

Genesis at the Beginning of Time	ESV “Genesis” by Dr. T. Desmond Alexander, Union Theological College (Belfast), (pages 39-48).	
<p><i>Key Theological Themes:</i></p> <p>1) [God as creator] commissions human beings as his priestly vice-regents or representatives so that they might fill the earth and caringly govern the other creatures (1:1-2:25)</p> <p>2) Abandoning their priestly and royal duties, the human couple rebel against God and betray him by acting on the serpent’s suggestions; their willful disobedience radically affects human nature and the harmonious order of creation (3:1-24; 6:5-6)</p>	<p><u>Date</u> . . .Genesis seems to reflect very well its origin in the second millennium B.C. (Moses lived in the 1500s or 1300s). For example, the flood story finds its best parallels in the Atrahasis and Gilgamesh epics and in the Sumerian flood story, which were composed c. 1600 B.C., while genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 find a parallel in the Sumerian King List, dated about 1900 B.C.</p> <p><u>Background</u> . . .Genesis is a history book, with its history packaged in literary forms. . . . Unifying literary motifs include: (1) The characterization of God and the story of his dealings with people. (2) The sinfulness of the human race and individuals within it. (3) The story of the unfolding plan of God to redeem a people for himself despite human waywardness. (4) The “hero story” as the nearly constant genre. (5) Characters, characters, characters: as one reads Genesis, one is continually drawn into encounters with unforgettable characters and their stories, and lessons about wisdom and folly that can be learned from them.</p>	
Outline	I. Primeval History (1:1-11:26) II. Patriarchal History (11:27-40:26)	
Genesis	Zondervan Handbook to the Bible “Genesis” (page 115-157).	
Summary	Chapters 1-11	Chapter 12-50
The creation of the world and its spoiling. The call and promise of God to Abraham and his descendants.	The creation Human downfall The great flood	Stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph