loss of relationship with God and each other (2:8-18, 3:1-6)
- Eden is like the temple sanctuary
  - Man's task and man's helper
  - Rebellion and wrath
- (c) **5:1-9:29** Adam's sinful family faces death and judgment. But there's salvation for those who walk with God (5:1-8, 6:5-8, 9:12-17)
- The reign of sin and death
  - Flood-judgement and covenant with creation
  - So, walk with God – like Enoch (5:24) and Noah (6:8-9).
- (d) **10:1-11:26** God sovereignly scatters the (fearful and proud) nations (11:1-9)
- Fear and pride... and God's judgement (see Acts 2)

(e) **11:27-25:18 Abraham: salvation for the world will come through God's covenant promises** (12:1-7, 15:1-19, 16:1-4)

- **Abraham: often sinful and unbelieving**
- **The Lord takes the initiative: the God of covenant promises**

Promises to Abram – 12:1-6

“Covenant” promises to Abram – 15:1-19 (cf. Jeremiah 34:18)

Covenant of circumcision – 17:1-27

Abraham tested – Genesis 22: salvation through the *obedient man* and *God's provision of sacrifice*

- **Covenant and gospel (see Galatians 3, Romans 4, Revelation 21:3)**

The ONE “seed” of Abraham = Jesus (Galatians 3)

Abraham's enormous FAMILY = all who trust in Jesus (Romans 4)

Faithful covenant God: I will be their God, & they will be my people

(f) **25:19-37:1 (Isaac &) Jacob: the Lord likes to use and choose sinful people**  
(25:19-34, 28:10-15)

- **Struggle, conflict and sin**
- **Election: God chooses whoever he likes**

Genesis 28:15, “I will be with you”

Romans 9:10-12, Malachi 1:2-3

**(g) 37:2-50:26 Joseph: God's unseen hand acts to keep his promises and to preserve his people** (37:2-4, 50:18-26)

- Explaining how God's people end up in Egypt
- God's promises preserved by the unseen hand of God

Genesis 50:20

### **GOOD RESOURCES**

**The Bible – read it! And why not read GENESIS all the way through.**

#### **Specifically on Genesis: easier...**

- Andrew Reid, *Salvation begins: reading Genesis today*
- Alasdair Paine, *The first chapters of everything: how Genesis 1-4 explains our world*
- Iain Duguid, *Living in the gap between promise and reality: the gospel according to Abraham*
- Iain Duguid, *Living in the grip of relentless grace: the gospel in the lives of Isaac and Jacob*

#### **Specifically on Genesis: harder...**

- Derek Kidner, *Genesis* (Tyndale commentary)
- Gordon Wenham, *Genesis* (two vols. In Word commentary series;)
- Thomas Renz, Oak Hill College lectures on Genesis (unpublished)

#### **Short introductions to each book in the Bible**

- Mark Dever, *The message of the Old Testament and The message of the New Testament*
- Capitol Hill Baptist Church (Washington D.C.), *Core Seminars: the Old Testament*. Online <http://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars/series/old-testament-overview/>
- IVP *New Bible Commentary* (21<sup>st</sup> century edition)
- William Dumbrell, *The faith of Israel*
- Ray Dillard and Tremper Longman III, *An introduction to the Old Testament*
- Carson, Moo and Morris, *An introduction to the New Testament*

#### **How does the whole Bible fit together? Recommended Bible overview books:**

- Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture*
- Christopher Ash, *Remaking a broken world*
- Don Carson, *The God who is there*
- Sally Lloyd-Jones, *The Jesus storybook Bible: every story whispers his name* [not just great for children!]