

BOOK OF GENESIS, FACT OR FICTION?

Text: John 5:46-47

INTRO: The portion of Scripture we call the book of Genesis is a part of the book anciently known as the Law of Moses. That book was made up of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy.

Tho the book of Job was probably written before the book of Genesis, the book of Genesis goes back to the creation of the universe in its historical account. It is the book that gives us insight to the beginning of the universe, the creation of all plant and animal life, & the origin of the soul of man.

Because of the humanistic theories of evolution, many in our society do not accept the Biblical record of creation. Especially the first 11 chapters of Genesis are called in question.

In this lesson, we will give Biblical evidence that the book of Genesis contains a historically accurate account of the events it records.

I. SOME GENERAL FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

- A. It is an interesting book because it gives answers to questions that have been asked in every generation re origins, etc.
- B. We should be aware that our attitude toward Genesis cannot help but affect our attitude toward the remainder of the Bible as well.
- C. It is not surprising that infidels, atheists, agnostics, etc., do not accept the Genesis record. What is odd is that many theologians & "Christians" also deny its message.
- D. The weight of evidence favors a historical application of the Genesis record.

II. THE BOOK PRESENTS ITSELF AS HISTORY.

A basic rule of understanding: language is considered literal unless there is ample reason not to consider it so.

READ GENESIS 5:1.

III. THE OTHER O.T. WRITERS OBVIOUSLY ACCEPTED IT

AS AN ACCURATE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT.

- A. Moses continued to mention Adam, Deut. 32:8.
- B. Job referred to Adam, Job 31:33.
- C. Reference to Noah's flood are made by Isaiah (54:9), Ezekiel (14:14), & the writer of 1 Chron 1:4.
- D. Numerous other examples could be cited, but these are sufficient for our purpose.

IV. THE WRITERS OF THE N.T. ALSO ACCEPTED THE BOOK OF GENESIS AS AN ACCURATE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT.

- A. Adam is named in 5 chapters on the N.T. by 4 writers.
- B. Noah is mentioned by name in 6 chapters by 4 writers.
- C. Abel is mentioned in 4 chapters by 3 writers; Cain in 2 additional chapters by 2 additional writers.
- D. James is the only N.T. writer not to make mention of some event in the first 11 chapters of Genesis. He does make reference to chapter 22.

V. JESUS HINGED HIS WHOLE MINISTRY ON THE ACCURACY OF THE O.T. SCRIPTURES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON MOSES' WRITINGS.

- A. Marriage, Matt. 19:4-5.
- B. Spoke of Abel, Matt. 23:35.
- C. Spoke of Noah & the flood, Matt. 24:37.
- D. Plainly said that faith in Him hinged on faith in the statements of Moses. READ JOHN 5:46-47 again.

VI. CONSEQUENCES OF DENYING THE HISTORICITY OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

- A. To deny the accuracy of Genesis is to undermine the warnings based on it. MT 24:37; LK 17:32; MT 23:35
- B. To deny the accuracy of Genesis is to obscure the principles based on it, Matt. 19:9; 1 Tim. 2:12-14

- C. To deny the accuracy of Genesis is to undermine the inspiration of all O.T. & N.T. writers, for they all accepted it as an accurate historical account.

- D. To deny the Genesis account is to undermine faith in Jesus as the Bible portrays Him. Remember His words in John 5:46-47.

La Porte, TX, June 1, 1980

Exton, PA, February 26, 1989

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 24, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 24, 1999