

Introduction to the Book of Genesis

MEANING:

1. Genesis is a Greek word meaning “origin,” “source,” “generation,” or “beginning.”
2. The original Hebrew title “Bereshith” means “In the Beginning.” The first three words of Genesis.

AUTHOR:

1. The author is Moses.
2. The events of Genesis end some three centuries before Moses was born. By inspiration God reveals the information to Moses.

TIME WRITTEN:

1. 1450-1410 B.C.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

1. 1st book in the Old Testament.
2. 1st book in the Bible.
3. 1st book in the Pentateuch.
 - a. Pentateuch is from the Greek “penta” meaning “five,” and “teuch” meaning “roll” or “book.”
 - b. Thus “Pentateuch” means the first five rolls or books.”

LENGTH OF THE BOOK:

1. 50 chapters.
2. 1,533 verses.
3. 38,267 words.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. The events of Genesis end some three centuries before Moses’ birth.
2. Genesis spans more time than any other book in the Bible.
3. In fact, Genesis covers more time than all the other books of the Bible put together.
 - a. Recorded Bible history covers about 4,100 years.

- b. Genesis alone covers some 2,286 years. Over half of all the Bible history that is recorded.
4. Genesis divides into three geographical settings.
 - a. The Fertile Crescent - Chapters 1-11 spans more than 2,000 years and 1,500 miles.
 - b. Israel - Chapters 12-36 covers less than 193 years in the little country of Canaan.
 - c. Egypt - Chapters 37-50 covers about 93 years.
5. **Why** God chose Israel to be His redemptive people is explained in chapters 1-11.
6. **How** God chose Israel is explained in chapters 12-50
7. Genesis is the first of the books that give the history and religion of the Hebrews.
8. Genesis relates the beginning of almost everything, including:
 - The universe • Marriage • Redemption
 - Life • Sin • Prophecy
 - Mankind • Death • Language
 - Sabbath • Family • Sacrifice