

NATURE & SCOPE OF GENESIS 1-11

Genesis 1-11 (eleven chapters) is an introduction to the entire Old Testament (929 chapters). Genesis 1-11 contains only 1.2% of the Old Testament. Though only 1.2% of content, it nevertheless covers more time than the other 98.8%. Genesis 12 to Malachi spans from 2090 BC to 400 BC or 1700 years. Genesis 1-11 covers ca. ??? years.

Genesis 1-11 like all of the Old Testament is selective history. Details are selected by God as they relate to the theme of the Bible, the history of redemption.

Chapters 1-2	Creation of the material universe
Chapter 2	Detailed creation of Adam & Eve: Divine institutions of marriage and family
Chapter 3	Origin of sin in the Garden & God's Redemption
Chapter 4	Cain murders Abel – Cain genealogy
Chapter 5	Seth genealogy through Noah & his sons
Chapters 6-8	Noah, his family, & the universal flood
Chapter 9	Noahic covenant
Chapter 10	National entities created via sons of Noah: languages & ethnicities instituted
Chapter 11	Babel & language issues, Shem's genealogy (Intro. to Abraham)

The Title: Genesis takes its name from the title given to it by the Septuagint (Greek version) derived from the headings of the book's 10 literary parts introduced by *these are the generations of* or *this is the book of the generations of*:

2:4	<i>These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth...</i>
5:1	<i>This is the book of the generations of Adam.</i>
6:9	<i>These are the generations of Noah:</i>
10:1	<i>Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth:</i>
11:10	<i>These are the generations of Shem:</i>
11:27	<i>Now these are the generations of Terah:</i>
25:12	<i>Now these are the generations of Ishmael...</i>
25:19	<i>And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son:</i>
36:1	<i>Now these are the generations of Esau...</i>
37:2	<i>These are the generations of Jacob.</i>

These statements indicate that Moses followed a literary outline (*these are the generations of...; this is the book of the generations of Adam...*). Abraham most likely had accurate source documents.

Genesis tells the story selectively of the beginnings of our kosmos and its elements, i.e., chapter 1 is the beginning..., chapter 3 has the origin of sin... . Genesis supplies the answers to two critical questions that no evolutionist can answer: 1) From whence came matter? and 2) How did life come from inorganic matter?

All New Testament books except eight refer to Genesis 1-11 either specifically (quoted) or by reference to the event. There are 77 such references therein. To say that Genesis 1-11 is not historically accurate is to repudiate the words of the New Testament writers, even those of Jesus Christ. Christ Himself referred to the literal reality of Genesis 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7! Moreover, in Matthew 19:3-5, Christ says God spoke the words recorded by Moses in Genesis 3.

³ *The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"* ⁴ *And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'* ⁵ *and said [i.e., God said], 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"* Matthew 19:3-5

Genesis 1-11 is thoroughly historic and scientific and as the rest of the Bible, divinely trustworthy.

Moving On

Old Testament history can be divided into 12 periods as per my following chart: "Outline of Old Testament History."

OUTLINE OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

By Ron Merryman, 1965

(Dates based upon Edwin R. Thiele & J. Barton Payne)

Time Line	Dateless	2166 - 1876 B.C.	1876 - 1446 B.C.	1446 - 1406 B.C.	1406 - 1389 B.C.	1389 - 1050 B.C.	1050 - 930 B.C.	930 - 605 B.C.	605 - 536 B.C.	536 - 332 B.C.	332 - 63 B.C.	63 B.C. - 70 A.D.
Name of Period	Universal Dealings	Patriarchal Period	Egyptian Period	Wilderness Period	Conquest Period	Judges Period	United Kingdom	Divided Kingdom	Babylonian Exile	Persian Period	Maccabean Period	Roman Period
Scripture Portion Related to Period	Gen 1-11	Gen 12-50 Book of Job	Gen 47-50 Exo 1-12	Exo 13-40 Leviticus Numbers Deut.	Book of Joshua	Judges Ruth	I & II Sam I Kin 1-11 I Chron II Chron 1-9	I Kin 12-22 II Kin 1-23 II Chr 10-36	Jer 37-52 Lament. Ezekiel Daniel	Ezra Nehemiah Esther Haggai Zechariah Malachi	closed	ca. 400
Major Events & Persons in Biblical Account With Chapter Numbers	Creation, Ch. 1 - 2 The Fall, 3 Flood 6-9 Origin of Nations 10 Tower of Babel, 11	Abraham, Ch. 12-25 Isaac, Ch. 21-25 Jacob 26, 36, 46, 47, 49 Joseph 37-50 Job	Reception of Israel by Pharoah, Ch. 47 Death of Jacob, 49 Opression Exo 1-11 Birth of Moses, 2 Deliverance, Ch. 12 Exodus ca. 1446 B.C.	To Sinai: Exo 13-19 At Sinai: Exo 19 - Num 10:10 From Sinai to Canaan Num 10:11- Deu 34 Moses Aaron Sinaitic Covenant	Joshua leads Fall of Jericho Conquest Ch. 1-12 Division of Canaan Ch. 13-21 Joshua's Farewell Ch. 22-24	A Period of repeated spiritual declension & apostasy 12 Judges including: Gideon 6,7 Jepthah, 11 Samson Ch. 13-16	Samuel I Sam 1-7 Saul I Sam 8-31 David I Chr 1-10 II Sam 1-10 Solomon I Kin 1-11 II Chr 1-9	Jeroboam Ahab Elijah Isaiah First 9 Minor Prophets 10 Northern Tribes fall to Assyria 722 B.C. 2 Southern Tribes fall to Babylon 605 B.C.	Work of: Ezekiel Daniel Jeremiah	Restoration of the Jews to Palestine Work of: Ezra, Neh. Close of O.T. Canon 400 B.C. Period of 400 Silent years to birth of Christ in 4 or 6 B.C.	Apocryphal & Pseudepigrapha Writings Revolt of the Jews under the Maccabees	O.T. Aug. Caesar Roman control Palestine Herod The Christ A.D. 70 The Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus
Other Nations or Areas of Prominence	Shinar (Sumer) Egypt (Old Kingdom) Fertile Crescent	Old Babylonian Kingdom Egypt (Middle Kingdom)	Egypt (Hyksos) Babylon under Hammurabi Hittites	Egypt (New Kingdom) Hittites Minoa Mycenaea	Egypt Hittites Rise of Old Assyria Minoa in decline	Egypt Hittites Dealings of Old Assyria Mycenaea in decline	Israel in Apex of Power	Assyria rises, then falls to New Babylon	New Babylon falls to Medo-Persia	Persia falls to Greece ca. 332 B.C.	Greece falls to Rome ca. 167 B.C.	

<===== FROM HERE TO END OF O.T., ISRAEL IS THE FOCAL POINT. IN O.T., OTHER NATIONS ARE MENTIONED ONLY AS THEY RELATED TO ISRAEL.