

Feb 13th 2005: New Series: OVERVIEW OF OT: Genesis Book of Beginnings: 1:1-31

One of the challenges....Library.....is finding a book in the non-fiction section
You need to know under what section.....And where to find section

The same is true....Bible.....which is rather like a small library.....66 books in it
If u have Bible.....turn to the OT index.....NOT alphabetical→amos/zephaniah

What I want to do.....Give you an Overview of the OT.....Better knowledge of
→Where the books are and why.....**And basically the general content** of each
and its importance as part of the whole

Now although.....not alphabetical.....They are arranged in a simple pattern

HISTORICAL (17)	POETICAL (5)	PROPHETICAL (17)
Genesis	Job	Isaiah
Exodus	Psalms	Jeremiah
Leviticus	Proverbs	Lamentations
Numbers	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel
Deuteronomy	Song of Solomon	Daniel

Joshua		Hosea
Judges		Joel
Ruth		Amos
First Samuel		Obadiah
Second Samuel		Jonah
First Kings		Micah
Second Kings		Nahum
First Chronicles		Habakkuk
Second Chronicles		Zephaniah
Ezra		Haggai
Nehemiah		Zechariah
Esther		Malachi

Events	Experience	Expectation
Past	Present	Future
God's Work	God's Ways	God's Will
Narrative	Poetry	Prophecy
Covenant People	Covenant Practice	Covenant Preachers

It is Genesis that we turn to.....

The important thing to note.....Genesis...Greek....origin..source..generation..beginning

The original Hebrew title.....first wordBereshith (in the beginning)

The book can be split easily into two.....

The first 11 chapters deal with four very important happenings

From 11:10 onwards.....4 people so important to the formation of God's people

CREATION 1:1—2:25	ABRAHAM 11:10—25:8
FALL INTO SIN 3:1—5:32	ISAAC 25:19—26:35
FLOOD 6:1—9:29	JACOB 27:1—36:43
BABEL AND NATIONS 10:1—11:9	JOSEPH 37:1—50:26

It is this whole thought about Genesis as the book of beginnings.....focus on

THE BEGINNINGS FOUND IN GENESIS

I have left that as a blank in your notes.....something for you to

I want to mention the major ones

Of course.....the beginning of Creation

The earth was formless and empty....v2 says.....and then God spoke

God created by the power of His Word.....and again

And God saw that it was good

And its here that we find the beginning.....our knowledge of God

As all powerful.....artistic and creative.....More than one person.....Creating man for fellowship

And also for the intimate fellowship of a man and a woman...in marriage....family

Then we find the beginning of deceit.....disobedience...sin.....death...separation

The beginning of our understanding of the nature of the evil one.....nature of man

And its all this that causes the beginning of the Promise.....3:15.....so precious

After this we find the first children..... murder.....Cain and Abel

The first mention of music in 4:21

The first mass escalation of evil....leading on to the first outpouring of major judgment

In the great flood

Yet with the judgement.....GOD's Grace.....Noah.....

First building of an altar.....THEN the Rainbow➔

This covenant or promise.....that God makes with Him in 8:22.....

After this we find in chapter 10 the first list of Nations.....**came forth sons of**
Followed by the push towards Secularism.....Tower of Babel.....scattering

SO WE COME TO THE END OF THE FIRST PART OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS

The scene is now set...for God to begin to create His own special people
A Nation through whom.....promised one would come

So in 11:10.....First mention of Abraham....and his is a story.....
Containing many beginnings.....most associated.....growing relationship GOD

Indeed we look at his relationship.....and ask
Is it really possible....a man.....could have such.....with Almighty God

Answer from Genesis ...is yes
And the glorious thing is.....since Christ.....the potential is there

In chapter 14....first priest of the most High.....MELCHIZEDEK.....
An appearance that gains its importance when Christ comes.....
A priest after this same line.....OFFERING a sin offering on our behalf...

Along with the story of Abraham
Beginnings of the Arab Nations.....Ishmael
That Great test of Abraham.....asked to offer Isaac.....And the way it points to...

Abraham is followed by the stories of Isaac...Esau....and Jacob
With God extending a relationship with Jacob.....despite....trickster
And the beginning of the 12 tribes of Israel

From chapter 37 we follow the story of Joseph
In several ways he stands as a type of Christ

Betrayed and sold as slavewrongly accused in Egypt...thrown into prison
 Yet raised to a position of power by God

A position that enabled God to save His people from starvation and extinction
Genesis 50:20 contains that wonderful statement of Joseph to his brothers after..
50:20.....A statement which found its greatest meaning....in the death..

So that's a quick run thro....Book of Genesis.....
Strange thing is that....for a book of beginnings.....IT seems at first glance....to finish
 With a sense of ending

God's people are no longer in the promised land
They are becoming more like the egyptians
Why Joseph heads the Egyptian bureaucracy.....Egyptian name

It seems only a matter of time.....Before the Nation is assimilated....Is no more

But in fact Genesis ends with the promise of a new beginning about to happen
 50:24-25.....

Before leaving our overview.....there's one more thing I want to leave with you
 And that'skey phrase of the whole book

We find it in v1.....IN THE BEGINNING GOD

That's what Genesis is all about.....Almighty God in control
 God being at the beginning of all things good
 God never far away.....Putting into place His plan for the lives of His people

God still offers us that new beginning in Christ.....

Whatever is happening in your life.....He promises you....a new beginning if you
 trust Him

All of us.....have known times....got ourselves into a real state

Through bad decisions.....weakness.....anxiety.....

Mistakes.....sin

Its at such times we need to turn from the old way of acting

And say from our hearts.....*In the beginning God*.....

Lord you take over..In your hands

**Do you need this morning....to allow God to make a new beginning.....
your life/situation ????**

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What I want to do over the next several weeks is to give you an Overview of the Old Testament. A better knowledge of where the books are and why they are there, and basically the general content of each and its importance as part of the whole

Now although the books are not listed alphabetically, they are arranged in a simple pattern:-

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It is to the book of **GENESIS** that we now turn, and the important thing to note is that Genesis is a Greek word meaning origin, source, generation, beginning.

The book can be split easily into two:-

The first 11 chapters deal with four very important happenings.

Then from 11:10 onwards we find the stories of four people who played important parts in the formation of God's people.

THE FIRST PART

THE SECOND PART

CREATION 1:1—2:25	ABRAHAM 11:10—25:8
FALL INTO SIN 3:1—5:32	ISAAC 25:19—26:35
FLOOD 6:1—9:29	JACOB 27:1—36:43
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(I have left that as a blank in your notes. Something for you to fill in later.)

Before leaving our overview there's one more thing I want to leave with you and that's the key phrase of the whole book

We find it in verse 1.....***IN THE BEGINNING GOD***

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God being at the beginning of all things good

God never far away.....Putting into place His plan for the lives of His people

God still offers us that new beginning in Christ.

Whatever is happening in your life right now, He promises you a new beginning if you trust Him

All of us have known times, (we may be in the midst of such a time now), where we have got ourselves into a real state. We have done so through bad decisions, acts of weakness, anxiety, mistakes, sin.

Its at such times we need to turn from the old way of acting and say from our hearts.

In the beginning God. Lord you take over. I put everything, including my life and my decisions, into your hands.

