

STUDIES IN GENESIS

CANDY SEALE

INTRODUCTION - GENESIS BEGINNINGS

The book of Genesis is the book of beginnings. Genesis is a Greek word that means “origins”. This book tells us about the beginnings of most everything - except God. He has no beginning and he has no end! Some of the beginnings described in this book are:

The beginning of the world

The beginning of man

The beginning of marriage and family

The beginning of the Sabbath

The beginning of sin and the promise of redemption

The beginning of labor

The first murder

The beginning of the different languages

The beginning of the nations

The beginning of the Hebrew nation

This book, Genesis, is the first of five books which are referred to as “the Law”. Who did Jesus say wrote “the law” in John 7:19? _____

There are many Scriptures throughout the Old Testament and New Testament that refer to Moses as being the author of the Law. These are a few:

❖ Judges 3:4

†††

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- ❖ 1 Kings 2:3
- ❖ 2 Kings 14:6
- ❖ Ezra 6:18
- ❖ Nehemiah 8:1
- ❖ Matthew 8:4
- ❖ Luke 24:27
- ❖ John 1:17
- ❖ Acts 6:14
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 9:9
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 3:15

The difficulty is that Genesis ends some 300 years before Moses is born. But then again, we also know that no one is there during the creation week (Genesis 1, 2) and yet that had to be faithfully recorded by someone.

Genesis 3:8 infers that Adam and Eve walked and talked with God in the garden. What kinds of things do you imagine they would have talked about?

Very possibly God's creation and the many things that happened that first week were discussed. Look at Genesis 5, Genesis 11:10-26 and Exodus 6:16-20. What do these scriptures record?

The generations from Adam to Moses are recorded. These scriptures reveal to us how long each of these persons lived. Due to the longevity of life in those days, many generations would be living at the same time;



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therefore many of Adam's descendants would have known Adam personally, who knew God personally!

But ultimately, from whom did Moses receive his information? 2 Peter 1:21

The bottom line is that however Moses received his information, humanly speaking; he was divinely inspired by God to know the information and record it accurately for all generations. Knowing that many other of the Bible's authors and Jesus himself refer to Moses as the author, we can rest assured that these first five books were "humanly" authored by Moses.

TWO DISTINCT SECTIONS CAN BE SEEN IN THIS BOOK.

1. **GENESIS 1-11.** This section records the history of the human race. It focuses on **four** main events: **creation, the fall, the flood and the tower of Babel.** The time frame covers a minimum of 2000 years. From Genesis 12 all the way through the rest of the Bible is only another 2000 years. So in a way, the first eleven chapters of Genesis are halfway through the Bible!

While reading through these 11 chapters, note how many times it says, "These are the generations..." Genesis gives us families. This is the beginning of us all. This is our roots. We came to this earth through families.

2. **GENESIS 12-50.** This section records the history of the Hebrew race. It focuses on **four** people, one family: **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.** These four men are often referred to as "the Patriarchs". The time frame of



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these chapters covers around 350 years. This period of the Patriarchs lays the foundation for all Biblical history.

God calls out a single man and makes a covenant with him. **Genesis 12:1-3. Read it.** Become thoroughly familiar with it. This covenant is a huge key to understanding the whole Old Testament. God promised Abraham that his descendants should be: (Genesis 12:1-3)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Through this man, Abraham, God purposes to show the whole world of Himself and to bless all people through him. This covenant is repeated to only two other people. Who are they?

To whom? (Genesis 26:1-5)

To whom? (Genesis 28:13-15)

These three men are the covenant fathers. That is why it says in Scripture, "I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."(Acts 7:32) No one else is ever added. God gave the covenant to these three men.

The second part of Genesis focuses on this family and this book ends with this family of 70 members as they all are moving to Egypt to live. But just as soon as we turn to the next page in the Bible, to the next book, many years will have passed and we will no longer just see a family. We will see



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a nation; a nation that God has built and has great plans for. He will have many things to teach them and through them many things to teach us. And ultimately, the greatest gift to the entire world is to come through this family.



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