

THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES,  
**GENESIS**

**CHAPTER 1**

**1** IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.  
**2** And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of God moved upon the spirit of the deep.  
**3** And God said, "Let there be light: and there was light."  
**4** And God saw that the light was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

CHAP. 1	In its
BC 4004	saw
1 John 1:1, 2	13
1 Heb. 1:10	mo
1 Ps. 8:3	1
1 Is. 44:24	b
Acts 17:24	
Rev. 4:11	
2 Jer. 4:23	
2 Ps. 33:6	
Is. 40:13.	
14	
3 Ps. 33:9	
3 2 Cor.	
4 Heb. b	
tween	
light	
betw	
dar	
5 Ps	
5 H	

# Patterns & Structures

---

- **Day Action Day Action**
  - **God separates light from darkness**
  - **God separates the sea from heavens**
  - **God separates the dry land**
  - **God commands lights to hang darkness in the sky**
  - **God brings forth sea creatures the sky and birds**
  - **God brings forth animals and from the sea creates humankind**

# Patterns & Structures

---

- **Repetition**
  - **Seven creative acts by God**
    - **1:3–5, 6–8, 9–13, 14–19, 20–23, 24–31, 2:1–3**
  - **Seven repetitions of “let there be” formula**
    - **1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24**
  - **Seven proclamations of divine approval**
    - **1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31**

# Patterns & Structures

---

- **Parallels with instructions for priestly tabernacle in Exodus 25–31**
  - **Seven speeches**
  - **Esp. 31:12–17 (seventh speech)**

# Genesis 2–3: Narrative Art

---

- **Four scenes emerge in the opening passage of Genesis**
  - **Gen 2:4–17**
    - **Creation of Eden and man.**
  - **Gen 2:18–25**
    - **Creation of woman.**

# Genesis 2–3: Narrative Art

---

- **Four scenes emerge in the opening passage of Genesis**
  - **Gen 3:1–7**
    - **Temptation of Humanity**
  - **Gen 3:8–24**
    - **Judgement of Humanity**

# Genesis 2–3: Narrative Art

---

- **Male and female as created as companions**
  - **Gen. 2:18** And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him...**23** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. **24** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh (Gen 2:18, 23-24)

# Genesis 2–3: Narrative Art

---

- **Male and female as created as companions**
  - **rib** symbolizes life (as in Sumerian literature)
  - (Hebrew) ezer = **helper**
    - As in Eben-ezer, **stone of help**
    - **Not a subordinate role.**



# Genesis: Structural Markers

---

- (Hebrew) **'ēlleh tōlēdôt**
  - Translated: these are the generations/descendants of...
  - Occurs 10 times in Genesis
    - 2:4; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10, 27; 25:12, 19; 36:1, 9; 37:2
  - 5 times to begin genealogies in Genesis
    - 5:1ff.; 10:1ff; 11:10ff; 25:12ff.; 36:1ff.
  - Used 5x to begin major sections of the narrative

# Genesis: Structural Markers

---

- (Hebrew) **'ēlleh tôlēdôt**
  - Yields following breakdown for book as a whole:
    - Gen 2:4a–6:8 (First Family Saga)
    - Gen 6:9 (Noah Saga)
    - Gen 11:27–25:18 (Abram Saga)
    - Gen 25:19–37:1 (Isaac Saga)
    - Gen 37:2–50:26 (Jacob Saga)

# Events of Genesis

---

- **Genesis 6–9, The Flood**
  - **Unmaking of creation (Gen 7:11; 8:2)**
  - **Gen. 7:11** In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.
  - **Gen. 8:2** The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;

# Events of Genesis

---

- **Genesis 6–9, The Flood**
  - **Revocation of curse on ground (Gen 8:21)**
  - **Gen. 8:21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.**

# Myth of Ham

---

- **The Myth of Ham**
  - **Based on Gen 9:18–27**
  - **Another biblical argument advanced by proslavery advocates focused on the **Curse of Ham**. [Gen. 9]**

# Myth of Ham

---

- **Represented the conviction that the story narrated the origins of slavery, association of Ham's offspring with the continent of African and with dark skin, and the notion that Noah's words represented a prophetic outline of subsequent human history-were present in some of the earliest reading of Genesis 9 among Jews, Christians, and Muslims.**

# Myth of Ham

---

- **Yet, the application of the curse to racial slavery was the product of centuries of development in ethnic and racial stereotyping, biblical interpretations, and the history of servitude.**

# Myth of Ham

---

- **Antislavery proponents quickly responded that Africans were not rightfully subject to Noah's curse of Ham as they were not the descendants of Canaan.**
- **They also noted that the curse was prophetic and not a commandment of God to be carried out through the ages.**



# Events of Genesis

---

- **Gen 11, Babel Tower**
  - **4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth...8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.**

# Summary of Creation Narrative

---

**1. Gen 1–2, Creation**

**2. Gen 3–4, Family  
Breakdown**

**3. Gen 5–6:8, World  
Breakdown**

**4. Sarai's barrenness (Gen  
11:30)**

**1. Gen 6:9–9:17, Re-creation**

**2. Gen 9:18–10:32, Family  
Breakdown**

**3. Gen 11, World Breakdown**

**4. Sarai's barrenness (Gen  
11:30)**

# Historical Issues

---

- **Immoralities of the patriarchs**
  - **Abraham marries half-sister in Gen 20:12 (cf. Lev 18:9, 11; 20:17),**
  - **Plants sacred tree in Beersheba (cf. Deut 16:21);**
  - **Jacob married to two sisters at once (cf. Lev 18:18),**
  - **Sets up sacred pillars at Bethel (Gen 28:18) and Gilead (Gen 31:45), cf. both Lev 26:1 and Deut 16:22**

# Genesis as a Book

---

- **Thematic Overview of Gen 12–25**
  - **Abraham Cycle**
    - **A working out of the double promise of Gen 12:1–3**
  - **Jacob Cycle, Gen 25:19–36:43**
    - **Gen 35:11–12, “be fruitful and multiply” (cf. Gen 1:28)**
    - **Dream** as something needing interpretation (cf. Dan 2:27–28)

# Genesis as a Book

---

- **A family saga**
  - **fruitful and multiply** as motif throughout
    - **Gen 1:28; 9:1, 7; 17:20; 28:3; 35:11; 48:4; cf.**
    - **Exodus 1:7 blessing** expresses fullness of God's intention in creation.

# Genesis as a Book

---

- **Story of how blessing/life is preserved and brought to the world (Gen 45:5; 50:20),**
  - **In accordance with God's ancestral promise (Gen 48:15–16)**
  - **THE BLESSING IS THE CENTRAL PROBLEM IN EXODUS!**