

Genesis 02

Criticism and Controversy

*"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.
But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"*
– John 5:46-47

1. How to Study Genesis

- a. Three ways to use scripture: historically, spiritually, dispensationally
- b. History asks: *what happened?* Dispensations ask: *what does God tell me to do?*
- c. Genesis is written as historical narrative, which is why it is criticized so much.
- d. Genesis (one book out of 39) records more than half of pre-Christian history.

2. Creation vs. Evolution

- a. If Genesis is true history, evolution is wrong.
- b. Godless history and long periods of time theories existed long before Darwin
- c. Disbelief is more prevalent in the social sciences than in the hard sciences
- d. *"Who is God?"* not answerable by science, but it changes scientific assumptions
- e. Do we start with Psa 119:160, or not? Do we start with a God of miracles, or not?

3. Higher Criticism

- a. If Genesis is true history, the methods of unbelieving higher critics are wrong.
- b. "Higher criticism" does not mean it is better, more intelligent, nor superior
- c. Higher criticism is introduction (date, author, etc), lower criticism is textual
- d. Est. in 17-18th c. by unbelievers: Spinoza, Astruc, Eichhorn, Wellhausen, BDB...
- e. They denied miracles, revelation, inspiration, prophecy, and Jesus as Christ.
- f. Determine date, author, authenticity by writing style (the Bible as other books)
- g. The compilers of the books of the Bible purposely misrepresented the originals.

4. Who Wrote it & When

- a. If Genesis is true history, then the evolutionary theory of history is wrong.
- b. JEDP theory of authorship is widely taught rather than believing the Bible.
- c. It is said, Jesus could not have known the truth – Matt 19:3-8, 24:37-39; Lu 24:27
- d. It was said Adam, Noah, could not have known how to write, but – Gen 4:22, 5:1
- e. Genesis is a part of the law books ("Pentateuch") recorded by Moses. (see back)

5. History vs. Myth

- a. If Genesis is true history, what is commonly taught about early history is wrong.
- b. The OT testifies of its history – Exo 20:11-12, Psa 90:1-5, Isa 48:1-5, Jer 10:11-13
- c. The Lord thought it was history – Luke 10:12, 11:51, 13:28, John 5:46-47
- d. The principle of analogy in History - 2Pe 1:16, 2:5, 3:4; Rom 4:1, 5:12, 1Co 15:35-48
- e. The Bible has nothing to fear, and needs no concession. The truth stands alone.
- f. All God's words are true from the beginning – Psalm 119:160, 2 Tim 3:16

Genesis “Generations”

Moses was not an eye-witness to any of the events in Genesis, and so it was either entirely revealed to him by divine revelation, or he compiled books (tablets, written records) of the men in Genesis who were eye-witnesses. Evidence of compilation can be seen where later facts are inserted into the history such as in Gen 26:33 and Gen 32:32.

That the word “generations” shows up repeatedly as a type of colophon could be evidence of separation generation documents. Below are possible documents Moses compiled into Genesis by inspiration. These documents would have been passed down to him from the beginning by Adam and the fathers.

1. Gen 1:1 - 2:4 - The generations of the heaven and the earth when they were created
2. Gen 2:4 - 5:1 - The book of the generations of Adam
3. Gen 5:1 - 6:9- The generations of Noah
4. Gen 6:9 - 10:1 - The generations of the sons of Noah
5. Gen 10:1 - 11:10 - The generations of Shem
6. Gen 11:10 - 11:27 - The generations of Terah
7. Gen 11:27 - 25:19 - The generations of Isaac
8. Gen 25:12 - 25:18 - the generations of Ishmael
9. Gen 25:19 - 37:2 - The generations of Jacob
10. Gen 36:1 - 36:43 - The generations of Esau
11. Gen 37:2 - 50:26 - The generations of Jacob’s sons? (see Exo 1:6 - “all that generation”)