

Contents

Preface	9
Abbreviations	11
Introduction	13
The Question of Authorship.....	14
The Documentary Hypothesis.....	15
Moses as the Fundamental Author.....	16
The Role of Narrative and Poetry in Genesis.....	20
Genesis in the Context of the Ancient Near East.....	21
The Days of Genesis 1.....	25
The Day-Age View.....	26
The Literary Framework View.....	29
The Analogical Day View.....	34
Variations of the Regular Day View.....	39
The Regular Day View.....	45
The Structure of Genesis.....	47
Study Questions.....	49
Chapter 1: Laying the Foundations for Correctly Understanding the World (Genesis 1)	51
Primeval History (1:1–11:9).....	51
Prologue: Creation (1:1–2:3).....	52
The Character of God and Creation.....	52
The Creation and Role of Mankind.....	54
Study Questions.....	59
Chapter 2: God Provides Everything for Adam and Eve (Genesis 2)	61
Study Questions.....	69
Chapter 3: The Destructive Power of Sin (Genesis 3–4)	71
The Fall and Its Results (3:1–24).....	71
The Character of Two Communities (4:1–26).....	78
Study Questions.....	83
Chapter 4: The Preservation of the Godly Line (Genesis 5–6a)	85
The Genealogy of Adam (5:1–32).....	85
The Increase of Wickedness: A Precursor to the Flood (6:1–8).....	87
Study Questions.....	92
Chapter 5: The Judgment of the Flood and the Salvation of a Remnant (Genesis 6b–9)	93
Preparations for the Flood (6:9–22).....	93
Preservation of Noah’s Family through the Flood (7:1–8:19).....	95

God's Covenant with Noah (8:20–9:17).....	97
The Continuing Problem of Sin after the Flood (9:18-29).....	99
Study Questions.....	102
Chapter 6: The Division of the Nations: Continuing Sin and the Line of Salvation (Genesis 10–11).....	103
The Genealogy of Shem, Ham and Japheth (10:1-32).....	103
The Tower of Babel (11:1-9).....	107
The Generations (Toledot) of Shem (11:10-26):	
The Chosen Line of Peleg.....	109
Study Questions.....	110
Chapter 7: The Life of Abraham: God's Call and the Promise of Land (Genesis 11:27–14:24).....	111
The Call of Abram (11:27–12:9).....	111
Faith in God's Promise of Land (12:10–14:24).....	115
Fearful in Egypt (12:10-20).....	115
Secure in God's Promise (13).....	117
A King Defending the Land (14).....	118
Study Questions.....	121
Chapter 8: The Life of Abraham: God's Covenant and the Promise of a Seed (Genesis 15–17).....	123
God's Covenant with Abram (15:1-21).....	123
Producing an Heir through Human Means (16:1-16).....	126
The Covenant of Circumcision (17:1-27).....	129
Study Questions.....	136
Chapter 9: The Life of Abraham: A Man of Intercession (Genesis 18–20).....	139
Abraham's Intercession for Sodom (18:1-33).....	139
The Rescue of Lot from the Destruction of Sodom (19:1-38).....	142
Abraham Prays for Abimelech's Household (20:1-18).....	146
Study Questions.....	148
Chapter 10: The Fulfillment of God's Promise in the Preservation of the Godly Line (Genesis 21–22:19).....	149
The Birth of the Promised Child (21:1-21).....	149
Abraham's Treaty with Abimelech (21:22-34).....	151
The Sacrifice of Isaac (22:1-19).....	154
Study Questions.....	159
Chapter 11: The Fulfillment of God's Promise in Faithful Preparation for the Future (Genesis 22:20–25:18).....	161
The Burial of Sarah and the Promise of Land (22:20–23:20).....	161
A Wife for Isaac: Preserving the Future Seed (24:1-67).....	163

The Death of Abraham: The End of an Era (25:1-18).....	167
Study Questions.....	169
Chapter 12: The Family of Isaac: Conflict and Favoritism	
(Genesis 25:19–27:46)	171
Family Conflict Based on the Character of the Sons (25:19-34) ..	171
The Blessing of God on Isaac’s Family (26).....	174
Family Conflict Based on Parental Favoritism (26:34–27:46) ...	178
Study Questions.....	183
Chapter 13: The Crucible of Family Conflict (Genesis 28–30)	185
The Beginning of Jacob’s Journey (28:1-22).....	185
The Humbling of Jacob: Laban’s Deceit (29:1-30).....	188
The Passivity of Jacob: Building the Family through Conflict (29:31–30:24).....	192
Study Questions.....	196
Chapter 14: From a Prayerless Schemer to a Man of Faith	
(Genesis 30:25–33:20)	197
God is the Source of Jacob’s Wealth (30:25-43).....	197
Prayerful Planning to Meet a Crisis (32–33).....	202
Study Questions.....	207
Chapter 15: Transition from One Generation to the Next Generation	
(Genesis 34:1–37:1)	209
A Glimpse into the Character of Jacob’s Family (34:1-31).....	209
Covenant Blessings at Bethel (35:1-15).....	213
The End of an Era (35:16-29).....	214
The Generations (Toledot) of Esau (36:1–37:1).....	216
Study Questions.....	218
Chapter 16: The Beginning of the Joseph Story: Major Problems	
among Brothers (Genesis 37:2–38:30)	219
Conflict among the Sons of Jacob (37:2-36).....	220
The Development of the Character of Judah (38:1-30).....	224
Study Questions.....	228
Chapter 17: Joseph’s Rise to Power in Egypt (Genesis 39–41)	229
God’s Abundant Blessings in Adverse Circumstances (39:1-23)....	229
Faithfulness in Prison: Preparing the Way for the Future (40:1-22) ..	231
‘God’s Purposes Shall Ripen Fast’ (41:1-57).....	234
Study Questions.....	239
Chapter 18: The Testing of Joseph’s Brothers (Genesis 42–44) ...	241
The First Trip to Egypt: ‘You are spies’ (42:1-38).....	241
The Second Trip to Egypt: Sacrifice for the Family (43:1–44:34)....	246
Study Questions.....	252

Chapter 19: The Reconciliation of a Family (Genesis 45–47)	253
A Stunning Revelation: God’s Hand at Work (45:1-28).....	253
The Family of Jacob Moves to Egypt with God’s Blessing (46:1-30).	256
The Sons of Israel in Egypt: Separation not Assimilation (46:31–47:12)	257
The Administration of Joseph: A Savior in Egypt (47:13-31).....	259
Study Questions.....	261
Chapter 20: Looking to the Future through Faith in the Promises of God (Genesis 48–50)	263
The Adoption of Joseph’s Two Sons (48:1-22).....	264
The Future Significance of the Sons of Jacob (49:1-28)	267
God’s Purposes and His Future Promises (49:29–50:26).....	273
Study Questions.....	277
 Subject Index.....	 279
Scripture Index.....	285