

scientific language when we report what time the sun rose this morning, but the sun is stationary. It doesn't rise at all.



It is absolutely amazing that the creation of all material things and the formation of the universe and this planet could be described so simply as Genesis, chapter 1.

God has outlined the beginning of the universe and mankind and put it in a book (through inspiring his prophets). He leaves it to man to learn the details and develop a vocabulary suitable for each field of investigation.

Why is Genesis important to believers now? It is necessary to accept the book as from God in order to come to faith in Jesus. One cannot have true faith in Jesus and reject Genesis, a book foundational to His life. Furthermore, to deny the Mosaic authorship is to deny one's personal salvation. Jesus said, "But if you believe not his [Moses'] writings, how shall you believe My words?" John 5:47.

How can we use Genesis? The Bible, and Genesis in particular, is a believer's evidence about who God is. To set this aside in talking with unbelievers is setting aside our very strongest tool to bring men and women to a faith in God. Don't surrender it because of policies against its use. This is censorship.



Where can I learn more about Genesis?

- Go to <http://Books.Google.com> and enter *The Pentateuch by Smith*. The first 30 pages will show.
- <http://www.trueorigin.org/tablet.asp> discusses the tablets that make up the first $\frac{2}{3}$ Genesis. This is the least complex choice.
- *New Discoveries in Babylonia About Genesis*.

<http://goo.gl/AsQit9>

This lesson available for printing at: <http://goo.gl/rlpzUY>

AN INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS

By Charles Dailey © 2014 Revision of 10/14

For best value, these references need to be looked up and read. They are dimmed to make reading easier. The New International Version (NIV) is used.

What does "Genesis" mean?" As the name of the Bible book, it came to us from the Latin Vulgate version of the Bible that had in turn borrowed it from a Greek word meaning *origin, birth or beginning*. Our word *gene* is related. The Hebrew Tanakh (Scriptures) called it *In the Beginning*.

Genesis tells of the beginning of the *universe* 1:1 It reveals the order of *creation* on the earth (chapter 1) and that man has been given *sovereignty* over the earth. 1:26.



Genesis tells of the beginning of *sin* (4:6-7) and God's solution for this terrible menace.

Genesis reveals the *grace* of God. **Adam** and **Eve** were given proper clothing and a promise before they were expelled from the Garden. 3:23. **Noah** found favor in the eyes of the Lord and was saved from the Flood (6:18); **Lot** and his family were rescued from Sodom. 2 Peter 2:7.

Genesis reveals the beginning of *sacrifice*, the only way that fallen mankind can approach our Mighty Creator and Righteous Judge.

Genesis reveals a long range plan to *redeem* those who want to be saved from their guilt of sin and blessed. 12:3.

Genesis reveals the power of *faith* in God and that faith is counted as righteousness. 15:6.

God reveals his plan to *raise up a nation* that can give birth to a Redeemer. That nation was Israel.

Who wrote Genesis? Nowhere in Scripture are we told who wrote Genesis. Liberal scholars call it folklore. Others believe that God dictated it to Moses. We prefer a different answer.

The book has 10 or 11 parts and these hold the key to its authorship. A *colophon* is a beginning or ending. In this case, they are

usually the endings of documents that read: “This is the account of . . .”

Consider this chart:

Tablet	Writer	Extent	Colophon	Content
1	See footnote #1	1:1 - 2:3	2:4	Creation
2	Adam	2:5 - 4:26	5:1a	Fall/Cainites
3	Noah	5:1b - 6:8	6:9a	Sethites/Sin
4	Noah’s Sons	6:9b - 9:29	10:1	Flood
5	Shem	10:2 - 11:11	11:10a	Dispersion
6	Terah	11:10b - 26	11:27	Shem’s line
7	Ishmael	11:28-25:11	25:12	Abraham
8	Isaac	25:13 - 19a	25:19a	Ishmael
9	Jacob	25:20-37:1	37:2	Jacob’s family
10 ⁽²⁾	Esau	36:2 - 8	36:1 + 9	Esau

¹ Tablet 1 may have been written by God himself.

² #10 appears to be embedded in #9 with a colophon at its beginning and ending.

37:3 - 50:26 do not contain a colophon and has an Egyptian flavor.

Genesis gives us an historical narrative from eyewitnesses of the events they report. For instance, notice the writer in 31:47 reported the name of the stone heap was in two languages, indicating that he was an eyewitness. Laban used Aramaic and called the heap *Jegar Sahadutha* but Jacob used Hebrew and called the heap *Galeed*.

Genesis is a book assembled from earlier tablets with an occasional editorial comment such as the five in chapter 14 (See sample in verse 2: “That is, Zoar”). Moses, as editor, guarantees the documents have God’s approval. Deuteronomy 34:10. The comments in Genesis 35:19 and 36:31 are too late for Moses to have made and may be the work of Ezra. Ezra 7:6.

What was it written on? Clay tablets. They were hardy and many from the earliest times have lasted until now. Compare this to the life of a computer hard drive.



Who else believes it? Believers in the literal writing of the early part of Genesis are in distinguished company.

Jesus took it very literally and word-for-word. Matthew 19:4-5. He also took the story of the killing of Abel very literally. Luke 11:50-51.

Moses took the seven days of creation very literally. Exodus 20:11; 31:17.

Paul said that Adam was a real person. 1 Corinthians 15:45

Stephen believed its history and so did his judges. Acts 7:2-5

Jude accepted Enoch as a historical character. Jude 14.

Numerous other witnesses could be presented, but these five should be enough for even the most skeptical.

How is Genesis divided? The first 11 chapters deal with the beginning of the created world while the last 39 chapters introduce the beginning of the chosen nation that would cradle the Redeemer.

How did Genesis get to us? Moses collected the entire Law and it was placed beside the Ark of the Covenant. Deuteronomy 31:26. We read of it later in the Temple. 2 Kings 23:24. It was preserved, letter-for-letter, until Christ lived among us. He said the Hebrew Law was accurate. Matthew 5:18.

How do we understand it? Think AIM, Author’s Intended Meaning. It is not a book of hidden messages known only to insiders.

Genesis seems so unscientific. Chapter one was written using just 76 Hebrew root words. The vocabulary is both prescientific and observational, not intended to be precise, scientific language (who would have understood it?). We use observational rather than