

## A Book Study: An Overview of Genesis [Gen. 1.1, 26-27; 2.4; 3.15; 5.1; 12.1-3]

### The Story [Context] of the Book

- Hebrew name = *Bĕrĕšît*, “in the beginning”. Greek name = *Geneseos*, ‘origin’ or ‘generation’. *Origin of universe. Origin of life [light]. Origin of man [marriage]. Of sin, language, government, culture, nations, religion, Israel.*
- *tôlēdôt* [x13] = what is ‘produced’ or ‘brought into being’. Often genealogy [5.1]. Introduces a *narrative* [record of events] = ‘the story of... the *heavens* and the *earth*’ [2.4]. Genesis = series of *stories* [not systematic theology].
- *Span*. Narrative about God and man spans *eternity*. What was God doing before Gen. 1.1? Loving. Planning.
- *Subject*. Divine *blessing* [x88, second only to Psalms] or **grace**. **Sin** causes a *cycle*: grace, guilt, government.
  1. *Grace* [creation]. *Guilt* [the Fall]. *Government* [cast out]. Yet, promise of Seed [3.15].
  2. *Grace* [blessed Noah, sons]. *Guilt* [Babel]. *Government* [scatter]. Yet, Seed [12.3]. Blessing restored in Christ.
- *Success*. Man [wife] ruling the earth [Joseph]. **And** Revelation. Paradise *lost* is regained. *New* heaven and earth. Access to tree of life. No more death. Babylon destroyed. Redeemer not promised, He **reigns!**

### The Structure [Construction] of the Book

- **Two**-division structure. Primary history [1-11], four great *moments*. Patriarchal history [12-50], four great *men*. First stage = *humanity* in general [over 2,000 years, half of OT history]. Second stage = *Israel* in particular [350].
- *tôlēdôt* structure. Sometimes introduce short genealogies [2, 7]. Or extended narratives [6, 10].
- Note principle. God takes up the *second* and sets aside the *first*. Ishmael [7 verses] *and* Isaac [11 chapters]. Esau [1 chapter] *and* Jacob [14 chapters]. Underpins entire plan of redemption. Set aside “first man” [Adam].
- **Turning** point [12.1]. Pivotal in purpose of God. Constant failure of three dispensations. Then “God of glory appears”. *Eclipsed* the idols of Ur [devoted to moon god]. God “gave up” the nations [go own way]. Sovereignly elects *one man* – world blessed. Matt. 1.1, “*book of generation of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham*”.

### The Subjects [Content] of the Book

- **Person** of God. Creation answers who God is – the only uncreated Being. *Plurality* in Godhead [Elohim, “let us make man”]. *Powerful* God [Gen. 1.1, Elohim]. *Personal* God [loves individuals, Jehovah Elohim (2.4)]. “*As Elohim, He tossed worlds into space; as Jehovah, He planned man’s redemption before fashioning Adam’s clay.*” *Perfect* God [Judge of all the earth, Gen. 18]. *Pure* God [saw wickedness of man]. God of *promise* [covenants].
- **Pictures** of Christ. We have NT key to unlock the types. *Church* [Eve, Rebekah, Asenath]. *Rapture* [Enoch]. *Tribulation* [flood]. Seed of the woman [3.16]. Slain Shepherd [4]. Melchizedek the Sovereign Priest [14]. Isaac, the promised Son [17]. Joseph, Saviour of the world [41]. Judah, Shiloh [49], gathering centre of nations.
- **Prologue** [1.1-2.3]. Foundation of divine truth [revelation]. **66** books rest on Genesis. **50** chapters of Genesis on 1.1-2.3. Refutes *atheism*. *Polytheism* [one God]. *Humanism* [God, not man is ultimate reality]. *Materialism* [matter had a beginning, finite]. *Environmentalism* [Creator is to be worshipped, not creation].
- Man made in “image” [represent] and “likeness” [resemble] of God [1.26]. *Capacity* [intelligence, reason]. *Communication* [language]. *Communion* [relationship]. Male and female [1.27]. Rested on seventh day [2.2].

### The “Seven” [Characters] of the Book

- Generations of Adam [5.1]. Adam “begat”. In his own [fallen] *likeness* and *image*. Springing from Adam is **natural** man = tends to vanity, violence and rebellion [Cain, Lamech, Nimrod]. Line of unbelief, and a line of faith.
- But *natural* man can be **regenerated** by divine *grace* [through *faith*]. *Seven* great men after Adam [Heb. 11].
  1. **Abel** [man of *sacrifice*, presents his best to God], “firstlings of his flock”.
  2. **Enoch** [man of *separation*], “walked with God”.
  3. **Noah** [man of *sanctification*], “preacher of righteousness”.
  4. **Abraham** [*sojourned*].
  5. **Isaac** [man of *submission*]. LORD appeared, “go not down to Egypt” [26]. And wells [*Scripture*].
  6. **Jacob** [life of *service* and *struggle*]. Dependent on self – Man wrestled with him [32]! Learns value of Bethel.
  7. **Joseph** [man of the *Spirit*]. And *suffering*, followed by glory.