

Genesis Discussion Qs

1. What is the translation of the Hebrew word “toledoth”?

It means “generations of” or “account of” and indicates what came forth from so and so. It is an introductory cue that states the name of the father to introduce an over view of the life of the son. Thus the life of Jacob comes after the heading “these are the generations of Isaac” and the life of Joseph comes after the heading “these are the generations of Jacob.”

The toledoths give us ten sections to the book of Genesis.

2. Where did the name, Genesis, come from?

The LXX translators named the book based on the toledoths. Genesis means generations of but we also think of Genesis in light of the Hebrew name for the book taken from the opening words, “in the beginning.”

3. If the toledoths give us 10 sections, why speak about five episodes with six main characters:

1) Adam and Eve, 2) Noah, 3) Abraham, 4) Jacob, and 5) Joseph?

Adam and Eve are central in the first episode.

Per the content of the toledoths, it is evident that many of them are very general containing genealogical lists. This fact sets the five specific accounts in bold relief. The general toledoths are part of the transition between main characters as they fade in and out from center stage in the narrative.

4. How should we understand “let us” in Gen 1.26?

With OT monotheistic glasses on (emphasizing “The Lord our God, the Lord is one,” Deu 6.4), various explanations may be given like the view that God includes the angels with Him in the creation of man.

From the full light of the NT, this is something there in the OT dimly lit room that becomes clear in the coming of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit, namely, the fact that God is a trinity. Christ was in the beginning with God and He is God.

5. Adam and Eve were created innocent and upright but were they complete in their uprightness?

They were perfect at the stage in which they were in but per the test by means of the forbidden tree they would reach another stage, namely, eternal life. In front of them and promised to them was eternal Sabbath rest at the end of history. By obedience, they would move through history toward something higher that is summarized in the promise of rest at the end of all the cycles of work and rest in history.

6. How does the fall affect the original promise?

God will keep His promise of rest for His image bearer at the end of history now by means of redemption. Hence, the promise of the descendent of Eve (Gen 3.15) that will bring restoration from all the effects of the fall. This bruised descendent will bless the nations (12.3), as the sacrificed son of Abraham (Gen 22); He will be the mediator between heaven and earth, that is, He is Jacob’s ladder (Gen 28), and though He will be betrayed by His brothers as the true Joseph, He will be exalted (raised from the dead!).

Thus the theme of Genesis is **God's promise of Sabbath rest to man, His image, accomplished providentially in history by redemptive grace because of the fall and realized in the seed of Eve, Noah, Abraham, and the twelve sons of Israel temporarily residing in Egypt.**

7. What can we learn from the fact that the great characters of the Bible are frail sinners?

We learn that God saves sinners such as we are.