

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Week One – Introduction and Background Issues**

**CLASS DESCRIPTION/SCHEDULE**

**METHODOLOGY**

*A Compositional Approach*

*A Fourfold Framework for Reading the Bible*

1)

2)

3)

4)

**THE “BOOK” OF WHAT?**

**BACKGROUND ISSUES**

*The Name of the Book*

Genesis

Bereshith

*Authorship*

Who was Moses?

Did he use sources?

*Date*

*Provenance*

*Historicity*

## **THE PURPOSE OF GENESIS 1**

*“He Created In Order to Make” (2.3)*

*To “Create” (ברא, bara)*

*To “Make” (אשא, asah)*

## **GENESIS 1.1-2 ---- A BETTER ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

*In a Beginning Period of Time...*

*...God Created the Universe*

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Week Two – He Created for the Purpose of Making (Historical Creationism)**

**GENESIS 1:2**

*Now, the land was...*

*...an uninhabitable and unproductive wasteland*

<b>The Beginning</b>	<b>The Preparation Week</b>						
Undefined Period of Time	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
	Literal 24-hr days						

**ONE DAY (1.3-5)**

**A SECOND DAY (1.6-8)**

**A THIRD DAY (1.9-13)**

**A FOURTH DAY (1.14-19)**

*“Let the lights which are in the expanse of the Sky be for...”*

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Week Three – Genesis 1 and the Book of Moses**

**FOUR OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE BOOK OF MOSES:**

- 1) The Land
- 2) Three Main Kinds of Texts: Narrative, Law Code, and Poetry
- 3) The Promises are Fundamental, not the Law
- 4) The Book of Moses ≠ the Law

**GENESIS AND THE BOOK OF MOSES**

- 1) Who is YHWH?
- 2) What is the Land?
- 3) What is righteousness? And how do I become righteous?
- 4) What does it mean to believe God?

## **QUESTIONS THAT ARISE FROM THIS SITUATION**

### Genesis 1

- 1) What is the nature of the Land which has been promised to the patriarchs?
- 2) What does it mean to be a human being?

### Genesis 2

- 3) What kind of people must we be?
- 4) What will be our purpose when we get to the Land?

### **QUESTION 1: What is the nature of the Land?**

### **QUESTION 2: What does it mean to be a human being?**

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Week Four – Man's Created Purpose, Serving and Keeping**

**THE FORMING OF MAN (2.4-7)**

**THE GARDEN OF EDEN (2.8-14)**

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MAN'S CREATION (2.15)?

*"The Lord took the man and **he caused him to rest** in the Garden of Delight"*

*"...for the purpose of serving and keeping"*

## HOW IS MAN TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSE (2.16-24)?

- 1) By keeping the commands of the Lord (2.16)
- 2) By living in community with other human beings (2.17-24)
  - a. With any human being (2.17-20)
    - i. This allows praise to exist
  - b. With a marriage between husband (man) and wife (woman) (2.21-24)
    - i. This is the epitome of God's image in man
    - ii. The spiritual, emotional, and physical results of this relationship mirror most the personal and relational being of God
      1. Man and Woman are Two-in-One, God is Three-in-One
      2. The word for "one" implies unity in diversity (cf. Deut 6.4)

## The Book of Genesis Week Five – Wisdom and the Fall

### SETTING THE STAGE FOR GENESIS 3

- 1) Adam and Eve bear \_\_\_\_\_ and were designed to \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ his commands, while continuing in God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Mankind is at peace with \_\_\_\_\_, with \_\_\_\_\_, and with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The Garden was a \_\_\_\_\_ place, designed for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) The Garden of Eden is not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

### KEY WORDPLAY IN GENESIS 3:

2:25 “naked” from Hb עָרוֹם (\_\_\_\_\_) is a \_\_\_\_\_ word. Here, it is \_\_\_\_\_.

Also used in:

3:1 “crafty” from Hb עָרוּם (\_\_\_\_\_) is a \_\_\_\_\_ word. Here, it is \_\_\_\_\_.

Also used in:

3:7 “naked” from Hb עִירָם (\_\_\_\_\_) is a \_\_\_\_\_ word.

Also used in:

**How does this help?**

### INTRODUCING OUR MAIN CHARACTERS (2.25-3.1a)

### **THE DECEPTION (3.1b-5): What does it mean to “die”?**

- |             |                        |                          |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>2.17</u> | “you shall surely die” | Used in:                 |
|             |                        | Refers to:               |
| <u>3.3</u>  | “die”                  | Eve’s thought:           |
| <u>3.4</u>  | “you shall surely die” | The serpent’s deception: |

### **EATING THE FRUIT (3.6-8)**

- 1) According to Genesis 2:9, trees were not designed to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Instead of “being like God knowing good and evil,” they knew that they were \_\_\_\_\_, which means they knew they were \_\_\_\_\_.

### **What is God doing in the Garden?**

### **THE WISDOM OF FOLLY: UNDOING THE GOOD (3.9-13)**

- 1) Serving God and observing his commandments turns into \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) The food source design for good becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ to keep one from \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Adam no longer thinks Eve was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Man’s desire for wisdom apart from God will lead to mankind being \_\_\_\_\_.

### **THE CONSEQUENCE OF FOLLY: ALIENATION AND EXILE (3.14-24)**

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Week Six – “And these are the generations of...”**

**BUILDING OUR STORYLINE (Gen 1-3)**

**LIFE IN EXILE (Gen 4.1-26)**

*What does Eve think about it?*

*The Nature and Problem of Sin*

*The Two Ways*

**COMPARING GENEALOGIES (Gen 5.1-6.8)**

*What important “comments” are in Genesis 5?*

*Key Similarity: Death*

*Key Contrast: The Image of God*

*Key Contrast: Walking with God*

*Key Contrast: Rest from the Curse*

## **NOAH AND THE FLOOD (6.9-9.17)**

*Introducing Noah*

*What does Noah teach us about righteousness?*

*A Merciful Covenant*

## **NOAH'S SONS AND THE POETIC FUTURE (9.18-29)**

*Noah's Vineyard*

*Noah the Singing Prophet*

“Cursed be Caanan...” (9.25)

“Blessed be Yhwh...” (9.26)

“May God enlarge Japheth...” (9.27)

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Week Seven - The Gospel of Abraham**

**REVIEWING NOAH'S PROPHETIC WORDS (9.25-27)**

**RELATING NOAH TO THE TABLE OF THE NATIONS (10.1-32)**

**THE RISE AND FALL OF BABYLON (11.1-9)**

*What is this story really about?*

## ANOTHER GENEALOGY OF SHEM (11.10-26)

### THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

An Alternative Translation of Genesis 12.1-3:

**“GO** from your country and your family and your father’s house to the land that I will show you  
**so that** I will make of you a great nation,  
**and** bless you,  
**and** cause your *shem* [“name”] to be great.  
**ALSO, BE A BLESSING**  
**so that** I may bless those who bless you,  
**and** those who esteem you lightly, curse.  
**AS A RESULT** all the families of the earth will be blessed in you.”

*What is the call?*

*Who are the promises for?*

*What makes this so significant?*

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Week Eight – The Abrahamic Covenant and the Future**

**THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**

*Key Elements from Genesis 12*

*Development of these in Abraham's Life*

**OPPOSITIONS TO THE PROMISES**

**REVEALING THE SOJOURN (Gen 15.13-21)**

## **LIVING THE FUTURE IN THE PAST**

Sojourn #1 – Abraham in Egypt (Gen 12-13)

Sojourn #2 – Abraham and Abimelech (Gen 20)

Sojourn #3 – Isaac and Abimelech (Gen 26)

## **THE GREAT CONTRAST (Israel's Sojourn in Egypt)**

## **THE PROMISES IN THE LIVES OF ISAAC AND JACOB**

*Isaac*

*Jacob*

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Week Nine – Joseph, Judah, and the Last Days**

**SOME BACKGROUND FROM JACOB’S TALE**

<b>Leah</b> 6 sons – 1 daughter	<b>Rachel</b> 2 sons	<b>Bilhah (Rachel)</b> 2 sons	<b>Zilpah (Leah)</b> 2 sons
[1] Reuben (29.32)			
[2] Simeon (29.33)			
[3] Levi (29.34)			
[4] Judah (29.35)		[5] Dan (30.5-6)	
		[6] Naphtali (30.7-8)	
			[7] Gad (30.10-11)
[9] Issachar (30.17-18)			[8] Asher (30.12-13)
[10] Zebulun (30.19-20)			
Dinah (30.21)	[11] Joseph (30.22-24)		
	[12] Benjamin (35.17-20)		

***Major Points in Jacob’s Story***

***Jacob’s Blessing (Gen 27)***

**WALKING THROUGH THE JOSEPH STORY**

***“The Lord of the Dreams”***

***The House of the Captain of the Guard***

*Pharoah's House*

*The Lord of Egypt*

*A Family Reunion*

**WHAT'S JUDAH GOT TO DO WITH IT?**

*Why Genesis 38?*

*Tracing the Promised Seed*

*Jacob's Blessings*

**LOOKING INTO THE POETIC FUTURE**

**The Book of Genesis**  
**Week Ten – The Meaning of the Book of Genesis**

**LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE**

	<b>KEY EVENT(S)</b>	<b>KEY THEMES</b>
<b>Gen 1-11</b>		
<b>Gen 12-36</b>		
<b>Gen 37-50</b>		

**KEY FEATURES OF READING THE BOOK OF GENESIS**

*A Beginning Implies an End*

*Narrative-Poetry-Epilogue*

*Sojourning and the Future*

## **GETTING FROM THE “SEED” TO JESUS?**

*Genesis 3.15*

*Key Genealogies (Gen 5; Gen 10-11; Ruth 4; Matt 1)*

*Key Poetry (Gen 9; Gen 49; Nu 24; 1 Sam 2; Ps 1, 72, 110, Isa 53)*

## **KEY POINTS OF APPLICATION FROM GENESIS AS A WHOLE**

*Think Within the God-Authored Patterns of Creation (Allow the Past to Give Meaning to the Future)*

*Sing with the Prophets (Celebrate the Events of the Last Days)*

*Long For the Fulfillment of the Promises (Those Things Still to Come)*

## **BEYOND THE BOOK OF GENESIS**

*Exodus 1-12*

*Exodus 13-18*

*The Sinai Narrative*