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Tualatin Presbyterian Church

Genesis Outline

Introduction: Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells the story of the creation of the world as well as the creation of the Hebrew family. In the primordial history (Chapters 1-11) we see the creation and fall of humanity with humanity spinning further and further out of the control. Then in Abram's story (Genesis 12-23), we see God starting over by blessing Abram to be a blessing to the entire world. Then, we hear the difficult stories of Abraham's family as they ultimately find themselves in Egypt.

One thing to pay special attention to in Genesis is birth order. The ancient world followed the laws of primogeniture, meaning the first born son inherited the wealth and responsibility of the family line. In the ancient world the people always looked to God to work through the first born son. This expectation drives the stories of Abraham's children, and what makes Genesis so fascinating is the tension between human expectation and how God actually works- which, the careful reader will note, is hardly ever through the first born son.

Section One: Primordial History

- Chapter 1: First Creation story
- Chapter 2: Second Creation story- Adam and Eve
- Chapter 3: Serpent tempts Eve; Eve tempts Adam; expulsion
- Chapter 4: Cain and Abel
- Chapter 5: Descendants of Adam
- Chapter 6: God tells Noah to build an ark
- Chapter 7: The great flood
- Chapter 8: The flood subsides
- Chapter 9: Rainbow covenant; the sin of Ham/Canaan
- Chapter 10: Descendants of Noah
- Chapter 11: Tower of Babel

Section Two: Abraham Cycle

- Chapter 12: God calls Abraham
- Chapter 13: Abram's journey; God's promise to Abram
- Chapter 14: King Melchizedek blesses Abram
- Chapter 15: God's promise of land and descendants again to Abram
- Chapter 16: Sarai and Hagar; birth of Ishmael
- Chapter 17: Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah; circumcision; promise of Isaac
- Chapter 18: God in form of three visitors; Sarah's laugh; Abraham and God talk about Sodom and Gomorrah
- Chapter 19: Sodom and Gomorrah; Lot's daughters
- Chapter 20: Abimelech and Sarah
- Chapter 21: Birth of Isaac; Hagar and Ishmael sent away
- Chapter 22: Sacrifice of Isaac
- Chapter 23: Death of Sarah

Section Three: Isaac Cycle

- Chapter 24: Rebekah at the well
- Chapter 25: Abraham's death; Ishmael's descendants; birth of Esau and Jacob; the stew and the birthright
- Chapter 26: Isaac's trouble with Abimelech
- Chapter 27: Jacob stealing Esau's birthright

Section Three: Jacob Cycle

- Chapter 28: Jacob's vision at Bethel

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Chapter 29: Jacob and Rachel and Leah

Chapter 30: Birth of the tribes; Jacob tricks Laban out of his goats

Chapter 31: Jacob and family flee from Laban

Chapter 32: Esau preparing to meet Jacob; Jacob wrestles with angel- now Israel

Chapter 33: Esau forgives Jacob

Chapter 34: Rape of Dinah; the tribe's revenge on the men of Shechem

Chapter 35: Commission of Jacob again; summary of children

Chapter 36: Esau's descendants

Section Four: Joseph Cycle

Chapter 37: Joseph's coat; dream of the sheaves; brothers throw J in pit

Chapter 38: Judah and Tamar

Chapter 39: Joseph and Potiphar's wife

Chapter 40: Joseph interprets dreams

Chapter 41: Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams; Joseph becomes #2 in Egypt; Joseph's sons are Mannaseh and Ephraim

Chapter 42: Brothers go to Egypt looking for food; Joseph requires they come back with Benjamin

Chapter 43: Brothers go back to Egypt

Chapter 44: Joseph charges brothers with stealing

Chapter 45: Joseph reveals he is their brother; brothers return to Jacob

Chapter 46: Roll call

Chapter 47: Whole family moves to Egypt

Chapter 48: Jacob blesses Ephraim ahead of Manasseh

Chapter 49: Jacob blesses the sons

Chapter 50: Jacob dies; Joseph dies

Stories to know: The two creation stories (1:1-2:9); The call of Abraham (12:1-9); Joseph and brothers in Egypt (50:15-21)