

As we study the Bible what exactly is it that God wants us to see?

“Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another, showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.” 2 Tim 3:16-17 —The Message

The most common answers are either history or morality and that’s why most people never make it past Leviticus.

1. **Historical**– inform the reader about facts that happened in the past
What’s good about this? The Bible is true and accurate
What’s the problem?
2. **Moral**– inform the reader about how to behave
What’s good about this? Most of us need to behave better
What’s the problem? Every story does not prescriptively tell me how to . . .
 And becoming a nice person isn’t really what God cares about most
3. **Theological**– revealing WHO God is to draw the reader . . .
What’s good about this?
What’s the problem?

GENESIS

INTRODUCTION

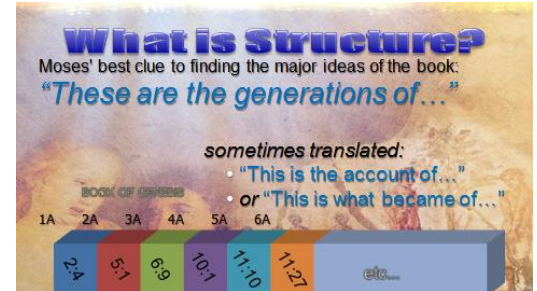
Author Moses was the author/compiler of the book. This is suggested in the Pentateuch itself and stated in later works. In the Pentateuch he is described, in passing, as being ordered to write and actually writing historical facts (Exodus 17:14; Numbers 33:2), laws (Exodus 24:4; 34:27f.), and one poem (Deuteronomy 31:22). Later books of the postexilic period (Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel) often draw upon the Pentateuch as an inspired source, referring to it as the “book of Moses.” Although some updating must have occurred (cf. 14:14, the anachronistic reference to Dan; and 36:31, the phrase “before any Israelite king reigned”) there is no reason to doubt Mosaic authorship.



Date 1 Kings 6:1 says that the fourth year of Solomon's reign (966 B.C.) was 480 years after the exodus, thus placing the exodus at 1446 B.C. Allowing 40 years for the wilderness wanderings, the book must have been written somewhere between 1446 and 1406 B.C., depending upon whether Moses intended the book for the generation coming out of Egypt or for the one entering the land of promise.

Audience. The nation was, presumably, about to enter the land and needed to understand her roots. Moses thus introduced the nation to her heritage and thus her obligation to the promises of God by narrating the beginnings of the world and of God's relationship to the patriarchs.

Structure. The book of Genesis is divided into 12 sections by the 11 occurrences of the phrase “this is the account of” (NIV, 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 36:9; and 37:2. The phrase might also be translated in several passages as “this is what became of.” The first six sections (1:1--11:26) can be grouped together as a whole covering the salient theological points of history from Adam to Abraham. In this broad scheme of things the first section presents the dilemma of man. Adam sins, and thereby forfeits his rule over the earth and spawns an unbelieving race. Their sin results in a downward spiral of moral degradation and judgment through the first 11 chapters. Although there is a promise of a seed who will crush the serpent (3:15), and a few glimmers of hope as God preserves the righteous, no substantial progression toward that promise appears until the story of Abraham. With Abraham's appearance, God makes specific promises and a definite progression toward the fulfillment of the original promise is seen in chapter 12. Thus, the first eleven chapters present the dilemma of man and the last thirty-nine present the promise of the solution.



Message. Although mankind continuously attempts to defy and complicate the plan of God it is clear that God's program will prevail. Throughout the book of Genesis it is God's word which not only created but which will also reclaim the creation from the effects of sin. Thus the message of this book seems to be: *God's word causes conflict with the evil one, as He separates a seed to Himself, through whom He will redeem and restore his material creation.*

SURVEY

Section 1 Primeval Prologue 1:11—11:26

1A God's Word Produces the Heavens and the Earth as the Good Gift of God to Man, 1:1– 2:3

Who?
What?
Why?
When?
How?



What is man's role and what does it mean to rule?



2A God's Word of Promise and Judgment Answers the Evil Challenge of the Creation, 2:4—4:26

1B *The Word of God Orders Creation*, 2:4-25

2B *The Word of the Evil One, Challenges the Word of God, Which Introduces Conflict, Met by a Word of Judgment **and** Promise, 3:1-24*

Notice the serpent's strategy!

1) Did God really say?

2) You won't really die!

So now there is a loss of at least two things:

1)

2)

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.
¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your *seed* and hers; *he* will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

