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Article 1: Genesis at a Glance

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GENESIS AT A GLANCE

This book records the creation of all things, the fall of man, the universal flood and the Tower of Babel. It also overviews the lives of four all-important Old Testament individuals, namely, Abraham, his son Isaac, one of Isaac's two sons, Jacob, and one of Jacob's 12 sons, Joseph.

BOTTOM LINE INTRODUCTION

AMAZING INDEED! THE WHEN, WHO, HOW, AND WHAT OF ALL THINGS EXPLAINED IN TEN SHORT WORDS!

- In the beginning (the when)
- God (the who)
- Created (the how)
- The heavens and the earth (the what)

FACTS REGARDING THE AUTHOR OF THIS BOOK

1. Who? **Moses.** He was the younger brother of Aaron and Miriam (Ex. 6:20; Num. 26:59) who led his people Israel out of Egyptian bondage (Ex. 5-14) and gave them the law of God at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 20).
2. What? The books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
3. When and where? 1405 B.C., from the eastern bank of the River Jordan in Moab.
4. Why?
 - a. **Genesis.** To record the origin of the world and the nation Israel.
 - b. **Exodus.** The supernatural deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage.
 - c. **Leviticus.** The purpose and functions of the tabernacle.
 - d. **Numbers.** The failure of Israel to enter Canaan.
 - e. **Deuteronomy.** The review of the Law for that generation about to enter Canaan.
5. To whom? Israel in particular, all believers in general.

KEY EVENTS

1. The creation of man
2. The institution of marriage
3. The fall of man
4. The births of Cain and Abel
5. The removal of Enoch
6. The universal flood
7. The Tower of Babel
8. The call of Abraham
9. The giving of the Abrahamic Covenant
10. The institution of circumcision
11. The offering up of Isaac

12. The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah
13. The births of Jacob and Esau
14. The marriage of Jacob to Leah and Rachel
15. The elevation of Joseph in Egypt
16. The move of Jacob and his family from Canaan to Egypt

KEY INDIVIDUALS

1. **Adam:** history's first human being
2. **Eve:** the first woman and wife of Adam
3. **Cain:** the evil son of Adam
4. **Abel:** the godly son of Adam who was murdered by his brother Cain
5. **Methuselah:** who lived longer than any other human being, reaching the age of 969
6. **Enoch:** a godly preacher who was taken to heaven without dying
7. **Noah:** whom God told to build an Ark of safety to protect his family from the universal flood
8. **Shem, Ham, and Japheth:** Noah's three sons and the three ancestors of all people today
9. **Canaan:** son of Ham who was punished for some undisclosed sin
10. **Abraham:** who would become the founder of the Jewish people
11. **Isaac:** the obedient son of Abraham
12. **Jacob:** the son of Isaac who would later father 12 sons who became the founders of Israel's 12 tribes
13. **Joseph:** the favorite and godly son of Jacob who was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers but who later became the prime minister of all Egypt
14. **Sarah:** wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac
15. **Lot:** Abraham's foolish and immature nephew
16. **Hagar:** an Egyptian handmaiden given to Abraham by her barren mistress Sarah that she might present him with a son
17. **Eliezer:** faithful servant of Abraham
18. **Ishmael:** the son Hagar bore for Abraham
19. **Rebekah:** the wife of Isaac
20. **Esau:** the elder twin brother of Jacob and son of Isaac and Rebekah
21. **Rachel:** the beloved wife of Jacob and mother of Joseph and Benjamin
22. **Leah:** the unloved wife of Jacob, older sister to Rachel and mother to six of Jacob's twelve sons
23. **Laban:** Rachel and Leah's father and troublesome father-in-law of Jacob
24. **Dinah:** immoral daughter of Jacob
25. **Potiphar's wife:** who falsely accused Joseph of rape
26. **Pharaoh:** who elevated Joseph over all Egypt

KEY PLACES

1. **Garden of Eden:** original home of Adam and Eve
2. **Land of Nod:** area where Cain lived following the punishment from God for murdering Abel
3. **Mt. Ararat:** where the Ark of Noah rested following the great flood
4. **Land of Shinar:** location of the Tower of Babel
5. **Ur of the Chaldees:** city where Abraham lived prior to his conversion
6. **Bethel:** place where Abraham built his first altar in Canaan
7. **Egypt:** country visited by Abraham during a famine in Canaan
8. **Sodom:** wicked city near the Dead Sea that was destroyed by God
9. **Salem:** place where Abraham met Melchizedek, probably an early name for Jerusalem
10. **Mt. Moriah:** place where Abraham offered up his son Isaac
11. **Cave of Machpelah:** burial place of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph
12. **Jabbok:** brook where Jacob wrestled with God
13. **Bethlehem:** where Rachel died while giving birth to Benjamin
14. **Land of Goshen:** area in Egypt occupied by Jacob and his descendants

UNIQUE FEATURES

1. Genesis spans a total time period of at least 2,200 years. In light of this, note God's priority here.
He employed 20 percent of the book (1-11) to describe the first 1,800 years. This covers Creation, the Fall, the flood, and Babel. He employed 80 percent of the book (12-50) to describe the final 400 years. Here we read of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. This means approximately 80 percent of the total time period is covered in only 11 chapters, while 20 percent of the time is described in 39 chapters. The priority point is simple—in the mind of God, Abraham is more important than the universe.
2. It is the only book which describes God as resting (2:2, 3).
3. It gives the first prophecy of the coming Messiah, of his suffering and eventual victory (3:15).
4. It provides his first two names (Seed of the woman and Shiloh) (3:15; 49:10).
5. It pin points the tribe from whence he would come (Judah) and is the first book to mention the city where he would be born (Bethlehem) . See 49:10; 35:19.
6. It gives us the first human to be created (Adam) and the first human to be born (Cain) (1:26; 4:1).
7. It records the first man to die (Abel) and the first man not to die (Enoch) (4:8; 5:24).
8. The glory of God in creation (1:1) and the grace of God in salvation (Noah) (6:8) are both clearly seen.
9. We see the world's earliest civilization (Cainite) and the world's oldest citizen (Methuselah) (4:17; 5:27).
10. The first three of four divine institutions as found in Genesis:
 - Marriage (2:21-25)
 - Human government (9:6)
 - The Nation Israel (12:1-3)

- The fourth is the church (Mt. 16:18, 19)
11. It provides the first illustration of human religion (the fig leaves), and the first example of divine redemption (the coats of skin) (3:7, 21).
 12. Here a city is destroyed on the plains (Sodom) and a boy is spared on a mountain (Isaac) (19, 22).
 13. Here a son (Jacob) deceives his father (Isaac) and is later himself deceived by his sons (brothers of Joseph) (27, 37).
 14. Here we read of the first barren mother (Sarah) and the first dying mother (Rachel) (16, 35).
 15. Jerusalem (a type of the heavenly) and Egypt (a type of the worldly) are first mentioned in this stage (13, 14).
 16. Here we first learn of a king called Melchizedek and a cave named Machpelah (14, 25).
 17. Here the first of three great biblical covenants is introduced (12:1-3). These covenants are:
 - The Abrahamic Covenant (12:1-3). This has to do with a land (Canaan) and a people (Israel).
 - The Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:4-16; 1 Chron. 17:3-5). This has to do with a king to rule in that land over that people.
 - The New Covenant (Jer. 31:31). This has to do with changed hearts so that the people in the land will allow the king to rule over them.
 18. In its pages sinners are drowned, and a saint (Noah) is drunken (7:21, 9:20-21).
 19. A ship settles on a mountain and a tower rises on a plain (8:4, 11:1-4). This tower is but the beginning of three satanic attempts to consolidate religion around a project. Two more will follow. One was built near Babylon (Dan. 2), and the final one will be placed in the Holy of Holies (Rev. 13).
 20. History's first rebellion (Babel) and revival (Bethel) occurred in this book (11:4; 35:2-4).
 21. Here Abraham climbs a mountain where God's Lamb would someday die (22:2). On this occasion Isaac asks his father a question that would be answered by John the Baptist some 20 centuries later. The question asked by Isaac: "*Where is the Lamb?*" (22:7). The answer given by John: "*Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29).

COMPARISON WITH OTHER BIBLE BOOKS

1. Revelation:

- Genesis records humanity's first rebellion against God (3:1-6); Revelation records the final rebellion (Rev. 20:7-10).
- Genesis records the entrance of sin (3:1-6); Revelation records its exit (Rev. 20:10; 21:4-8).
- Genesis records the imposition of the curse (3:9-19); Revelation records the lifting of the curse (Rev. 22:3).

- Genesis records the beginning of death (3:19); Revelation records the end of death (Rev. 21:4).
- Genesis records the creation of the present heavens and earth (1:1); Revelation records the creation of the new heavens and earth (Rev. 21:1).

2. Romans:

- In Genesis, Abraham is the patriarch of Israel; in Romans, he is the patriarch of all who believe (Rom. 4:16).

3. John, 1 John:

- All "*begin at the beginning,*" but their beginnings are different: Genesis begins with Creation; John and 1 John begin *before* Creation, with the preexistent Word.

4. Galatians:

- Both show that salvation is by faith (15:6; Gal. 3:6).
- Both show God's desire to redeem all humanity (12:2-3; Gal. 3:8).

TITLES FOR AND TYPES OF JESUS

1. The seed of the woman (3:15).
2. Adam and Eve's Lamb (3:21).
3. Abel's Lamb (4:4).
4. The Angel of the Lord (16:7).
5. Abraham and Isaac's Ram (22:13).
6. Shiloh (49:10).