

An Overview of the Bible

I. The Organization of the Bible

A. The Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) 39 Books Total

Law	Writings		Prophets	
(Pentateuch)	Historical	Poetical	Major	Minor (the 12)
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah – Lamentations	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Ezekiel	Amos
Numbers	1 & 2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Daniel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	1 & 2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Isaiah	Jonah
	1 & 2 Chronicles			Micah
	Ezra			Nahum
	Nehemiah			Habakuk
	Esther			Zephaniah
				Haggai
				Zechariah
				Malachi

B. The New Testament 27 Books

Gospels	Acts (History)	Letters of Paul	General Epistles	Revelation (Apocalypse)
Matthew	Acts	Romans	Hebrews	Revelation
Mark		1 & 2 Corinthians	James	
Luke		Galatians	1 & 2 Peter	
John		Ephesians	1, 2, & 3 John	
		Philippians	Jude	
		Colossians		
		1&2 Thessalonians		
		1&2 Timothy		
		Titus		
		Philemon		

II. Comparative Number of Copies

- New Testament: Over 24,000 full manuscripts and fragments – earliest in 2nd century
- Old Testament: Hundreds of witnesses (few pre Masoretic (8th cent.) text, Masoretic text-primary source, LXX, NT quotes, Dead Sea Scrolls confirm the accuracy)
- Other works of antiquity: Demosthenes, 200 copies, Sophocles, 100, Plato 20 copies

Genesis

Key Thought: Beginnings

Beginning of the world, beginning of sin, beginning of God's redemptive plan, beginning of the nation of the Hebrew People, beginning of God's revelation of Himself

Key Verses: Gen 1:1 "In the beginning God..."
Gen 3:15 Gospel announced
Gen 15:6 "Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness."
Gen 22:18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice"

Author: Moses (Traditionally Moses has authored all five books of the Pentateuch. Liberal scholars attempt to use what is known as the documentary hypothesis to explain how at various times in history, the Jews created parts of the Pentateuch to meet their own needs. Scripture however confirms that Moses is the author.)

Exodus 17:14, Num 33:1-2, Deut 31:9 – all testify of Moses writing
Numerous passages in the OT and NT affirm Moses as the author (Jn 5:46-47)

Outline of the Book:

There are a number of ways to outline the book. In a very broad sense, the outline below gives reasonable outline:

- I. The Creation (Gen. 1-2) (2:4-25 is a more specific account of the creation of man on day 6)
- II. The Fall of Man (Gen 3)
- III. The Sinfulness of Man (Gen 4-6:5)
- IV. The Flood (Gen 6:6-9:29)
- V. The Re-population of the Earth (10:1-25)
- VI. Abraham – the friend of God (10:26 – 23:19)
- VII. Isaac (Gen 23:20 – 26: 35)
- VIII. Jacob and the start of Israel (Gen 27 – 36)
- IX. Joseph and the move to Egypt (Gen 37 – 50)

Highlights in the Book of Genesis

Number	Description	Key Verses	Highlights
I	The Creation	1:1 1:26 1:31 2:7	God Created Man in the image of God It was very Good Man-a special creation
II	The Fall of Man (chapter 3)	Entire chapter, esp. 3:6-7, 15	Man disobeyed and suffered the consequences, yet God provided the promise of hope
III	The Sinfulness of man (4:1-6:5)	4:6-7 5:22	Man's struggle with sin Hope in the first list of death
IV	The Flood	6:5-7 6:8-9 9:1-17	The extent of man's sin A righteous man A New start
V	The Re-Population of the Earth (10:1 -11:25) Major events: Babel (11:1-9)		Man quickly falls into sin Provides lineage to Abraham
V	Abraham – the friend of God (11:26- 23:19; Jas 2:23) Major events: Abraham's call (12:1-3), Covenant Established (ch 15, 17), Sodom & Gomorrah (ch. 19), Offering of Isaac (ch 22)	12:1-3 15:12-21 17:4-5, 19 22:8, 18	The call and promise to Abraham Abraham promised land and the exodus predicted Abraham-Father of Nations God will provide a lamb, Messiah foreshadowed
VI	Isaac		Peaceful-blessed by God, dug many wells.
VII	Jacob – start of Israel Major events: Deceived his brother and father (ch 27), Jacob's Ladder (28:10-22), Jacob serves Laban (ch 29-31), Jacob wrestle's with God (32:24-32)	28:15 32:26-28	God's presence promised Jacob blessed
VIII	Joseph & the move to Egypt Major Events: Joseph sold into slavery (ch 37); Joseph prepared for service (ch 39-41:37); Joseph made ruler (41:38-41:57); Joseph & His Brothers (ch 42-48); Prophecy of the 12 tribes (ch 49)	39:9 39:23 49:10 50:20 50:25	Resisting temptation Blessing even in tough times Messiah in line of Judah God meant it for good Confidence in the promised return