

Genesis 1-9 Overview

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Overview

The main structuring mechanism in Genesis is the *toledot* heading (“these are the generations of X”). We have had three of these sections, plus a prolog that was not so marked.

| Chosen | Rejected | Content |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 2:4, Heaven and Earth | | Narrative |
| 5:1, Adam | | Genealogy |
| 6:9, Noah | | Narrative |
| | 10:1, Sons of Noah | Genealogy + Narrative |
| 11:10, Shem | | Genealogy |
| 11:27, Terah | | Narrative |
| | 25:12, Ishmael | Genealogy |
| 25:19, Isaac | | Narrative |
| | 36:1,9, Esau | Genealogy and king list |
| 37:2, Jacob | | Narrative |

1:1-2:3, Prolog: Creation Week

| Day | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
|--------------|----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|--------|
| Announcement | 3a | 6a | 9a | 11a | 14a | 20a | 24a | 26a |
| Command | 3b | 6b | 9b | 11b | 14b-15a | 20b | 24b | 26b |
| Fulfillment | 3c | 7b | 9c | 11c | 15b | | 24c | 30b |
| Execution | 4b | 7a | | 12a | 16-18a | 21a | 25a | 27 |
| Approval | 4a | | 10b | 12b | 18b | 21b | 25b | 31a |
| Name, Bless | 5a | 8a. | 10a | | | 22 | | 28-30a |
| Day # | 5b | 8b | | 13 | 19 | 23 | | 31b |

Big ideas

1. God is the sovereign creator.
2. He has made everything good.
3. His attitude toward his creation is one of blessing.

2:4-4:26, Generations of Heaven and Earth: Rebellion

2:4-3:24, Adam and Eve

| | | |
|--|----------|---------|
| Narrative: God places Man in or excludes Man from the Garden | 2:4b-15. | 3:23-24 |
| Monologue: God excludes man from a tree | 2:16-17 | 3:22 |
| Monologue and Narrative: God > Man > Woman > Animals | 2:18-22. | 3:14-19 |
| | 2:23 | 3:20 |
| | 2:25 | 3:21 |
| Dialogue | 3:1-5 | 3:8-13 |
| Narrative: Snake > Woman > Man > God | 3:6-7 | |

4:1-26, Adam’s Children

This is a high-level alternation, with more detailed structure embedded.

Genesis 1-9 Overview

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Birth of child | 1a, Cain | 2a, Abel | 25a, Seth |
| Outcome | 1b, fulfillment of promise of 3:16 | 2b-16, strife among brethren 17-24, Cain's descendants | 25b-26, thanksgiving and worship to the Lord |

4:2b-16, Cain and Abel

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Narrative: Approach to/Depart from the Lord | 2b-5a | 16 |
| Cain Opposes the Lord | 5b | 13-15 |
| The Lord Questions and Instructs Cain | 6-7 | 9-12 |
| Sin: Cain Kills Abel | 8 | |

4:17-24, Descendants of Cain

Pearls of narrative on a genealogical string:

- 17, Cain attempts to perpetuate his name and avoid dispersion by building a city.
- 19-24, Lamech exhibits a vengeful spirit

Big Ideas

1. God declares his law to man.
2. Man sins.
3. God judges sin.
4. Sin is hereditary.
5. Man is expected to worship and witness (tabernacle vocabulary in Eden; 4:26).

5:1-6:8, Generations of Adam: Death

Structure: an extensive alternation with prose prolog and structured epilog.

5:1-2, Man's Blessed Beginning

5:3-32, The Heritage of Death

| | Adam | Seth | Enos | Canaan | Mahalaleel | Jared | Enoch | Methuselah | Lamech | Noah |
|-----------------|------|------|------|--------|------------|-------|-------|------------|--------|-------|
| Age at Son | 3a | 6a | 9a | 12a | 15a | 18a | 21a | 25a | 28a | 32a |
| Lineal Son | 3b | 6b | 9b | 12b | 15b | 18b | 21b | 25b | 28b | 32b |
| Naming | 3c | | | | | | | | 29 | |
| Years after Son | 4a | 7a | 10a | 13a | 16a | 19a | 22a | 26a | 30a | 9:28 |
| Other Children | 4b | 7b | 10b | 13b | 16b | 19b | 22b | 26b | 30b | |
| Total Age | 5a | 8a | 11a | 14a | 17a | 20a | 23 | 27a | 31a | 9:29a |
| Death | 5b | 8b | 11b | 14b | 17b | 20b | 24 | 27b | 31b | 9:29b |

6:1-8, The Pervasion of Sin

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | 1-4, Mixed Marriages → Limited Lives | 5-8, Wickedness → Destruction |
| Someone saw something | 1-2 (sons of God saw dtrs of men) | 5-6 (God saw man's wickedness). |
| The LORD said (judgment) | 3 | 7 |
| Disjunctive clause: dominating circumstance | 4 giants in the earth | 8 God's grace on Noah |

Big Ideas

1. Godliness is not inherited, even in Seth's line.
2. Death is the consistent result of sin.

Genesis 1-9 Overview

3. The only remedy for pervasive sin is sovereign grace.

6:9-9:29, Generations of Noah: Life of a Redeemed Man

| | | |
|---|---------|-----------|
| Noah's Sons in their Moral Environment | 6:9-11 | 9:18-29 |
| Divine Observations and Monologue to Noah | 6:12-21 | 8:21-9:17 |
| Noah's Obedience | 6:22 | 8:18-20 |
| Divine Monologue to Noah | 7:1-4 | 8:15-17 |
| Noah and the Animals | 7:5-16 | 8:6-14 |
| Actions by the Waters | 7:17-24 | 8:1b-5 |
| God Remembered Noah | 8:1a | |

Big Ideas

1. God's grace produces godliness of life and obedience.
2. God spares his own from judgment.
3. Godliness is not inherited, even from a redeemed man.