

Introduction To Genesis

Genesis 1:1

Introduction

I The Importance Of Genesis

- A. The meaning of Genesis
Genesis = “Origin or beginnings”
- B. The book of Genesis records:
 - 1. The origin of the universe
 - 2. The origin of life
 - 3. The origin of sin and redemption
 - 4. The origin of human institutions
 - 5. The origin of God’s redemptive plan

II The Background Of Genesis

- A. Who wrote Genesis?
 - 1. The biblical evidence: Moses
 - a. The support of Mosaic authorship
 - b. The method of Mosaic authorship
 - 1. Documentation of oral tradition
 - 2. Compilation of written history
 - 3. Divine revelation - 2 Pet 1:21; 2 Tim 3:16
 - 2. The documentary hypothesis: J, E, D, P
- B. When was Genesis written?
- C. What is the key verse in Genesis? - Gen 3:15

III The Structure Of Genesis

- A. The major themes of Genesis - Gen 3:15; 15:6
- B. The major divisions of Genesis
 - 1. The account of ...: Gen 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1, 9; 37:2
- C. The major outline of Genesis
 - 1. Chapters 1-11
 - a. Creation - Gen 1-2
 - b. Fall - Gen 3-5
 - c. Flood - Gen 6-9
 - d. Nations - Gen 10-11

- 2. Chapters 12-50
 - a. Abraham - Gen 12:1-25:18
 - b. Isaac - Gen 25:19-26:35
 - c. Jacob - Gen 27-36
 - d. Joseph - Gen 37-50

IV The Interpretation Of Genesis

- A. Mythical interpretation
- B. Allegorical interpretation
- C. Literal interpretation

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Genesis is God’s introduction of Himself to mankind. When and how did you come to know Him personally?
2. Do you know the answers to life’s important questions? Write down your answers to the following questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Is there a God? And if there is a God, how can I know him? What is His purpose for my life? Does your daily life support or contradict your answers? Why or why not? If it doesn’t, what changes do you need to make?
3. Who is your favorite character in Genesis? What is your favorite story? Why?
4. You might want to consider reading through the entire of book of Genesis several times to get a bird’s eye view of the people, place and events of the book. If you read 5 chapters a day you can complete the entire book in only 10 days.
5. Take a moment to thank God for His self-revelation and ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and insight into the meaning, interpretation and application of the teachings of Genesis.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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