



1. Who is the writer ? and speaker ?
2. When was it written ? and events ?
3. To whom was it written ?
4. What are the natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple phrase sums it all up ?
7. What is the application to my life today ?

Survey of the Book of Genesis

1. **The writer :** God commanded Moses to write the first book of the Bible as a reminder of His salvation (Ex17v14). He also commanded him to write His laws (Ex34v27). This book is centered on both themes and quite evidently penned by the same hand as the other four books of the Torah (Hebrew for “Law”) or Pentateuch (Greek for “five” in a “box”). The internal evidence that Moses was the writer (God is the Author) comes from the names of Egyptian countries (Ge2v10-14, 4v16, 11v9, 19v22 & 31v48) and the expression “until this day” (19v37, 38, 22v14, 26v33, 32v32, 35v20 & 47v26) fixes the date of writing during the life of Moses and not any later. The details in the story of Joseph show the writer had lived in Egypt and in its royal court (Ge39-50). Ge50v26 & Ex1v1 show they were written by the same hand. But, above all else, Jesus said Moses wrote this book in Mk10v3-9.
2. **The date :** Genesis was written around 1446 BC during the Exodus of Israel from Egypt. The story ends with Joseph’s death (Ge50v26) around 1804 BC, dated by his recorded age at that time (110), his age (30) when he began to rule Egypt (Ge41v46), and the age (130) of his father Jacob (Ge47v8-9) 9 years later (Ge45v6&11). According to Ex12v40 (cf. Ge15v13 & Ac7v6) Israel spent 430 years in Egypt (1875-430=1445) which coincides with Joseph’s age (30+9=39) when Israel arrived (1914-39=1875). Ex1v11 refers to cities newly built in Egypt at this time which rules out a later date of writing.
3. **The readers :** Although this book reveals the origins of the universe, our world and the nations, the greater part of the book reveals the origins of the Children of Israel (Ge11v10-50v26). There are many promises that only concern Children of Israel (Ge12v1-7, 13v14-17, 15v1-21, 17v1-22, 18v1-14, 22v16-18, 26v2-5, 26v24, 28v13-15, 31v3, 31v11-13, 32v28-29, 35v9-12, 46v2-4, 48v3-4, & 50v24-25). None of these are addressed to Christians nor repeated in the New Testament for the Church. However, there are many parts of Genesis addressed to the whole world : Ge1v26 on the value of human life; 1v27 on equality of men and women; 2v17 on the wages of sin; 2v24 on marriage; 4v9 on society; 9v6 on capital punishment for murder... all before neither the Children of Israel nor the Church existed.
4. **The divisions :** Three creations or beginnings –

THE CREATION of THE WORLD

- Ch1-3 Adam & Eve – the origins of humanity
- Ch4-6 Cain & Abel – the origins of society
- Ch7-10 Noah & the Flood – the origins of government
- Ch11 The Tower of Babel – the origins of languages

THE CREATION of a CHOSEN PEOPLE

- Ch12-15 The Promise to Abraham – the origins of Children of Israel
- Ch16-20 The Promise to Ishmael – the origins of the Arab Nations

Ch21-24 The children of Abraham – the origins of rivalry in the Near East

THE CREATION of CONFLICT

Ch25-33 Jacob is chosen over Esau

Ch34-38 The twelve sons of Israel are born

Ch39-45 Joseph is sold into Egypt

Ch46-50 Israel leaves the Promised Land

5. **The key word :** the verb “to Make” (Hebrew עָשָׂה “aw-saw”)157x meaning “to Create”.
6. **The message :** “In the beginning God created...” Genesis 1v1
7. **The application :** I must give account to my Creator for what I do with His creation, starting with my own life that He gave to me. (cf. Ge3v9, 4v9 & 6v5-7 with Rev20v12)

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS :

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