

INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS

We will divide the Book of Genesis into the following five sections of studies.

- Gen. 1-11 Life of human race (Luke3)
- Gen. 12-23 Life of Abraham
- Gen. 24-26 Life of Isaac
- Gen. 27-36 Life of Jacob
- Gen. 37-50 Life of Joseph

Today's lesson will introduce the Book of Genesis by the following seven points.

1. The Hebrew title of the Book of Genesis is bereshith It was the title of the first book in Hebrew Bible

The 'be' on the front of be/reshith is the Hebrew preposition. There is no definite article (the). Therefore it should be translated "In a beginning." It is a reference to the first phase in a course of events.

Bereshith emphasizes that the origin or beginning of THE HEAVENS (eth-ha shamayim) AND THE EARTH (waw eth-ha erets) was a creative act of the Godhead.

The direct object (eth) placed before the heavens and the earth teach that the origin or creation of the heavens and the earth (universe) was the Godhead (Elohim).

2. Genesis contains the only record of some important ancient histories.

We will study five of them during the course of the study of Book of Genesis.

- Gen.1:1-2 Eternity past history of the universe.
- Gen.1:3-2:3 Primeval history
- Gen.2:4-11:32 Antediluvian history.
- Gen.12-38 Ancient Mesopotamia history.
- Gen.39-50 Ancient Egyptian history.

3. The English title Genesis is a transliteration of the Hebrew word Toledoth of Gen.2:4 in the Greek Septuagint Bible. It refers to history of generations and genealogies of the ancient world.

It is used to divide Genesis into the following ten sections of studies (Gen.2:4-50:26).

- Gen.2:4 Adam
- Gen.5:1 Seth
- Gen.6:9 Noah
- Gen.10:1 Nations
- Gen.11:10 Shem
- Gen.11:27 Abraham
- Gen.25:12 Ishmael
- Gen.25:19 Isaac
- Gen.36:1 Esau
- Gen.37:2 Jacob

Toledoth emphasizes the origin or beginning of the human race significant in the plan of God. It also contains the complete genealogy (family tree) of Jesus Christ (Luke 3:23-38).

4. Gen. 1-11 is the foundation for understanding the rest of the Bible.

Each of these chapters is alluded to in the both the Old and New Testaments.

For example, creation is mentioned in 12 books of the OT and 13 books of the NT (Rom.1:20, 25; 8:19-23; Col.1:15-17, 23/ ktisis).

These chapters teach many important doctrines such as:

- The order of creation, God, Universe, Animals, Man (G.U.A.M)
- The creation of the human race
- The imputation of Adam's Original Sin (AOS)
- The imputation of the Old Sin Nature (OSN) to the human race
- The prophetic gospel of Jesus Christ
- The antediluvian civilization
- The division of nations and languages
- The Gentile and Jewish dispensations.

5. Genesis is 1 of 5 books written by Moses called the Torah or Pentateuch (Mark 12:19, 24-27; Luke 16:29-31; 24:25-27, 44-46).

Deuteronomy was placed in the Ark of the Covenant by Moses (Deut.31:24-29; 28:15-68/ 5th). Later it was discovered and led to a great spiritual awakening in the nation (2 Kings 22:8; 23:1-3).

The Torah was the Bible of the Samaritans (John 4:19, 25, 41). The woman at the well applied a messianic prophecy to Jesus from it (Deut.18:15).

6. The Eternal Plan of God predated the creation of the Heavens and the Earth of Gen.1:1.

Whatever the age of the universe, the Plan of God that we live by is older.

(Eph.1:4-5) "Just as He **chose** us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be **holy** and blameless before Him. He **predestined** us to **adoption as sons** through **Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."

(1 Pet.1:20) "For He was **foreknown** before the foundation of the world, but has **appeared in these last times** for the sake of you."

(John 17:24) "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for **You loved Me** before the foundation of the world."

(Acts 2:23-24) "This Man, delivered over by the **predetermined Plan of God**, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting g an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."

We will list **nine doctrines** of the Eternal Plan of God mentioned as predating creation:

Election	Adoption
Positional truth	Foreknowledge
Sanctification	Eschatology
Predestination	Historical Christology
	The love of God.