

Genesis

Original Historical Setting

Author: _____

Date: _____

Audience: _____

Occasion: _____

Timeline:

pre 4000 B.C. – Creation

~ 3000 B.C. – Noah

~2000 B.C. – Abraham

~1800 B.C. – Death of Joseph

World Events that occur simultaneously

4000 B.C. – Stone tools developed in SE Asia

3500 B.C. – Wheel invented in Mesopotamia

3200 B.C. – Bronze Age begins

3000-1600 B.C. – Stonehenge in England believed to be built

2500-2200 B.C. – Most Egyptian pyramids completed

1800 B.C. – Astronomy starts in Babylon

Genre/Literary style

Features and Structure

- Genesis introduces themes that the rest of Scripture develops. Genesis is necessary in order to fully understand the context of the rest of the Bible and its teachings.
- Chapters 1-11 center around 4 great events: creation, the fall of man, the flood and the Tower of Babel
- Chapters 12-50 tell the story of 4 men and their families: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph

- Many scholars divide Genesis into sections based on the author's repeated use of the phrase "This is the genealogy of..."
2:4; 6:9 (cf 10:1); 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1 (cf 36:9); 37:2

Key text(s)

1:1 - _____

4:9 – _____

6:8 – _____

12:1-3 – _____

15:4-5 – _____

17:1-14 – _____

50:20 – _____

What to look for

- The creation account focuses on the WHO of creation more than the scientific HOW. So as you read, you too should focus on the WHO.
- Notice how the original sin of Adam and Eve grows and corrupts God's "good" creation along with the painful consequences not the least of which is a broken relationship with Him. Take note of God beginning to reclaim His creation to make it "good" once again.
- God's example of showing love especially to those that society tends to look down upon

Interesting facts

- James Dean made his 1955 screen debut in *East of Eden*, a John Steinbeck tale of two quarrelsome brothers with similarities to Cain and Abel. East of Eden is where Cain fled after murdering his brother (Gen 4:16).
- According to Genesis 1:20-22 the chicken came before the egg.
- Gen 2:18 says that God made Eve as a "helper" for Adam leading many to argue that women are inferior to men. But the Hebrew word is the same word used in Psalm 33:20 to describe God's role in helping humans.