



The book of Genesis

OVERVIEW

Author

The book of Genesis is part of a body of text called the Pentateuch consisting of the first five books of the Bible. These books are also called ‘The Law of Moses’ which is an assumption that they were written by Moses. Reading these five books, you will realize that there is an obvious continuation in the storylines. If truth holds that nothing in the book of Genesis confirms that Moses is the author, in the other books of the Pentateuch, clear references are referring to Moses (Ex. 17: 4; Nu. 33: 2; De. 31: 9). How could Moses write the book of Genesis, since he was not present? Two answers. First, there is a divine inspiration; second, Moses gathered, ordered and edited this information which had already been available thanks to the writings of these events on clay tablets by Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Jacob.

Date

By analyzing the structure of the text of Genesis in the general context of Mesopotamia, it is believed that this book reflects the political and cultural situations of the second millennium BC. Some even specified that Moses wrote it after the Exodus and before he died in 1405 BC.

Main theme and target audience

Although some people think that this book, more precisely the first 11 chapters of Genesis, is part of a historical perspective, from an internal point of view, the use of the expression “here is the book of the seed of...”, which introduces the genealogies, which make it possible to introduce the different parts of the book, clearly shows that the author intends to present historical facts. So, therefore, he presents the story of the creation of the universe, of the human race, of sin, of the diversity of human languages and of the story of the creation of a special people by whom God was going to carry out his ultimate plan. So, to summarize, in the book of Genesis, we find mainly the story of the relationship between man and God.

Plan of the book of Genesis

- 1- Creation (1: 1-2: 3)
- 2- The posterity of the heavens and the earth (2: 4-4: 26)
- 3- The seed of Adam: sin, judgment and the first murder (5: 1-6: 8)
- 4- The posterity of Noah: the story of the flood (6: 9-9: 29)
- 5- The posterity of Shem, Cham, and Japheth (10: 1-11: 9)
- 6- The posterity of Shem (11: 10-26)
- 7- The seed of Terah: the Abrahamic Covenant (11: 27-25: 11)
- 8- Ismael's seed (25: 12-18)
- 9- The posterity of Isaac: the story of Jacob and Esau (25: 19-35: 29)
- 10- Esau's seed (36: 1-37: 1)
- 11- The seed of Jacob: the story of the twelve tribes (37: 2-50: 26)