

The Structure of the Book of Genesis

PART ONE (Genesis 1.1-11.26): Primeval History									
The Land	The Blessing	The Exile	Life in Exile	The Story of Noah (5.1-9.29)			The Table of Nations	The Rise and Fall of Babel	The Genealogy of Shem
Gen 1.1-2.4a	Gen 2.4b-24	Gen 2.25-3.24	Gen 4.1-26	Adam's Sons	The Flood	The Sons of Noah			
<i>toledot</i> (2.4a)				<i>toledot</i> (5.1) Gen 5.1-6.8	<i>toledot</i> (6.9) Gen 6.9-9.17	Gen 9.18-29	<i>toledot</i> (10.1) list		<i>toledot</i> (11.10) list
NARR (1.1-26) PTRY (1.27-28) EPLG (1.29-2.4a)	NARR (2.4b-22) PTRY (2.23) EPLG (2.24)	NARR (2.25-3.13) PTRY (3.14-19) EPLG (3.20-24)	NARR (4.1-22) PTRY (4.23-24) EPLG (4.25-26)	LIST (5.1-28) PTRY (5.29) EPLG (5.30-6.8)	NARR (6.9-8.21) PTRY (8.22) EPLG (9.1-17)	NARR (9.18-24) PTRY (9.25-27) EPLG (9.28-29)	Gen 10.1-32	Gen 11.1-9	Gen 11.10-26

THE BEGINNING בראשית (1.1)

Genesis looks beyond the exile in Egypt to the distant future

THE LAST DAYS באחרית הימים (49.1)

PART TWO (Genesis 11.27-50.26): Patriarchal History					
(Narrative – 11.27-48.22; Poetry – 49.1-28; Epilogue – 49.29-50.26)					
Toledot of Terah (narrative of Abraham)	Toledot of Ishmael (genealogical list)	Toledot of Isaac (narrative of Jacob)	Toledots of Esau (genealogical list)	Toledot of Jacob (narrative of Jacob's sons)	Joseph Narrative
Gen 11.27-25.11	Genesis 25.12-18	Genesis 25.19-35.29	Genesis 36.1-43	Genesis 37.1-50.14	Genesis 50.15-26
Call of Abram (12.1-9) Abe in Egypt (12.10-13.4) Lot Narratives (13.5-19.38) Abimelech (20.1-18) Abe and Isaac (21.1-25.11)	- Ishmael's lineage is found within the Isaac story (v11) - note that Ishmael never appears in Gen, but his descendants have an role to play (28.9, 36.3, 37.27-29, 39.1) - no mention of blessing given in 17.20	Jacob and Esau (25.19-34) Abimelech (26.1-35) Stolen Blessing (ch 27) Jacob's Flights (chs 28-31) Angels/Esau (chs 32-33.17) Shechem (33.18-34.31) Bethel (35.1-15) Rachel's Death (35.16-20) Sons of Jacob (35.21-26) Death of Isaac (35.27-29)	<u>Toledot 1 (36.1-8)</u> - Journey to Seir; away from land of promise - revisits Abraham and Lot (ch 14) <u>Toledot 2 (36.9-43)</u> - In Seir	Joseph (37,39-48) Judah (38) ---- Narrative (37.1-48.14) Poetry (48.15-16,20) Epilogue (48.21-22) ---- Blessing (49.1-28) <i>Casts Joseph narrative prophetically to Judah</i>	Forgiveness (15-21) Joseph's Summary (22-26)

Developed by Andy Witt (September 2008). Freely distribute as a PDF file. Do not modify.

Notes:

- *Toledot* formulas provide the outline for the book
- The narrative, poetry, and epilogue pattern (observed by Sailhamer, *Pentateuch as Narrative*) seems to be used to not only give structure in Gen. 1-11, as well as to the Pentateuch at large, but to aid in interpreting history prophetically (c.f. the Joseph story becomes a type for the future messianic ruler from Judah, Gen 49)