

Timeline for Genesis

The book of Genesis covers an immense span of time, representing the **earliest periods of biblical history**.

Here's a breakdown of the timeline represented in Genesis:

1. **Creation to the Flood:** This period is generally understood to be "before time" or "deep time" in biblical chronology. Based on traditional calculations from genealogies within Genesis (like those in chapters 5 and 11), particularly those from Archbishop James Ussher in the 17th century, the creation of the world is often placed around **4004 BCE**. The Great Flood is then dated to approximately **2348 BCE**. However, it's important to note that many modern scholars view these early chapters (Genesis 1-11) as more theological and mythological narratives of origins rather than strict historical chronology.
2. **The Patriarchal Age (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph):** This is the next major chronological segment covered in Genesis (chapters 12-50).
 - **Abraham's call** is typically dated around **2100-1800 BCE**, with specific calculations often placing it around **2091 BCE** (as seen in some biblical timelines).
 - The story continues through the lives of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, culminating with Jacob's family migrating to Egypt.
 - The book of Genesis ends with the **death of Joseph** in Egypt, which is usually placed around **1800-1700 BCE** or even later, depending on the overall Exodus chronology (some place it around 1806 BCE).

So, in summary, the book of Genesis represents a period beginning with creation (often dated around 4000 BCE) and extending through the patriarchal era, concluding with the Israelites settled in Egypt, which would be in the **early to mid-2nd millennium BCE** (e.g., around 1800-1700 BCE).