

GENESIS

(The beginning)

- I. Authorship – In general, it has been widely accepted that Moses authored
Notable dissenters:
 - Jerome (347-420) debated whether Moses or Ezra wrote the Pentateuch.
The Gnostics denied Mosaic authorship outright.
 - Abraham ibn-Ezra (12th century) doubted Mosaic authorship, but didn't offer
any real credible alternative
 - Spinoza (1632-1677) raised serious doubts about Mosaic authorship by the use
of *internal analysis* (higher criticism).
 - * Higher criticism is the study to critique a manuscript using its own
references and style to determine authorship, date, and location. An
example of this may be “false news.” The article may be doubted because it
doesn't match what we know to be true or established.

- II. Theology – This book stands out from ancient manuscripts because of the
following elements of pure, or sound theology:
 1. In a world with prevailing polytheisms, Genesis offers exclusive monotheism.
God is established as self-existent, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient.
 2. Genesis teaches the reality of man's situation as a creation of God.
 3. It teaches the origin of sin among humanity, along with its consequences.
 4. It makes redemption a clear and obvious plan of God:
 - * By prophecy – God's judgment upon the serpent
 - * By covenant – God's promise to Abraham

- III. Literary Style – Genesis promotes biography.
 1. Adam – The first man, created by God in righteousness; fell into sin
 2. Noah – The man who alone found grace in the eyes of the Lord
 3. Abraham – The man whom God chose to bless the nations
 4. Isaac – The son of promise through whom God kept his promise to Abraham
 5. Jacob – The chosen son of Isaac, preferred to his older brother
 6. Joseph – The favored son who saved his family

- IV. Outline:
 1. Creation – 1:1-2:25
 2. The fall and its immediate consequences – 3:1-5:32
 3. The flood – 6:1-9:29
 4. The ancestors of Abraham – 10:1-11:32
 5. The story of Abraham – 12:1-25:34
 6. The story of Isaac – 26:1-27:46
 7. The story of Jacob – 28:1-36:43
 8. The story of Joseph – 37:1-50:26