

(Genesis) Major Divisions

by J. Vernon McGee

The book of Genesis is an introduction to the Bible, focusing on creation and the universe, and setting the stage for the story of redemption.

Duration: 9:30

Scripture: Genesis 1:1, Genesis 12:1-3, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 28:1-7, John 1:1-4, John 3:16, Romans 4:25

Topics: "Biblical Redemption", "Gods Plan"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of the last part of the Bible, which focuses on man, nation, and the person of Jesus Christ. He highlights that God values individuals more than the entire physical universe. The preacher also discusses the emphasis placed on the last eight days of Jesus' life in the four gospels, which highlight his death, burial, and resurrection. He explains that the purpose of the gospels is to convey the message of redemption through Christ's sacrifice. Additionally, the preacher mentions that the first eleven chapters of Genesis serve as an introduction to the Bible, with the main focus being on God's dealings with man and sin, rather than a scientific account of creation.

Transcript

Now, we have a major division in the book, and I've given you a little time to think about it. Where would you divide the book of Genesis if you did divide it into two parts? Well, the very interesting thing is that the first 11 chapters constitute a whole, and beginning with chapter 12 through 50, we have an altogether different section. They're divided in several different ways.

For instance, in the first section, you have the creation to Abraham, and in the last section, you have from Abraham to Joseph. The very interesting thing is that in the first section, we're dealing with great major subjects, subjects that still engage the minds of thoughtful men today. You have in the first 11 chapters, in the first two chapters, creation.

Chapters 3 and 4, the fall. Genesis 5 through 9, the flood. And Genesis 10 and 11, the Tower of Babel.

Now, when you come to the last division, it has to do with personalities, and there are four outstanding personalities in this section. Abraham, the man of faith, Genesis 12 through 23. Isaac, the beloved son, Genesis 24 to 26.

Jacob, the chosen and chastened son, Genesis 27 through 36. And Joseph, suffering and glory, Genesis 37 through 50. But my friend, that's not really the major division, although that's major enough.

But there is a division here that, to my judgment, is tremendous. And it has to do, actually, with time. The first 11 chapters cover approximately a minimum of 2,000 years, and I would say 2,000 years plus.

That means that the first 11 chapters could cover several, well, I'm prepared to say several hundred thousand. In fact, the matter is, I believe that this first section of Genesis can cover any time in the past that you need to fit into your theory, and the chances are you'd come short even then. We'll see that when we get down to these first few chapters in Genesis.

Now, here you have a book that, from Genesis 1 through Genesis 11, a minimum of 2,000 years. But from Genesis 12 through Genesis 50, only 350 years. Tell the truth, for beginning with the 12th chapter of Genesis and going all the way through the Old Testament, in fact covering the New Testament, you only cover 2,000 years.

So that, as far as time is concerned, you are halfway through the Bible when you cover the first 11 chapters. And from chapter 12 through the rest of the Bible, why you are covering 2,000 years. I actually believe that the first 11 chapters cover thousands of years longer than the other does.

Now, that ought to suggest something to your mind and to your heart, and that is that God has something very definite in mind when he gave this first section here. Moses is the writer. Fact of the matter is, the first five books of the Bible have been called a Pentitute, and they're called a Pentitute because Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, and I think there's an abundant evidence to testify to that.

And the first five books of the Bible, Moses is the author. Now, these first 11 chapters cover more than the rest of it put together. And where do you think then that Moses is putting the emphasis? On the first 11 chapters or on the rest of the Bible? Let me widen that out and say, where do you think God is putting the emphasis? Is the Spirit of God putting the emphasis on the first 11 chapters of Genesis or the rest of the Bible? Well, he's putting more emphasis, if you want to know the truth, on the last part.

And the subject of this first part has to do with the universe, with creation. And may I say that the last part deals with man, nation, and the person of Jesus Christ. May I say to you, God was more interested in Abraham than he was in the entire created universe.

And God, my friend, is more interested in you, and he touches more value to you than he does the entire universe, that is, the physical universe. Let me further illustrate that. You have in the four Gospels 89 chapters.

Only four chapters cover the first 30 years of the life of the Lord Jesus. 85 chapters cover the last three years of his life, and 27 chapters cover the last eight days of his life. Where do you think the Spirit of God's putting the emphasis? Well, I'm sure you'll say, well, the big emphasis is upon the last part, the last eight days, because there's 27 chapters.

And what is that all about? It's all about the death, burial, resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. And that, my friend, is the important part of the Gospel record. In other words, God has given the Gospels that you might believe that Christ died for our sins, that he was raised for our justification.

And that's essential. That's the thing that's important. It's the thing that's all important.

Now may I say to you that the first 11 chapters are merely the introduction to the Bible, and we need to look at it in that fashion. I'm of the opinion that if Moses were present today and heard all of the present-day discussion about creation, for instance, and the record that he gave, and what both the theologians and the scientists are saying, he'd be rather amused. And he would, I'm sure, make the comment, all of you really missed the point.

I wasn't attempting to give you the account of creation. I was just attempting to give you a few facts that would be the beginning. But that was not my story.

My story had to do with God dealing with man and sin. The story that I wanted to tell was the story of redemption. And if you think that I was writing a scientific book on creation, you missed the entire point.

I was writing a spiritual book on redemption. That's very, very important to see. Now, that doesn't mean we're going to pass over these first 11 chapters.

We're not. I intend to deal with them. We've got more time this time, as we've indicated, and we'll spend more time there.

Genesis, therefore, is the seed plot of the Bible, because you have here the beginning and the source and the birth of everything. In fact, the book of Genesis is just like the bud of a beautiful rose, and it opens out in the rest of the Bible. But its truth is given here in germ form.

And actually, I think one of the best divisions that can be made of the book of Genesis, and I have it in my notes and outlines that many of you have received, and I hope you'll pay attention to it, is to divide the book of Genesis according to the genealogies, according to the families. It opens with the book of the generations of the heaven and the earth. And then you have the generations of Adam and the generations of Noah, the sons of Noah, sons of Shem and of Terah and of Ishmael and of Isaac and of Esau and Jacob.

All of these are given to us in the book of Genesis, and it's a book of families. It's an amazing book, you see, and we should look at it, I think, largely from that particular viewpoint. Now, all of this that we are giving is actually preliminary study as we come.

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