

A LOOK AT THE BOOK GENESIS: THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

Ralph Porter

Author: Moses

Date: Writing: 15th century B.C.
Events: Creation to death of Joseph in 1804 B.C.
—Covers at least 2000 years of history.

Purpose and theme:

NOT intended to provide a complete history of man from the creation to Joseph.

The selection of material indicates that Moses wished to describe the major events that led up to the formation of Israel as a nation.

The history of the nation in Exodus leaves many unanswered questions:

Where did these people come from?

Why are they in Egypt?

Genesis goes beyond the mere historical facts to explain Israel's birth and existence from God's point of view.

The purpose of God is brought into perspective as Israel's origins are described.

Genesis prepares the way to understand God's program for Israel throughout the Old Testament.

Organization: Three major patterns--

Author's use of "*these are the generations of . . .*" ("*this is the account of . . .*"), repeated 10 times:

2:4	5:1	6:9	10:1	11:10
11:27	25:12	25:19	36:1	37:2

The major change in God's dealings with mankind divides the book into 2 logical sections:

God's dealings with all mankind 1-11

God's dealings with Abraham's family 12-50

Subdivision of the previous sections based on four major events and four major people.

Think through each of these major sections of Genesis.

Write down one major lesson that God wants YOU to learn from each part of the story.

What action should you take as a result of this study?

GENESIS

The Book of Beginnings

Ralph Porter

GOD'S DEALINGS WITH ALL MANKIND 1-11	GOD'S DEALINGS WITH ABRAHAM'S FAMILY 12-50
Four Major Events	Four Major People
CREATION The beginning of the universe 1:1-2:3 The beginning of humanity 2:4-25	ABRAHAM: The chosen one 12-23
FALL The beginning of sin 3:1-6:8	ISAAC: The promised son 24-26
FLOOD The new beginning with Noah 6:9-11:26	JACOB: The blessed deceiver 27-36
CONFUSION 10-11	JOSEPH: The mistreated deliverer 37-50

“These are the generations of . . .”

Introduction: The beginning of the story	1:1-2:3
The story of the heavens and the earth	2:4-4:26
The story of Adam	5:1-6:8
The story of Noah	6:9-9:29
The story of Noah's sons	10:1-11:9
The story of Shem	11:10-26

The story of Terah	11:27-25:11
The story of Ishmael	25:12-18
The story of Isaac	25:19-35:29
The story of Esau	36:1-37:1
The story of Jacob	37:2-50:26