

# GENESIS—THE “BOOK OF BEGINNINGS”

## **I. INTRODUCTION.**

- First 5 books of Old Testament=Torah or Pentateuch.
  - Constitute first division of the Hebrew canon of Scripture (Law of Moses).
  - These provide the foundation for “everything in the Bible”.
- Name of first book is “Genesis”--meaning “origin” or “beginning”.
- Genesis is called the “book of beginnings” for it records for us:
  - origin of the universe. (Gen. 1:1-25)
  - origin of man and woman. (Gen. 1:26-2)
  - origin of sin and death. (Gen. 3:1-7)
  - origin of redemptive promise. (Gen. 3:8-24)
  - origin of sacrifice. (Gen. 4:1-15)
  - origin of civilization. (Gen. 4:16-9:29)
  - origin of diverse languages and nations. (Gen. 10-11)
  - origin of the Hebrew nation (children of Israel) through whom would come the Messiah. (Gen. 12-50)
  - Genesis—covers historical period from creation to descent of children of Israel to Egypt.

## **II. MAJOR THEMES/ISSUES OF BOOK OF GENESIS.**

- **THE CREATION ACCOUNT. (CHAPTERS 1 AND 2)**
  - Some label Genesis Chapter 1-11 as a “Hebrew myth”.
    - Elsewhere in scripture—treated as historical. (Ex. 20:11; Rom. 5:12-14; I Pet. 3:20)
    - If not historical—negates credibility of Jesus' claims to be God's Son. (Matthew 19:4-6 in which Jesus quotes Gen. 1:27 & 2:24)
  - Waste of energy to harmonize Genesis and theory of evolution.
    - A “finished creation”. (Hebrews 4:3 and Exodus 20:11)
    - Fixed kinds in nature. (Genesis 1:25)
    - Genesis—a deliberately created universe.
- **THE FALL OF MAN. (CHAPTER 3)**
- **THE FLOOD OF NOAH'S TIME. (CHAPTERS 6-8)**
  - Flood “accounts” found in every part of the world.
    - Examples.
    - All have common origin.
  - Genesis preserves historical account of the flood (Genesis, Chapters 6-8)
- **THE PROMISE MADE TO ABRAHAM. (CHAPTER 12:1-9)**
  - The promise had three elements:
    - A great nation.
    - Land of Canaan.
    - Blessings through his “seed”.
  - All elements have been fulfilled:
    - The “nation” promise. (Genesis 32:27-28 and compare Exodus, chapters 19 & 20)
    - The “land” promise. (Joshua 21:43-45)
    - The “seed” promise. (Galatians 3:8, 16)