

Chapter count: 50

Original language: Hebrew

Author: Moses

Date written: Between 1480s to 1440s B.C.

Scope: From Creation (approx. 4000 B.C.) to Joseph (about 1590 B.C.)

The word “Genesis” means *origin*, or *source*. The *generations* of the firsts are recorded in this book. Genesis tells the story of the Creation, the Fall, the first prophecy pertaining to the Messiah (Genesis 3:15), the Flood, the Dispersion from the Tower of Babel, and the lives of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob and his sons. Chapters 37 to 50 talk about Joseph. The book closes with Joseph’s prophecy that the Israelites would someday leave Egypt, and the story continues in the book of the Exodus—the *departure*.

HISTORY OF THE ORIGINS

CREATION TO THE DISPERSION

The Spirit of God hovers upon the waters, and the Creator speaks things into existence. He rests on the seventh day. Satan leads Adam and Eve to sin. The first prophecy regarding the Messiah is given. Outside the garden, the sons of men become very wicked. The Ark is built, and the Great Flood destroyed the earth. Noah and his family are saved. His descendants built the Tower of Babel. Their language is confounded, and God disperses them abroad over the face of the earth.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

God gives His promise to Abraham, a descendant of Shem. Abraham travels to the land that will be given to his descendants. Sarah gives Hagar to Abraham, and Ishmael is born. The Lord visits Abraham in person. Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed. Sarah gives birth to Isaac. Abraham is tested, and the plan of redemption is revealed in a clearer light at Moriah. Sarah dies. Isaac marries Rebekah. Abraham dies.

HISTORY OF THE PATRIARCHS

JACOB AND ESAU

Rebekah gives birth to twins: Jacob and Esau. Esau gives up birthright. Jacob secures the blessing from Isaac. Jacob flees, and meets Rachel. Laban deceives Jacob. After 20 years, Jacob travels back to his father. Esau about to meet him with an army. Jacob wrestles with the Angel of the Covenant. Jacob and Esau reconciled. Isaac dies. Esau settles in Edom, Jacob in Canaan.

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Joseph dreams of greatness. Joseph sold by his brothers. Tamar gives birth to Perez and Zerah. Joseph works in Egypt for Potiphar. Joseph falsely accused and thrown to prison. Joseph interprets the butler’s and the baker’s dreams. Pharaoh’s dreams interpreted by Joseph, and Pharaoh sets him over all the land of Egypt. Joseph’s brothers come to buy food. Joseph tests his brothers. Joseph is reunited with his family. Jacob dies at 147 years old. Joseph points his kinsmen to the time of deliverance.

CHAPTERS 1-11

CHAPTERS 12-27

CHAPTERS 28-36

CHAPTERS 27-50