

An Outline of the Book of Genesis†

A. Primeval Stories

Prologue: Creation of Heaven and Earth (1:1—2:3)

1. Introductory statement (1:1)
2. Negative state at time of creation (1:2)
3. Six days of creation (1:3—31)
4. Summary statement (2:1)
5. Epilogue: Sabbath rest (2:2-3)

1. *Toledot of the Heavens and Earth (2:4—4:26)* [→ Narrative]

parBhBj Ārahw' pymVh' twǝl jǝt hLae

“These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created”

1. Superscription (2:4)
2. Negative state at time of humankind’s creation (2:5-6)
3. Adam and Even on probation in paradise (2:7-25)
4. Fall and its consequences (chap. 3)
5. Escalation of sin in line of Cain (4:1-24)
6. Godly remnant (4:25-26)

2. *Toledot of Adam’s genealogy (5:1—6:8)* [→ Vertical Genealogy]

µda: tǝl jǝt rpsehz< “This is the list of the generations of Adam”

1. Superscription (5:1a)
2. Covenant line of Seth (5:1b-32)
3. Escalation of sin before the flood (6:1-8)

3. *Toledot of Noah (6:9—9:29)* [→ Narrative]

j hǝ twǝl jǝt hLae “These are the generations of Noah”

1. Superscription (6:9a)
2. Account of the flood (6:9b—8:22)
3. Covenant not to destroy the earth (9:1-17)
4. Prophecies about Noah’s sons (9:18-27)
5. Epilogue (9:28-29)

4. *Toledot of Shem, Ham, and Japheth (10:1—11:9)* [→ Horizontal Genealogy]

tpyw: µj; µve j hAynBj twǝl jǝt hLaww “These are the generations of Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth”

1. Superscription (10:1)
2. Table of nations (10:2-32)
3. Escalation of evil in Babylon (11:1-9)

5. *Toledot of Shem (11:10-26)* [→ Vertical Genealogy]

µve twǝl jǝt hLae “These are the generations of Shem”

B. Patriarchal Stories

6. *Toledot of Terah (Abraham) (11:27—25:11)* [→ Narrative]

j rT, twǝl jǝt hLaww “And these are the generations of Terah”

† Prepared by Tyler F. Williams (2003).

1. Superscription (11:27a)
2. Genealogy and migration (11:27-32)
3. Abraham's call and covenant (12:1-22:19)
4. Transition to Isaac (22:20-25:11)
 - a. Rebekah's family background (22:20-24)
 - b. Death of Sarah (chap. 23)
 - c. Gift of Rebekah to Isaac (chap. 24)
 - d. Isaac the sole heir (25:1-6)
 - e. Death of Abraham (25:7-11)

7. Toledot of Ishmael (25:12-18) [→ Horizontal Genealogy]

µhrbbaA-B, l a [envj] tdd JTo hLaw "And these are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son"

8. Toledot of Isaac (25:19—35:29) [→ Narrative]

µhrbbaA-B, qj xyl twdl Jt hLaw "And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son"

- A. Beginnings. Birth, predictions, Jacob steals Esau's birthright (25:19-34)
- B. Isaac and the Philistines (26:1-22)
- C. Jacob cheats Esau of his blessing (27:1-40)
 - "He took [*laqah*] my blessing [*beraka*]" ytkrBij q! ;(vv. 35-36)
- D. Jacob's flight from Esau (27:41-28:5)
- E. Encounter with God at Bethel (28:10-22)
- F. Jacob in Haran; Rachel, Laban (29:1-30)
- G. Children born and wealth acquired (30:1-43)
- F' Departure from Haran; Rachel, Laban (31:1-55)
- E' Encounter with God at Mahanaim (32:1-2)
- D' Jacob's approach to Esau (32:3-32)
- C' Jacob returns Esau's blessing (33:1-20)
 - "Accept [*laqah*] my blessing [*beraka*]" ytkrBAta, anAj q" (v. 11)
- B' Dinah and the Hivites (34:1-31)
- A' Endings. Death, fulfillment, Jacob & Esau together again (35:1-29)

9. Toledot of Esau (36:1—37:1) [→ Horizontal Genealogy]

µwda' allh w:c[etwdl] Jt hLaw "These are the generations of Esau (that is, Edom)"

ry[ic:rhB] µwda' yba) w:c[etwdl] Jt hLaw "These are the generations of Esau, father of Edom, in the hill country of Seir" (Gen 36:9)

10 Toledot of Jacob (37:2—50:26) [→ Narrative]

bq[yl] twdl Jt hLae "These are the generations of Jacob"

1. Joseph sold into Egypt (37:2-36)
 - a. Superscription (37:2)
 - b. Joseph's dream of rulership (37:2-11)
2. Family sins: Tamar & Judah (37:12—38:30)
3. Joseph's rise to power over Egypt (39:1—41:57)
 - a. Joseph & Potiphar (39:1-20)
 - b. Joseph in Prison (39:21—40:23)
 - c. Joseph in the Palace (41:1-57)
4. Joseph refines the covenant family (42:1—47:31)
 - a.' 1st Visit to Egypt (42:1-38)
 - B.' 2nd Visit to Egypt (43:1—45:28)
 - C.' 3rd Visit to Egypt (46:1—47:31)
5. The Last Days of Jacob and Joseph (48:1—50:26)
 - a. Jacob's blessings on twelve tribes (48:1—49:28)
 - b. Jacob's death and burial in Canaan (49:29—50:14)
 - c. Joseph's burial in Egypt with promises of Canaan (50:15-26)