

GENESIS

The Book of Foundations

“If the foundations are destroyed,

What can the righteous do?”

(Psalms 11:3)

Genesis is a book of foundations.

*Genesis is like the foundation
of a tall tower of wisdom upon
which to safely build our lives.*

Today's society like all of the world's cultures and philosophies of mankind have been continually attacking God's foundations. Today the warfare has escalated by the building of a world wide network to destroy God's work.

Jesus laid the foundation for making faithful disciples. This is the reason we are to rebuild our lives on the commands and teachings of Jesus Christ.

A mature disciple, then, by definition is one in which he has been able to step out of his culture and build his life on the Word of God. He has been able to critique what he thinks, does and how he responds. The crippled Christian, the backslider, is absorbed in the culture – the world.

The more clearly we distinguish God's ways from the world's ways, the faster we will grow. If we can't discern the world's ways from God's ways, if we have not been able to have a firm foundation built in our lives, then we must admit that person is worldly and ensnared in Satan's temptation.

We hope through the book of Genesis to show you the difference between God's ways and man's ways. Be not scared of the world and its massive influence. Though God be subtle, it is His will that His people be established and all the nations bow before Him.

Objectives:

- Provide two outlines of Genesis to remember its content.
- Reflect on Genesis' place with the other books of Moses and the Bible through charts.
- Provide six graphic ways Genesis truths are interweaved into the whole Bible.
- Challenge us to the great importance of embedding the truths of Genesis in order to live strong Christian lives.

Our success in life will depend on how closely we build on God's foundation. Genesis is the foundation of foundations.



"He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. (Psalms 62:5-8).

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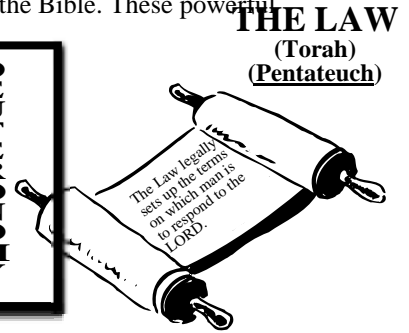
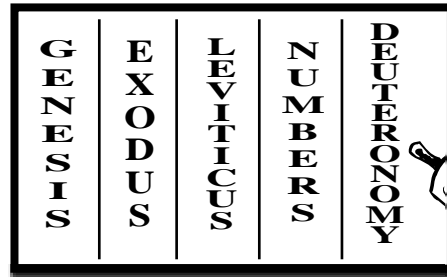
The Genius of Genesis

How does Genesis fit into the overall scheme of the Bible?

The genius of Genesis is seen both in the way it introduces its material in strategic and clear segments as well as in the way its numerous themes are introduced in Genesis and interweaved throughout the Bible. These powerful themes strongly counter those faulty suggestions that state Genesis is a compilation of different accounts or a composite of heavily edited portions.

Genesis is the most foundational book in the scriptures and rightly described as the 'The *Book of Beginnings*.'

Genesis is the first of the Law or the Pentateuch: the first five books of the Bible which Moses had written. We see this stated at the end of his life where it is written,



"And it came about, when Moses finished writing the words of this law in a book until they were complete, that Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, "Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may remain there as a witness against you." (Deuteronomy 31:24-26).

THE OLD TESTAMENT HEBREW CANON BOOK ORDER

We get a larger picture of how Genesis fits into the whole Old Testament Canon in this chart. The Jews often referred to the Hebrew scriptures in three different sections: the Law, Prophets and Psalms (Luke 24:44). This three part categorization is seen in the chart below.

The greatest purpose of the Old Testament scriptures is to reveal the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Messiah is pointed toward and hinted at in many places throughout Genesis.

The promised seed born of a woman to defeat the serpent speaks of Christ, and so does Joseph on the way he saves God's people. Noah's ark represents salvation from God's judgment in Christ while Jesus is the means Abraham's promise was fulfilled. The whole Old Testament points to the great Messiah, now fulfilled in Christ Jesus.



Jesus said, *"...which were written in the Law of Moses, and the Prophets, and the Psalms concerning Me."*
 Luke 24:44

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Genesis: Its Reliability and Unity

A. Demonstration of Unity of Genesis

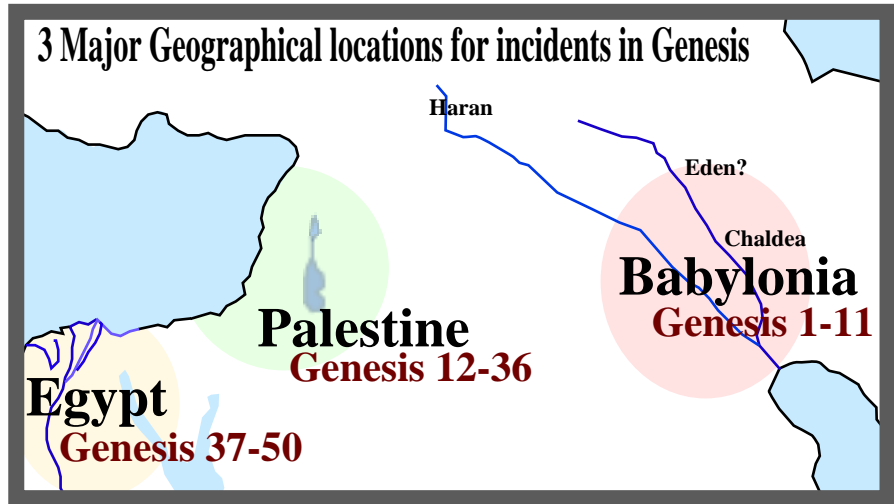
Genesis' unity is evident through its clear outlines and interweaving themes.

B. Reliability of old Genesis Hebrew texts

- 1) Masoretic text (11th century) 2) Dead Sea Scrolls

C. Geographical Outline of Genesis

The three scenes of Genesis help us see the three big stages of God's operations in the early world.



1) Babylonia	Preservation of the Godly Line	(1-11)	Adam to Noah
2) Palestine	Provision of God's Promise	(12-36)	Abram to Jacob
3) Egypt	Protection of God's People	(37-50)	Joseph and brothers

D. Genealogical Outline of Genesis

After the prologue where we find the true beginning of all things, we discover ten genealogies each introduced by the same Hebrew word meaning generation, account or record (Hebrew - Toledot).

These series of genealogies most importantly show how God's promise and line of godly seed is passed down. More will be discussed later on when we examine an number of the unifying themes throughout Genesis. As we read different books of the Bible, we find the importance that these genealogies had. Most clear is the way both Luke and Matthew use the genealogical accounts to trace Jesus' descendants.

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." (Matthew 1:1).

"...the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God." (Luke 3:38).

TEN GENERATIONS

- 1:1-2:3 Prologue
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1).
- 2:4-4:26 The generations of Heaven and Earth
This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. (Genesis 2:4).
- 5:1-6:8 The generations of Adam
This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. (Genesis 5:1).
- 6:9-9:29 The generations of Noah
These are the records of the generations of Noah... (Genesis 6:9).
- 10:1-11:19 The generations of the sons of Noah
Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood. (Genesis 10:1).
- 11:10-26 The generations of Shem
These are the records of the generations of Shem(Genesis 11:10).
- 11:27-25:11 The generations of Terah
Now these are the records of the generations of Terah. (Genesis 11:27).
- 25:12-18 The generations of Ishmael
Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham; (Genesis 25:12).
- 25:19-35:29 The generations of Isaac
Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: ... (Genesis 25:19).
- 36:1-37:1 The generations of Esau
Now these are the records of the generations of Esau (that is, Edom). (Genesis 36:1).
- 37:2-50:26 The generations of Jacob
These are the records of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, ... (Genesis 37:2).

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Understanding the Unity and Themes of Genesis

Let's look at the different ways Genesis can be understood. Each picture is common with the others but has different emphases that bring out different distinctive aspects of the book of Genesis. Remember, Genesis by definition is 'the beginning.' There is much to follow. We see the conclusion of much of the imagery introduced here in Genesis and developed elsewhere in the scripture fully revealed in the Book of Revelation.

Below are only six of many ways the Book of Genesis interweaves itself not only into the Holy Bible but into the lives of men and women of the twenty first century.

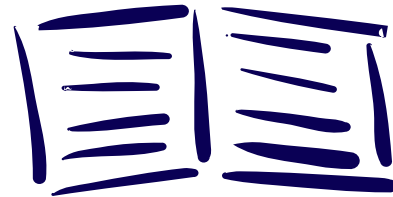
GENES Genesis is coded truth.



Genesis is like the coding of genes which finally reveal themselves only after they are developed.

In terms of microbiology, Genesis is the genes of truth. It provides the core design into which all other things are shaped. We cannot see the full ramifications of the Garden of Eden, the fall of man, sin, death, birth, Noah's ark, etc. at this point. We can identify the code from Genesis but need time and more revelation to reach its fully mature state.

PLOT Genesis carefully introduces characters and situations.

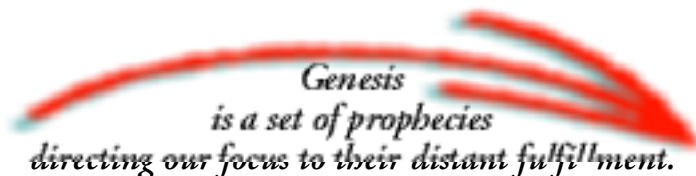


Genesis can be seen as a mystery in which the plot is being shown. We get only glimpses of it so that we cannot fully piece it together, but it strikes a curiosity within us that leads us along the path of truth seeking. We want to read on. We must read on.

Even more interestingly, as we read on, we find that our lives are written in the book itself. We discover what happens in the book has everything to do with our lives! We must read on.

Genesis like a good novel presents subtle plots only to be later discovered in a dramatic and suspenseful way.

PROPHECY Genesis with powerful accuracy predicts future events.



Genesis is a prophecy. It is the beginning but not the end. We see hints of coming situations. We hope for a new garden. We want to see the wretched end to the cursed serpent. We are interested in the 'seed of the woman.' We are interested in Abraham's faith in God's plan and what that would become. We understand that the life of Joseph is a type of the real Savior. Rightly we understand that God has an agenda in history and so it is rightly called "His Story."

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Understanding the Unity and Themes of Genesis

HISTORY

Genesis is 'His tory' in which He begins to revea His agenda for man's wor d in time and space.

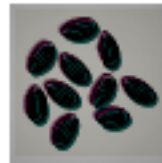
Genesis is the key unlocking ancient and modern history.

Mankind's roots are discovered here in Genesis. Blatantly confronting secularism, God says man's roots are founded in God. Man is made for God and will only find his fulfillment in serving God.

Genesis is famous for genealogies. They reveal the history of man with and without God's special grace. Man without God's grace always swerve toward destruction such as found in the flood. The only links of hope are found wherever God reveals His glory and truth to men like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These lives became important threads in the redemption plan of salvation.

SEEDS

Genesis is the ground where seeds of life and truth are scattered.



Genesis is ike a package of seeds providing the right beginning so ife can fu fi His purposes.

Just as a plant seed later reveals itself in its full grown plant, so seeds of truth likewise have been carefully inserted into Genesis seeing their fulfillment in yet another age. The garden, river, man's walk with God, the creation of Eve, the uniting of man and woman, the exposure to evil, etc. all powerfully reveal themselves in their full grown up manifestations.

FOUNDATIONS

Genesis provides the necessary understanding to build our lives upon.

Genesis guides us into asking foundational questions of life for which we can find in the scriptures satisfactory answers. We might not get a full understanding of life here alone in Genesis, but we will get the foundation that we need to build a full understanding upon. This is true of all the major truths of scripture.

Consequently, without the truths of Genesis instilled in us, we will develop poor foundations that will not stand the test of hardship or permanence. Genesis allows us to put the right categories in our mind so that the truth can be easily assembled and established.

If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Psalms 11:3).

Any hope of being strong people of God depend on shaping our concepts, worldview, expectations and values from the words found in Genesis.

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The Success of Our Lives

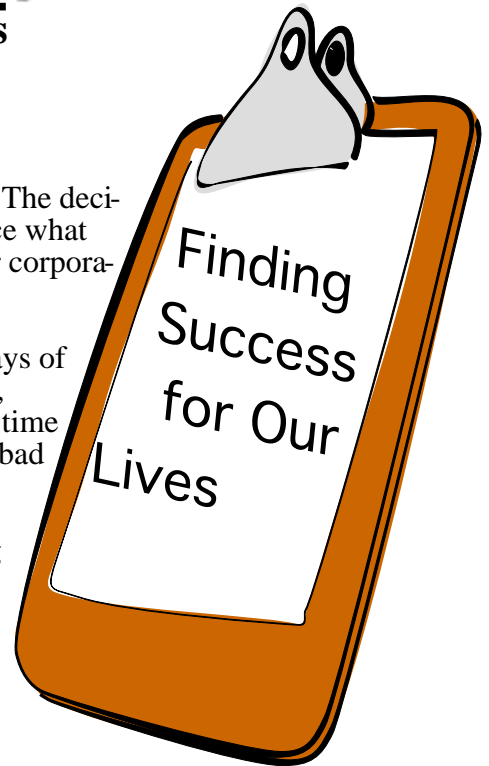
The success of our lives depends upon what we found our lives. The decisions about what we will frame our lives around greatly influence what happens to our lives, whether it be our person, family, society or corporation.

Most people on earth do not have this needed insight into the ways of life. They think man should just live the way he wants to, that is, according to his lusts or desires. Societies would fall apart in no time if there were no societal rules, but no one wants things to get so bad that they can't enjoy their own sin.

Genesis reveals the most enlightening aspect that man by stating that man was good when he was created. We observe this from just a few words in the text.

As the Christian culture withers away in places, the society is rightly questioning what they believe and are searching for what they should believe. Genesis gives the right start to this search.

The name 'Genesis' literally means beginning. It is the beginning of understanding. Looking at it in another way, Genesis helps us by asking the right questions so that we look to the right answers. Many questions are so unhelpful because they are not rightly framed. They are not right because they are based on false assumptions.



Genesis Assignment Lesson #1

An Overview of the Book of Genesis

Your Foundations

Think through the godly foundations laid in your life. Who shaped your thinking? Were these people convinced of scriptural teaching? Have you gone back and examined these areas of your life and rebuilt them on scriptural principles? Explain.

Rebuilding Your Life

Pick out your weakest area in life, perhaps the one you have most difficulty handling. These weak area show that the foundation is weak.

Write down your thoughts or attitudes about this topic. the actual statements whether it be on. Then think through Genesis and other passages on what it says about this topic. Again, please write them down.

Lastly, describe a course in which you can build a better foundation for that area of your life.

Extra* Themes of the Bible * Extra

Pick out one of the imageries used in Genesis and trace the flow of it through the Bible. You can use one that has or has not been discussed. An example might be the river of life, city, promised child, etc.