

In the Beginning

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ:

"In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

The Hebrew designation for the first book of the Bible is *Bereshit* (בראשית). It is also the first word of the book in the Hebrew text, as well as the name for the first *Parsha*. *Bereshit* is actually a compound word comprised of two Hebrew words: **ב** the preposition meaning *in (the)* and **ראש** the root which means *beginning*. Hence, the title for this first book of the Torah means *In the Beginning* and, indicates to us that the book describes the beginning of everything: *♪ En el principio el Espiritu de Dios ♪*

Another ancient Hebrew name for the first book of the *Torah* is *Sefer Maaseh Bereshit the Book of Creation*. The English name, *Genesis*, is derived from the *Septuagint* (LXX), which is the first known translation of the Hebrew Bible into another language, in this case *Koine Greek*. It was finished around 250 BCE by a committee of seventy rabbis in Egypt. The LXX employs the Greek word *genesis* which literally means *origins* as the title for this book. Therefore, the Greek/English title also speaks of creation or beginnings. This is the first book of the *Torah*, which is called the *Pentateuch* from *penta* (which is Greek for five) and *teuchos* (which means tools). The *Torah* was written by Moses.

Biblical scholars have noted a pattern within *Bereshit* itself that perhaps Moses used to indicate his own sections within the book. These take the form of the phrase *"these are the generations of"* which in Hebrew is the word *Toledot* (תולדות). This word suggests a movement from starting point to a finishing point, from a cause to an effect, from a progenitor to a progeny (a key individual in *Elohim's* plan).

Everyone and everything Has a Beginning – Everyone Except The Almighty. Elohim (a Hebrew plural masculine word literally meaning *unique deities* which is only used in the context of *The Eternal* (יהוה)) did not come from anything. He has always been (*Jo. 1:1-2; Gen. 1:1-2*). He is completely self-sufficient depending on no one outside of Himself. But He chose to create. In His Sovereignty He chose to create the world and He chose to create us. We did not choose to be born. That is ultimately why we are here!

This table comes from *Walk-Thru-the-Bible* giving a concise & memorable summary of Genesis:

FOUR EVENTS					FOUR PEOPLE			
Creation	Fall	Flood	Nations		Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
Ch. 1-2	Ch. 3-5	Ch. 6-9	Ch. 10-11		Ch. 12-25	Ch. 26-27	Ch. 28-36	Ch. 37-50
The beginning of the human race				Beginnings	The beginning of the chosen race			
Confusion and scattering				Result	Bondage in Egypt			
Primeval history				History	Patriarchal History			
Over 2,000 years				Chronology	Approximately 300 years			
"The seed of the woman"				Emphasis	Melchizedek, Berit, Bethel, Azazel, Deliverer			
1:1	5:1	6:9	10:1	Keys	11:10	11:27	25:12	37:2

This is the *Toledot* Breakdown of the Book:

GENESIS 1:1-2:4	THE HISTORY/ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE
GENESIS 2:5-5:2	THE HISTORY/ORIGIN OF ADAM/MANKIND
GENESIS 5:3-6:9A	THE HISTORY/ORIGIN OF NOAH
GENESIS 6:9B - 10:1	THE HISTORY/ORIGIN OF NOAH'S SONS
GENESIS 10:2-11:10A	THE HISTORY/ORIGIN OF <i>SHEM</i>
GENESIS 11:10B-27A	THE HISTORY/ORIGIN OF <i>TERAH</i>
GENESIS 11:27B - 25:12	THE HISTORY/ORIGIN OF ISHMAEL
GENESIS 25:13-19A	THE HISTORY/ORIGIN OF ISAAC
GENESIS 25:19B - 26:1	THE HISTORY/ORIGIN OF ESAU AND JACOB

This is a basic Two Point Thematic Outline of the Book:

GENESIS 1:1-11:32	THE BEGINNING OF MANKIND I. THE BEGINNING OF CREATION, CHAPTER 1 II. THE BEGINNING OF PEOPLE, CHAPTER 2 III. THE BEGINNING OF SIN, CHAPTER 3 IV. THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN CONFLICT, CHAPTER 4 V. THE MULTIPLICATION OF MANKIND, CHAPTER 5 VI. THE JUDGMENT AGAINST SINFUL MANKIND, CHAPTERS 6-8 VII. THE COVENANT WITH <i>NOACH</i> , CHAPTER 9
GENESIS 12:1-50:26	THE BEGINNING OF OUR JEWISH PEOPLE A. ABRAHAM — CHAPTERS 12-20 B. ISAAC — CHAPTERS 21-26 C. JACOB — CHAPTERS 27-36 D. JOSEPH — CHAPTERS 37-50

This is a basic Geographical Outline of the Book:

GENESIS 1:1-50:26	I. <i>GAN EDEN</i> — CHAPTERS 1-3 II. MESOPOTAMIA — CHAPTERS 4-11 III. CANAAN — CHAPTERS 12-36 IV. EGYPT — CHAPTERS 37-50
-------------------	--

There is a Hidden Message in the Hebrew Name of the First Book of the *Torah*. The name of the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet is **ב** *Beit* (בית), which means *house*. This word is found in several Hebrew names, such as בית-אל (*Bethel*, House of *El*), and בית-לחם (*Bethlehem*, House of Bread). Even the shape of the letter depicts the floor, ceiling, wall, and doorway of a house. Since the name and form of *Beit* represent a house, in several ways it symbolizes a dwelling place, i.e., (1) *Yeshua*, in Whom the fullness of *Elohim* dwells, and (2) The Bible, where *Elohim's Word* to mankind dwells, and (3) The creation itself, the present dwelling place of mankind. Notice how this first *Beit* is printed oversized **ב** – the only oversized *Beit* in the entire *Torah*. It is as if *Elohim* was saying “*I am housing for you something very special, Torah, the words of life itself.*” Indeed, *Torah* is *Life* and a *Tree of Life* (*Etz Chayim*).

If we divide the Hebrew word *Bereshit* into its root *rosh* then what is left is the word *Beit*. *Rosh* literally means head and, of course, *Beit* we know means house. *Bereshit* is thus, the *House of the Head*, or the *Head of the House*. We know *Torah* is the *House of the Wisdom of El* and we also know *Yeshua* is the *Head of the House*. Do you see the connection? *Beit* follows *aleph* in the Hebrew alphabet and in the pointed form of the letter *Beit* (בּ) it points left toward א and also points toward heaven. *Beit* is the house of *Aleph*, which is in heaven, the house of *Yeshua*, the Word made flesh.

Other key attributes include: (1) The key verse “*Enmity between Satan & Yeshua, born of a woman*” which is our *Redemption/Future Hope* (*Gen. 3:15*); (2) the key attribute of *Elohim* is that He is Sovereign. Man does not appear on the scene until the 6th day. Does the Almighty really need man? In His own words No (*Ps. 50:12*). What then does He expect from us? His own words answer the question for us: Fear Him and Love Him with all our heart and soul (*Deut. 10:12-13*) and (3) the key attribute of humanity is ruin and rebellion through sin. Was it necessary to sin? (*Gen. 3:8-19*) Is it necessary today? Is it necessary for you to *experience* sin in your life? He wanted us “*not to know good and evil.*” The word translated *to know* is the Hebrew verb *LaDa-at*, meaning to be *intimate* or to have *sexual relations*. *Yah* does not want us to be intimate with Satan or sin! So many reasons to dig into *Bereshit* with fear and trembling. *Shabbat Shalom!*