

## Genesis

**Introduction:** Genesis is the opening 'chapter' in what is known as the Pentateuch. Moses is the primary character and we might see the opening chapter as an introduction to how Moses arrived.

The author of Genesis is God but we also know that God's Spirit inspired men to write the books that make up the Bible and Genesis is the first.

**Concept:** The purpose of Genesis is God's purpose and Moses has the same intention as he followed the Holy Spirit in authoring it for all of God's people.

Moses in the Pentateuch is saying three things; First, the Covenant God of Abraham is the Creator God of heaven and earth. Second, the descendants of Abraham, chosen by God, have special promises from God. Third, beginning with Adam, Noah, and down through the patriarchs, human failure is a continuing issue that God will effectively deal with.

The genre of the Pentateuch is 'historical narrative' with occasional genealogy and poetry. The opening narrative chapter is global but quickly turns to follow local, chosen individuals and eventually the forming nation of Israel. The main character is God the Father and his developing relationship, beginning with Adam, to Noah, Abraham and Joseph who are four important male characters in Genesis.

Creationism, Naturalism & Origins - Genesis is history focused on God and therefore it has a theological thread that insists that we pay attention to where it is leading. Therefore the Biblical account, especially what we find in the Torah has much to say to us regarding these two worldviews and how God intended for his people to think: consider the issue of 'covenants'. Covenants were part of life in the ancient world but the covenants that God made changes much of that for his glory and our blessing and benefit. This single relational tool brought grace.

**Conclusions:** Davis comments, "It is rather amazing that from a world completely saturated with polytheism should come a unique document advocating ethical monotheism." (26) Genesis and the Pentateuch identify and describe the nature of this one true God.

The existence of this God is not explained, it is reported and as the documents develop this God is revealed in all of his power and glory as the author takes no credit and finds himself in awe and wonder. The existence of God is first about faith.

As time passes and we are introduced to the complexity under the microscope we discover two things; first, the time we have been told that is necessary for the material universe to appear is shrinking and the theory of evolution is damaged; second, the early evidence is that the historical records in the Pentateuch are far more accurate than ever thought. DNA is leading this research.