

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF GENESIS****Introduction**

The authorship of Genesis has traditionally been attributed to Moses by Jews and Christians alike. The education Moses would have received as the adopted grandson of Pharaoh specially qualified him for the task of compiling and writing the Pentateuch. Since the events recounted in Genesis took place long before Moses' birth, he obviously served as the compiler of earlier traditions that had been passed down. He set out to preserve the history of God's dealings with Israel's patriarchs as a foundation for explaining the covenant that God had recently made with the people of Israel at Mount Sinai. Genesis, along with the other books of the Pentateuch, was likely written during Israel's wilderness wanderings after her exodus from Egypt (c. 1446-1406 B.C., assuming an early date for the exodus).

Genesis is the book of beginnings and serves to introduce the drama of redemption that is played out in the rest of Scripture. The book has traditionally been divided into two major sections: (1) a record of general or primeval history (Genesis 1-11), and (2) a record of special or patriarchal history (Genesis 12-50). The two sections are essentially connected. The first sets forth an account of the descent of the human race from a single couple, the introduction of sin into the world, and the announcement of God's plan of divine mercy for repairing the ruins of the fall. After this prelude, the second section records the call of Abraham and the selection of his posterity for carrying out the gracious purposes of God.

Gen. 1:1-2:3	In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth
Gen. 2:4-4:26	These are the generations of the heavens . . . earth
Gen. 5:1-6:8	This is the book of the generations of Adam
Gen. 6:9-9:28	These are the generations of Noah
Gen. 10:1-11:9	These are the generations of the sons of Noah
Gen. 11:10-11:26	These are the generations of Shem
Gen. 11:27-25:11	These are the generations of Terah
Gen. 25:12-18	These are the generations of Ishmael
Gen. 25:19-35:29	These are the generations of Isaac
Gen. 36:1-8	These are the generations of Esau
Gen. 36:9-43	These are the generations of Esau
Gen. 37:2-50:26	These are the generations of Jacob

Genesis is the book upon which all subsequent revelation rests. It recalls the creation of the world, Adam and Eve's fall into sin and the resulting curse, and God's plan to bring redemption and blessing to the world through the descendants of one man, Abraham. It gives the story of beginnings—the beginnings of the world, the plague of sin, the nation of Israel, and the history of salvation. The organizing principle of generations shows that God's promises of redemption find fulfillment from one generation to the next. This theme is continued in the rest of the Pentateuch as the descendants of Abraham, the people of Israel, experience the fulfillment of God's promises. The rest of Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, serves to recount the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption for all mankind, both Jews and Gentiles.

Questions:

1. What do you think is the most powerful emotion? Why?
2. Why did Israel love Joseph more than his other sons, and how did he show it? (37:3)
3. What kind of dreams did Joseph have, and how did his brothers respond when he told them about them? (37:5-11)
4. What did Joseph's brothers do to him? (37:23-28)
5. What makes jealousy such a powerful emotion?
6. How should we deal with feelings of jealousy?
7. How can you change the way you deal with feelings of jealousy?