

The Bible – Pentateuch – Genesis (Book of Beginnings)

The Bible is divided into two sections:

The Old Testament emphasises the Mosaic Covenant, which cursed man. It ends with the words “a curse”. It reveals the need for one to bear away the curse.

The New Testament reveals the one to bear away the curse. It therefore opens with the record of Jesus Christ, and concludes with the anticipation of his coming.

THE PENTATEUCH (*from pente – five*)

The Bible opens with 5 books (the Pentateuch – “fivefold book”). The subject matter of these books is: History (Genesis), Instruction (Exodus), Ritual Law (Leviticus), Government (Numbers) and Exhortation (Deuteronomy). The author of these books is Moses (*Exod 24:4; 34:28; Num 33:2; Deut 1:1; 4:44; Mark 12:19,26; John 1:45*).

Each book sets forth a step in the developing program of grace as extended by Yahweh to fallen man (Five = No of grace).

Therefore, as a whole, they present a parable of salvation.

From the Divine viewpoint:

- *GENESIS: sets forth Divine Authority and Power – in creating, punishing and selecting.*
 - *EXODUS: sets forth Divine Mercy – in choosing and delivering.*
 - *LEVITICUS: sets forth Divine Holiness – in separating and sanctifying.*
 - *NUMBERS: sets forth Divine Goodness and Severity – in providing and judging.*
 - *DEUTERONOMY: sets forth Divine Faithfulness – in disciplining and delivering.*
- GENESIS: speaks of Ruin and Divine selection.
 - Exodus: speaks of Separation.
 - LEVITICUS: speaks of Fellowship with Yahweh.
 - NUMBERS: speaks of Divine grace in His Providence.
 - DEUTERONOMY: speaks of the attainment of Hope.

From the viewpoint of man we see:

These are five steps that man must take to ensure divine grace. He must recognize the fallen state of human nature, and the need of redemption from such. This will lead him to the separation of the waters of baptism, and to fellowship with Yahweh. Submitting to Divine guidance and providence, he will ultimately attain unto that which has been set before him as a matter of hope.

Continuing on to Chronicles, we have a panorama of the Divine Purpose:

- *JOSHUA: By his conquests, Joshua made it possible for Israelites to obtain their inheritance. It was up to individuals to go up and possess it. Christ did likewise 200 years ago with his personal conquest of sin and death.*
- *JUDGES: Suffering through sin. It shows the anarchy and error that followed the death of Joshua – typical of how in the ecclesia the truth was compromised from the time of the first century.*
- *RUTH: Faithfulness in the midst of apostasy. It shows the faithfulness of minority groups, and individuals, who refused to capitulate to anarchy and error in spite of the circumstances.*
- *SAMUEL: These two books record the events that brought David to the throne, and established the kingdom in power by conquest. It foreshadows Christ’s coming conquest, and the restoration of the throne of David.*
- *KINGS: Narrates the golden age of Israel’s history, and the glory under Solomon’s peaceful reign. It foreshadows the coming millennium.*
- *CHRONICLES: Outlines the setting up of the Temple service in its fullness completing the national glory of the nations. This points to the day when Christ will establish Temple service and Theocratic rule in the age to come.*

Genesis or ‘Bereshith’

Genesis (Greek) means “generation”. It is the name used in the LXX. In Hebrew the title is “Bereshith” – ‘in the beginning’ (Gen 1:1).

Bullinger says: “Genesis is the seed-plot of the whole Bible; and it is essential to the true understanding of its every part. It is the foundation on which the divine revelation rests”.

Bro Thomas (Elpis Israel p8) says: “To the Bible then let us turn, as to “a light shining in a dark place,” and, with humility, teachableness, and independence of mind, let us diligently inquire into the things which it reveals for the obedience and confirmation of faith... In effecting this purpose, we must proceed as we would with any other book, or in teaching any of the arts and sciences; namely, begin at the beginning, or with the elements of things. This was the method adopted by the spirit of God in the instruction of the Israelites by Moses. He began his revelations by giving them, and us through them, an

account of the creation of the heavens and the earth; of animals; and of man. This then would seem to be the proper place for us to start from; and as we have the system completely revealed, which they had not, we may extend our inquiries into the reason, or philosophy, of things farther than they. Be this then our commencement; and may the Lord Himself prosper our endeavours to decipher and understand His will and testament,..”

Genesis and Revelation Linked

GENESIS	REVELATION
How it Began	How it will end
Natural creation (Gen 1)	Spiritual creation (Rev 3:14)
Curse imposed (Gen 3:17)	Curse removed (Rev 22:3)
Sorrow and Death appear (Gen 3:16-19)	Sorrow and Death taken away (Rev 21:4)
Access to the tree of life denied (Gen 3:24)	Access to the tree of life opened (Rev 2:7)
The first paradise closed to man (Gen 3:23)	Paradise opened to man (Rev 21:25)

The Seven Days of Creation are a Pattern for the Divine Plan:

Day	Creation Event	Typical Period	Historical Significance	Spiritual Creation
<i>Beginning</i>	Without Form and Void	0		Our state before the Word of God illuminated our minds (Jer 4:22-23).
<i>First Day</i>	Light made and separated from darkness.	0-1000 years	God's Word given to men. A division between the descendants of Cain and Seth.	God gives us light – 2 Cor 4:6; 1 Pet 2:9; 2 Cor 6:14; Eph 5:8.
<i>Second Day</i>	Waters divided to create atmosphere.	1001-2000 years	Abram called out to be separate.	We must separate the Godly things from the earthly things (Col 3:1-2). This is before baptism.
<i>Third Day</i>	Dry land appeared.	2001-3000 years	Israel appeared in the midst of the sea of nations.	We must come up out of the water to bring forth fruit to Almighty God (Matt 3:8; 7:18).
<i>Fourth Day</i>	Sun, moon and stars appointed.	3001-4000 years	Christ appeared. The ecclesia was formed to reflect that light.	We must reflect the light of the Son in the night of Gentile darkness (Matt 5:16).
<i>Fifth Day</i>	Seas brought forth creatures.	4001-5000 years	Gentiles called from the seas of nations	We must preach the gospel (be fishers of men) – Matt 4:19; Jn 21:1-11; 1 Pet 3:15.
<i>Sixth Day</i>	Man and woman created	5001-6000 years	Marriage supper of the Lamb	Christ presented to his bride
<i>Seventh Day</i>	God rested	6001-7000 years	Kingdom of God	At rest in the Kingdom free from sin (Heb 3:18; 4:1,10).

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The Two Divisions of Genesis

PRIMEVAL HISTORY CHAPTERS 1 TO 11 (Four Outstanding Events)

1. THE CREATION - divine glory in natural life.
2. THE FALL - divine authority in imposing punishment.
3. THE FLOOD - divine judgment in manifestation of goodness and severity.
4. THE CONFUSING OF TONGUES - divine wisdom in enforcing God's will.

Divine glory, authority, judgment and wisdom; set forth the sum of the divine revelation.

PATRIARCHAL HISTORY CHAPTERS 12 TO 50 (Four outstanding individuals)

1. ABRAHAM Representing a divine call.

2. ISAAC Representing a divine birth.
3. JACOB Representing a divine care.
4. JOSEPH Representing a divine elevation.

These four men typically set forth the four steps to salvation: first a call; then, a birth (from above); afterward, guidance; and finally, elevation (in the age to come).