

## **Genesis Introduction; March 10, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study**

**Authorship:** Moses (Mark 7:10). For more than 2,000 years all believers have understood Moses to be the author.

Documentary Hypothesis: JEDP Theory -Jehova, Elohim, Dueteronomist, and Priestly material. This is TRASH.

**Occasion:** While the dating of the writing of Genesis correlates to the time of Moses, its content goes back to the beginning. In fact, the word 'genesis' means beginning. Introduction to the Pentateuch (five volumed), "the law," or "the books of Moses."

### **Issues:**

Documentary Hypothesis (see above)

Gap theory (1:2).

"formless and void" is seen as the primordial fall of Satan and corruption of the world (see also Isaiah 14:12-15 & Ezekiel 28:12-15).

Creationism vs Evolutionary theory or Theistic Evolution

Ex Nihilo: from nothing (Heb 11:3)

Old earth vs young earth

Use of the word "yom" Hebrew for day.

See WCF 4:1, LC 15, SC 9

Exodus 20:11; Deuteronomy 5

Are the genealogies exhaustive?

Theological implications

Political implications

Apologetics:

Uniformity of the universe doesn't make sense without a creator (Bahnsen).

Stephen Myers -Discovery Institute and "The Return of the God Hypothesis"

The text presents God as omniscient but the text itself is not. It does not tell us everything nor is it meant to. It is meant to tell us what we need to know.

### **Structure:**

Creation and before Abram (1-11:26)

Abram and after (11:27-50)

### **Themes**

Creation

Polemic against Egypt and the other nations: focus is on who more than how.

Covenant, Promise and People

Genealogies are key. More to come on this. See pg 40-41 in ESV Study Bible.

City of God (Augustine)

God is building a kingdom (temple city) that represents Him on earth.

Patriarchs

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

### **Literary:**

Generally, Genesis is prose narrative meaning that it's telling a story.

Genesis is not only the introduction to the Pentateuch, but it is the introduction and foundation for the entire Bible and all of history. It is ultimately a story about God and his creation and how they are to relate to one another.

**Key chapters:**

Ch 1-3 -Creation, cultural mandate, fall

Ch 7-9 -The flood

Ch 10 -Table of nations

Ch 11 -Tower of Babel

Ch 12 & 15 –Abrahamic covenant

Ch 18-19 -Sodom and Gomorrah

Ch 22 -Sacrifice of Isaac

Ch 27 -Isaac's blessing of Jacob

Ch 37 -Joseph's dreams

Ch 41 -Pharoah's dreams

50:20 "you meant it for evil but God meant it for good."

**Text:**

V1 see also John 1-5; Col 1:16-18; Rev 21:6, 22:13

Speculation about what God did prior to creation is nothing more than that, speculation. We don't know and aren't meant to know.

John 1:1-5 –"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it."

Col 1:16-18 –" For in Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, And in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church; Who is the

beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

Col 1:16-20 is probably a quote of an early Christian hymn about Christ.

Rev 21:6, 22:13 “Alpha and Omega”

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word and the worldview it provides. Help us to trust you as the creator of all things. For Christ and His covenant... for a thousand years by the work of the Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.