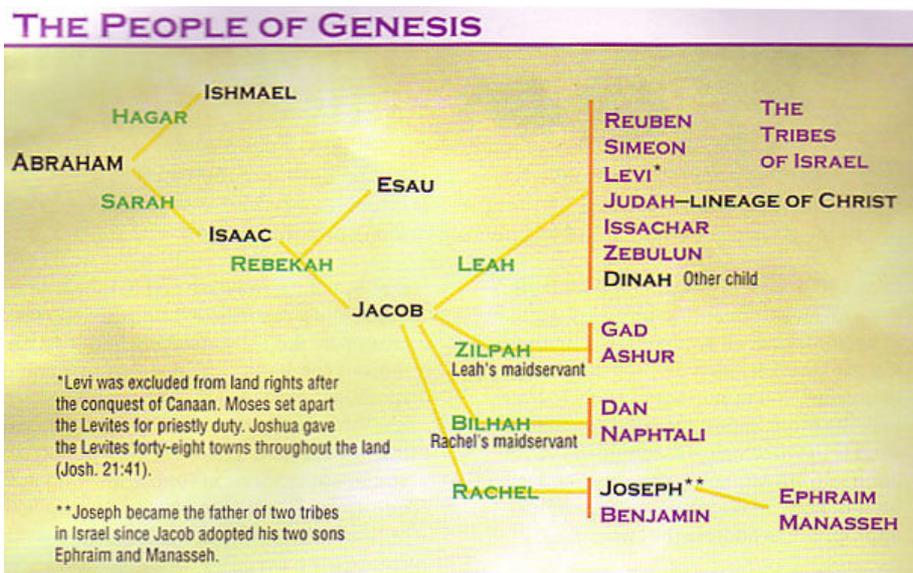
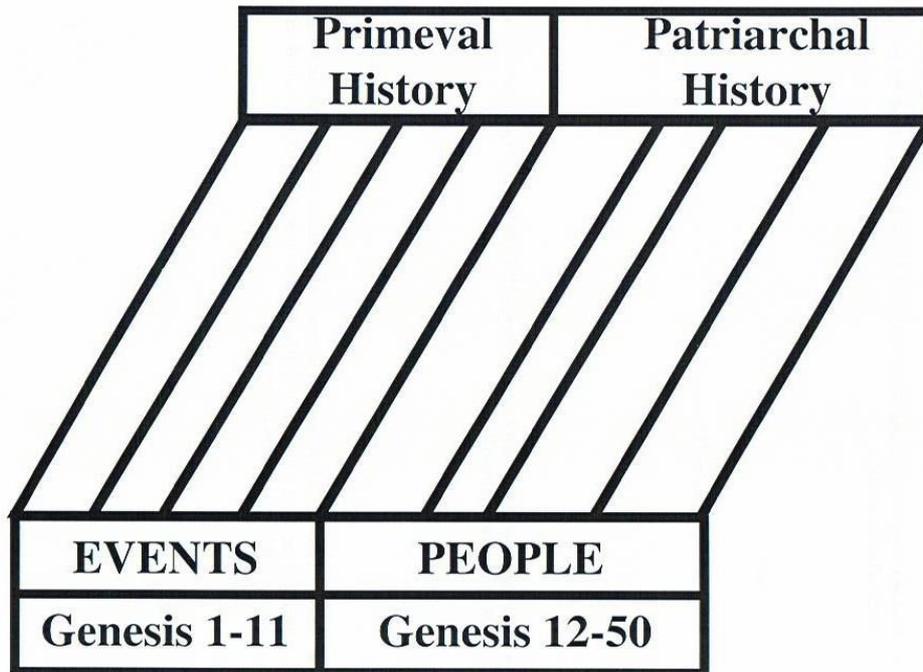


GENESIS

The word '*genesis*' means beginning.

The book **Genesis** is about the beginning of human history, the beginning of God's redemption of sinners.



The 'story' of **Genesis** is the exciting story of God's redemption plan in action, moving from universal in scope to a particular man and his family. It tells how God created man in the beginning, but man rebelled against God. Man got from bad to worse, until God sends the Flood in judgment. The Flood resulted in a 'new' start for this earth, but man's sinful nature remains, and the climax is seen in the Tower of Babel.

God's answer to man's rebellion and sin is to choose an unknown man from an idolatrous situation to work out His salvation.

Now the LORD had said to Abram:

Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.

*I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you;
and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

Genesis 12:1-3

God chose Abram, promised to give him a land, a seed and make him a blessing to others. Note the 'instrument' role of Abram and his descendants: *in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

And the LORD said:

Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

Genesis 18:17-19

Genesis 12:1-3 is being referred to here. The context is God's threatened judgment upon Sodom. In contrast, He sets Abram up, saying that He will make Abram a great nation and that through Abram, all the nations of the earth will be blessed. The way forward is that Abram must order/command his children to keep the way of the Lord.

The rest of Genesis shows us how God keeps His Word faithfully, through the faith and failure of Abram and his descendants.

ONE lesson from Genesis-overview:

God's answer to man's sin is to choose a man and through that man to work out His redemption.

This is the calling and mission of Israel.

God is going to bless Israel, not just so that Israel will enjoy themselves and be different from others. The blessing of Israel is with a goal in mind - that all the nations will receive God's blessings.

Israel is called to be the light of the nations. Israel has the laws so that the world may know what exactly God wants and how exactly a life that pleases God would look like.

The Christian Church today is New Testament Israel. Similarly, we are called to be the salt and light of the world. God blessed us with His salvation and His Word, not so that we enjoy ourselves and build a fortress around ourselves, but with a goal and mission in mind.

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