

Genesis

1. Author – Moses, with minor editing via divine inspiration. See handout on Pentateuch for details.
2. Date – essential content by Moses' death around 1400 BC and finalized by 1000 BC.
3. Historical coverage:
 - a. Begins with creation
 - b. Ends around 1879 BC, with the descent into Egypt
 - c. Probably covers a longer period of history than the entire rest of the Bible combined!
4. Structure – different structures can be discerned, depending on the interest of the reader.
 - a. Family history structure – sections begin with “these are the generations” (2:4, 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 11:27, 25:12, 25:19, 36:1, 36:9, 37:2)
 - i. Prologue in 1:1-2:3
 - ii. Ten sections. Each section (with the exception of 2:4) begins with a name and generally ends with his death.
 - iii. This structure cuts across the hypothetical sources of the documentary hypothesis!
 - b. Stylistic structure:
 - i. Primeval history – creation to the tower of Babel (Gen. 1-11)
 - ii. Patriarchal narratives – Abraham's call to the family of Jacob (Gen. 12-36, 38)
 - iii. The Joseph story – how Abraham's family came to Egypt (Gen. 37,39-50)
 - c. Covenantal structure:
 - i. Covenant of works (or life, or creation) with Adam (1-2)
 - ii. Breaking of covenant of works and ongoing rebellion, and covenant of grace and promised seed revealed (3-5)
 - iii. Covenant with Noah
 - (1) flood (6-9)
 - (2) the nations (10-11)
 - iv. Covenant with Abraham and his descendants
 - (1) Abraham (12-24)
 - (2) Isaac (25-27)
 - (3) Jacob (28-36)
 - (4) Joseph (37-50)
5. Major themes and importance
 - a. Creation
 - i. Creator/creature relationship and distinction
 - ii. Nature of man
 - (1) man as male/female made in God's image
 - (2) call to rule/subdue, be fruitful and multiply
 - (3) creation ordinances – work, Sabbath, marriage
 - b. Fall
 - i. Guilt
 - ii. Broken relationship
 - iii. Corruption
 - c. Promised seed
 - i. Seed of the woman
 - ii. Godly line of Seth
 - iii. Preservation of the seed through the flood
 - iv. Abraham's seed
 - v. Preservation of the seed and people of God in Egypt through God's providence
 - d. Promised land
 - i. Land promised to patriarch
 - ii. A recovery of Eden
 - iii. A type of heaven