

THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES CALLED GENESIS

The first part of Genesis focuses on the beginning and spread of sin in the world and culminates in the devastating flood in the days of Noah. The second part of the book focuses on God's dealings with one man, Abraham, through whom God promises to bring salvation and blessing to the world. Abraham and his descendants learn firsthand that it is always safe to trust the Lord in times of famine and feasting, blessing and bondage. From Abraham . . . to Isaac . . . to Jacob . . . to Joseph . . . God's promises begin to come to fruition in a great nation possessing a great land.

Genesis is a Greek word meaning "origin," "source," "generation," or "beginning." The original Hebrew title *Bereshith* means "In the Beginning."

The literary structure of Genesis is clear and is built around eleven separate units, each including the word *generations* in the phrase "These are the generations" or "The book of the generations": (1) Introduction to the Genealogies (1:1–2:3); (2) Heaven and Earth (2:4–4:26); (3) Adam (5:1–6:8); (4) Noah (6:9–9:29); (5) Sons of Noah (10:1–11:9); (6) Shem (11:10–26); (7) Terah (11:27–25:11); (8) Ishmael (25:12–18); (9) Isaac (25:19–35:29); (10) Esau (36:1–37:1); (11) Jacob (37:2–50:26).

CHAPTER 1

IN the ^abeginning ^bGod created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was ^awithout form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. ^bAnd the Spirit of God ¹moved upon the face of the waters.

3 ^aAnd God said, ^bLet there be ^clight: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that *it was good*: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the ^adarkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, ^aLet there be a ¹firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 And God made the firmament, ^aand divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* ^babove the firmament: and it was so.

8 And God called the ¹firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

9 And God said, ^aLet the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and ^blet the dry *land* appear: and it was so.

10 And God called the dry *land*

1:1 ^a [John 1:1–3] ^b Acts 17:24 1:2 ^a Jer. 4:23
^b Is. 40:13, 14 ¹ *was hovering over* 1:3 ^a Ps. 33:6,
9 ^b 2 Cor. 4:6 ^c [Heb. 11:3] 1:5 ^a Ps. 19:2; 33:6;
74:16; 104:20; 136:5 1:6 ^a Jer. 10:12 ¹ *expanse*
1:7 ^a Prov. 8:27–29 ^b Ps. 148:4 1:8 ¹ *expanse*
1:9 ^a Job 26:10 ^b Ps. 24:1, 2; 33:7; 95:5