



## Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together

Second Series: "Top Edge" Old Testament: The Law

Lesson #3: Genesis

### I. Introduction

- A. Genesis is the foundational book to the rest of the Torah (first five books) and to the rest of the Old Testament.
- B. Genesis covers a long period of time (perhaps longer than the rest of the Bible put together).  
"Genesis 12 – Deuteronomy 34 occur in the Bronze and late Bronze ages of near Eastern History. The Patriarch period extended approximately 2000-1600 BC." (A Survey of the Old Testament, p. 53-541)
  1. Time period covered:

Creation – Nations	2000 + years
Abraham – Jacob	193 years
Joseph	93 years
- C. It is primarily a history book that covers these major themes/events:
  - Distant past of Creation (1-5) (See also Col. 1:16)
  - Moral failure of ancient world (6)
  - Flood (7-9)
  - Nations (10-11)
  - The Patriarchs (Abraham 12-24, Isaac 24-27, Jacob 28-36 and Joseph 37-50)
- D. Geographically, the story begins in eternity past (creation), focuses on the Garden of Eden (present day Iraq), worldwide flood, call of Abraham from Ur (also Southern Iraq), Abraham and four generations of patriarchs in Canaan and the book ends with Joseph and his family in Egypt.
- E. The Covenant
  - Genesis 12-50: History of the establishment of the Abrahamic Covenant
  - Exodus – Deuteronomy: History of the establishment of the Mosaic Covenant
  - Joshua: Record of God's faithfulness to the Covenant
  - Samuel – Kings: History of the establishment of the Davidic Covenant

(A Survey of the Old Testament, p. 21-22)
- F. New Testament understanding of Old Testament Law

Jesus affirmed the law (Matt. 23:23) but emphasized that the true nature of the law exceeded external behaviors stipulated by the moral code. Paul also affirmed the Law (Rom. 7:12-14).

### The Theology of Genesis

Gen. 1-11: The fall of man triggers the whole history of redemption (Gen. 1-2 compared with Rev. 21-22)

Gen. 12-36: The Abrahamic Covenant – the promises fulfilled in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20) (Christians are his offspring – See Rom. 9:8)

Gen. 37 – 50: Joseph’s life foreshadows Jesus Christ (Gen. 50:20 and Acts 2:22-24)

Notice the similarities between Joseph and Jesus

<b>JOSEPH</b>	Note the amazing similarities between these two	<b>JESUS</b>
<b>GENESIS</b>		
37:3	Beloved by their fathers	MT. 3:17
37:2	Regarded themselves as shepherds	JN. 10:11-14
37:13, 14	Sent by their fathers to their brethren	LK. 20:13; HEB. 2:12
37:4, 5, 8	Hated by their brethren without a cause	JN. 1:11; 7:5; 15:25
37:20	Plotted against by their brethren	JN. 11:53
39:7	Severely tempted	MT. 4:1
37:26	Taken to Egypt	MT. 2:14, 15
37:23	Stripped of their robes	JN. 19:23, 24
37:28	Sold for the price of a slave	MT. 26:15
39:20	Bound	Mt. 27:2
39:20	Remained silent and offered no defense	ISA. 53:7
39:16-18	Falsely accused	MT. 26:59, 60
39:2, 21, 23	Experienced God's presence through everything	JN. 16:32
39:21	Respected by their jailors	LK. 23:47
40:2, 3	Placed with two prisoners, one of which was later lost, the other saved	LK. 23:32
41:46	Both around thirty at the beginning of their ministry	LK. 3:23
41:41	Both highly exalted after their sufferings	PHIL. 2:9-11
41:45	Both took non-Jewish brides	EPH. 3:1-12
42:7, 8	Both lost to their brethren for awhile	ROM. 10:1-3; 11:7, 8
45:1-15	Both forgave and restored their repentant brothers	ZECH. 12:10-12
41:57	Both visited and honored by all earthly nations	ISA. 2:2, 3; 49:6

## II. Outline of Genesis with **key stories** noted in context

### Primeval History (1:1-11:9)

#### A. Creation

##### 1. Creation of the World (1:1-2:3)

Special creation (Ex. 20:11, 31:17, Ps. 33:6-9, 1 Cor. 11:8-9, 15:39, 1 Tim. 2:13), theistic evolution and evolution

Eve created out of Adam

Day One:	Creation of earth, light and probably angels
Day Two:	Separation of the upper and lower waters by space
Day Three:	Creation of plant life
Day Four:	Creation of the sun, moon and stars
Day Five:	Creation of fish and fowl
Day Six:	Creation of land animals and man
Day Seven:	Creation completed. God rests

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

#### B. The Fall

##### Fall of Man (3:1-24)

Temptation, fall, judgment

Five fold judgment on man, woman, nature, serpent and Satan

##### Conflicting family lines (4:1-5:32)

Cain and Abel, line of Cain, line of Seth

Adam & Eve eat forbidden fruit

Cain kills Abel

#### C. The Flood (6:1 – 9:29)

##### 1. The ungodly multiply

##### 2. Judgment

##### 3. The Flood

Began in November – lasted 371 days. Was worldwide (2 Pet. 3:3-7), Ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet high, 45 feet wide. A capacity of 520 box cars. Total deck space of 20 basketball courts!

##### 4. Results of the Flood

##### 5. Noah and his sons

Ark

#### D. Tower of Babel (10:1 – 11:9)

Tower of Babel

**Patriarchal History (11:10 – 50:26)**

## A. Abraham (11:10 – 25:18)

Family line

Covenant of God

Initiation, ratification, circumcision, testing and birth and offering of Isaac

Abraham (100) Sarah (99) promised a son

Isaac offered on the altar

## B. Isaac (25:19 – 26:33)

## C. Jacob (27:1 – 36:43)

Gains Esau's blessing

Life in Haran (Rachel and Leah)

His return and life in Canaan

Jacob working for Leah and Rachel

Jacob steals Esau's blessing

## D. Joseph (37:1 – 50:26)

The corruption of his family

Tested and exalted in Egypt

Salvation of his family

Dies in Egypt

Joseph's coat of many colors

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think an understanding of Genesis is important for the serious Bible student?
2. How does Adam's sin affect you? See Rom. 5:12-21
3. Which of patriarchs do you identify with the most? Why?
4. What story in Genesis has the greatest impact on your life? Why?