

GENESIS

LITERARY TYPE: Historical Narrative.

AUTHOR: The author is not mentioned, but tradition credits Moses as the author for the following reasons:

- Moses is credited as being the author for the whole Pentateuch or The Law (first 5 books). These 5 books have the same unity of theme and style, indicating a single writer. So, if there is evidence to suggest Moses wrote one book, then he wrote them all, including Genesis.
- Within the Pentateuch there are references to Moses writing and recording (see Ex 17:14, Ex 24:4, Ex 34:27, Num 33:2, Deut 31:19, Deut 31:24-26).
- Old Testament writers credited Moses as the author of the Law (see Josh 1:7-8; Josh 8:30-31)
- Jesus references Moses as writing the Law (Luke 24:44, John 5:46-47).
- New Testament writers viewed Moses as the author of the Law (John 1:45, Romans 10:5).
- Moses grew up in the Egyptian royal family and would have been educated in reading and writing. He is credited as being wise and skilled in words (see Acts 7:22) and there is evidence that he was a writer (see Ex 17:14).
- Moses would have had access to the court records of Egypt to know the history of the Hebrew's time living in Egypt prior to his birth. He was present with the Israelites for the time that spans from Exodus to Deuteronomy, making him the ideal person to record the history of this time period.

DATE: 1486 BC

This book covers approx. 4000 years of history. The remainder of the Bible covers 1600 years.

RECIPIENTS: The Israelites

OCCASION:

- To reveal the origin and purpose of the universe, life and humanity
- To show the personal, relational, covenant-making nature of God
- To record the early history to the Hebrew people
- To begin revealing Jesus the Messiah

CONTENT SURVEY:

Part One

GOD AND EARLY HUMANITY (1-11)

- Creation (1:1-2:3)
- Garden of Eden (2:4-25)
- The Fall (3)
- Cain and Abel (4)
- Adam to Noah (5)
- The Flood (6-9)
- Noah's descendants (10)
- Tower of Babel (11:1-9)
- From Shem to Abraham (11:10-32)

Part Two

GOD AND THE PATRIARCHS (12-50)

ABRAHAM (12:1-25:10)

- Call of Abram (12:1-9)
- Abram visits Egypt (12:10-20)
- Abram and Lot separate (13)
- Abram rescues Lot (14:1-16)
- Melchizedek (14:17-24)
- God's covenant with Abram (15)
- Hagar and Ishmael (16)
- Abram becomes Abraham (17:1-8)
- Covenant of Circumcision (17:9-14)
- God promises Abraham a son (17:15-18:15)
- Sodom and Gomorrah (18:16-19:29)
- Lot and his daughters (19:30-38)
- Abraham deceives Abimelech (20)
- Birth of Isaac (21:1-7)
- Hagar and Ishmael sent away (21:8-21)
- Abraham's treaty with Abimelech (21:22-34)
- Abraham told to offer Isaac (22)
- Sarah dies, buried at Machpelah (23)
- Isaac and Rebekah (24)
- Death of Abraham (25:1-10)

ISAAC (25:11-27:46)

- Death and genealogy of Ishmael (25:12-18)
- Jacob and Esau (25:19-34)
- God's promise to Isaac (26:1-5)
- Isaac and the Philistines (26:6-35)
- Jacob gets Esau's blessing (27)

JACOB (28-36)

- The stairway to heaven (28)
- Leah and Rachel (29:1-30)
- Jacob and his children (29:31-30:24)
- Jacob and Laban (30:25-31:55)
- Jacob wrestles with God (32)
- Jacob and Esau reunited (33)
- Dinah and the Shechemites (34)
- Jacob returns to Bethel (35)
- Genealogy of Esau (36)

JOSEPH (37-50)

- Joseph's dreams (37:1-11)
- Joseph sold into slavery (37:12-36)
- Judah and Tamar (38)
- Joseph and Potiphar's wife (39:1-19)
- Joseph in prison (39:20-40:23)
- Pharaoh's dream (41:1-36)
- Joseph, prime minister of Egypt (41:37-57)
- Joseph helps, forgives brothers (42-45)
- Jacob and family settle in Egypt (46-47)
- Jacob's last days (48-49)
- Joseph's last days (50)

KEY VERSE:

Genesis 1:1 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.'

Sources: Willmington's Bible Handbook, blueletterbible.org and SOTW lectures