

GENESIS ('BEGINNINGS') - IN ITS THREE BASIC PARTS

(The writer's readership is ISRAEL; he is telling his people that the God who created the world created them to be his own great nation.)

1.1-8.22 (OPENING SECTION – 8 CHAPTERS) 'GOD'S FIRST ENDEAVOURS WITH MAN'

Creation and the God of Creation; his intentions for man and man's limited capacity to live as he wanted (1.27 'increase and multiply'). God wanted man to live obediently in the garden in which he placed him, along with animals of all kinds and, eventually, a woman. Their disobedience led to their being banned from the garden and as mankind settled here, there and everywhere and behaved badly, God decided he would finish with his first plans and rid the earth of all he had made but for one family and two of every kind of animal and bird. The flood ends this part of the story of God and man and man's failing to please God.

A	1.1-3.24	1.1-2.3/2.4-24/3.1-24	creation; man's disobedience
B	4.1-5.32	4.1-16/4.17-24/4.25-5.32	births and more births
B'	6.1-8.22	6.1-7.10/7.11-8.12/8.13-22	still more, God exacts judgement

9.1-34.31 (MIDDLE SECTION – 26 CH): 'THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB'

Following the Flood, a restart, a new creation based on Noah's family for whom life is now limited to a lower number of years, to tilling and toiling, to bearing children in pain, but, a plus from before, to eating now both vegetables and animals. The people are to 'increase and multiply' (9.1 and 9.7). Noah's sons marry; their wives have children who then occupy different lands. Out of Shem's succession, Terah becomes Abram's father. Sarai is introduced as barren. Yet God promises Abram that he will be 'the father of a great nation' (12.2) which he will bless as his own. In turn, it will bless all other nations. God is established in this era as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He shows himself, says the writer, to be orchestrating things...

A	9.1-16.16	9.1-11.32/12.1-14.24/15.1-16.16	nations established; Abram called
C	17.1-25.34	17.1-27/18.1-25.11/25.12-34	Covenants; Sarah and Abraham die
A'	26.1-34.31	26.1-27.40/27.41-30.43/31.1-34.31	Isaac, Jacob and Esau

35.1-50.26 (CLOSING SECTION – 16 CH): 'ISRAEL - GROWING IN EGYPT'

Jacob is called 'ISRAEL'; his continuing story is prefaced with an introductory command, similar to those we find at the earlier sectional beginnings, 'increase and multiply' (35.11-13). Later we read 'and I will make you a great nation' (46.2-4) in EGYPT, though Jacob's story here is mostly to do with Joseph and his brothers, the 'twelve'. Their family numbers 'seventy' in all as they settle comfortably in Egypt as a famine rages elsewhere. (This number contrasts later with the 600,000 men who leave Egypt, a number which does not include women and children.) At the last, Jacob dies and is laid to rest where Abraham and Sarah and Isaac and Rebekah are buried near Mamre in Canaan. Joseph's death is recorded also; he is placed in a coffin in Egypt.

A	35.1-37.2a	35.1-15/35.16-29/36.1-37.2a	God's promises to Jacob; twelve
B	37.2b-41.57	37.2b-36/38.1-39.23/40.1-41.57	Joseph's adventures
B'	42.1-50.26	42.1-45.28/46.1-47.26/47.27-50.26	Jacob, sons & families - to Egypt

TORAH (the Law, Teaching, Pentateuch, ‘Five Books of Moses’)

1 Genesis	ABB'X(ACA');ABB'	(XC = Leadership Changes)	ABB'A'; ABB'; abb'	
	1.1-8.22	'GOD'S FIRST ENDEAVOURS WITH MAN'		49 T
A	1.1-3.24	creation; man's disobedience		W
B	4.1-5.32	births and more births		R
B'	6.1-8.22	still more, God exacts judgement		H
	9.1-34.31	'THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB'		
A	9.1-16.16	nations established; Abram called		
C	17.1-25.34	Covenant(s); NEW LEADERSHIP - Sarah and Abraham die		
A'	26.1-34.31	Isaac, Jacob and Esau		
	35.1-50.26	'ISRAEL - GROWING IN EGYPT'		
A	35.1-37.2a	God's promises to Jacob; twelve		
B	37.2b-41.57	Joseph's adventures		
B'	42.1-50.26	Jacob, sons and families - to Egypt		
2 Exodus	ABB'X(ACA');ABB'	(X = Arriving in Sinai + Covenant)	ABB'; abb'	
	1.1-18.27	'ISRAEL'S SUFFERING AND ITS EXODUS'		49 T
A	1.1-6.27	Israel grows in Egypt and suffers; Call of Moses		W
B	6.28-10.29	Moses and Aaron sent to Pharaoh; Plagues		R
A'(?)	11.1-18.27	Firstborn –deliverance, Israel's leaving of Egypt		H
	19.1-24.18	'ARRIVAL AT MOUNT SINAI, A COVENANT'		
A	19.1-25	Moses on the Mountain; a Covenant		
C	20.1-23.33	Commandments and Instructions		
A'	24.1-18	The Covenant is confirmed		
	25.1-40.38	'GOD IS TO BE WITH THEM AS THEY JOURNEY'		
A	25.1-31.11	a Tabernacle is to be prepared		
B	31.12-35.3	Sabbath rules; the Golden Calf; Moses' radiant face		
A'(?)	35.4-40.38	the tabernacle is built and God enters it		
C Leviticus	ABB'X(ACA');ABB'	(XC = Day of Atonement)	ABB'; abb'	
	1.1-9.24	'LAWS FOR PEOPLE AND PRIESTS'		7 Y
A	1.1-6.7	Laws (regarding offerings) for the people		H
B	6.8-7.38	Laws (regarding offerings) for the priests		W
B'	8.1-9.24	Priests are ordained and begin ministry to the Glory of the Lord		H
	10.1-19.37	'PURITY LAWS'		H
A	10.1-15.33	God is Holy; rules on purity and cleansing		
C	16.1-34	The Day of Atonement		
A'	17.1-19.37	Proper sacrificing, purity laws; 'Be Holy, for I... am holy.'		
	20.1-27.34	'PUNISHMENTS, PRIVILEGES OF PEOPLE AND PRIESTS'		
A	20.1-22.33	punishments, readiness for the land flowing with milk and honey		
B	23.1-25.55	Appointed Feasts and Years		
A'(?)	26.1-27.34	punishments and rewards for obedience		
2' Numbers	ABB'X(ACA');ABB'	(X = Moving on from Sinai)	ABB'; abb'	
	1.1-10.10	'FIRST CENSUS; PREPARATIONS TO ENTER THE LAND'		49 H
A	1.1-6.27	the first census is undertaken		R
B	7.1-89	twelve days of offerings at the Dedication of the Tabernacle		W
B'	8.1-10.10	the Tabernacle is set up, God is present; silver trumpets are ready		T
	10.11-25.18	'THE ISRAELITES SET OFF FROM SINAI'		
A	10.11-13.33	they leave Sinai (no food!); send men ahead to explore the land		
C	14.1-19.22	the people ('counted in the census') rebel: 'to fall by the sword'		
A'	20.1-25.18	journeying on (no water!); provided for, they battle on		
	26.1-36.13	'SECOND CENSUS '		
A	26.1-29.40	second census; Zelophehad's daughters; Joshua to replace Moses		
B	30.1-32.42	Vows; Moses last task –vengeance on Midianites; Gilead		
A'(?)	33.1-36.13	Stages in Israel's journey; land boundaries; Zelophehad's daughters		
1' Deuteronomy	ABB'X(ACA');ABB'	(XC = Leadership Changes)	ABB'; abb'	
	1.5b-17.13	'MOVING ON FROM HOREB TOWARDS THE PROMISED LAND'		(49) H
A	1.5b-3.29	their stay had been long enough, 'break camp, take possession		R
B	4.1-11.32	obedience is commanded; commands, decrees and laws		W
B'	12.1-17.13	one place of worship, special years, Feasts		T
	17.14-19.21	'WHEN YOU ENTER THE LAND; NEW LEADERSHIP '		
A	17.14-20	appoint the king God chooses for you		
C	18.1-8	the priests , their share...		
A'	18.9-19.21	no sorcery, but God will provide you a prophet		
	20.1-34.12	'FINAL COMMANDS; THE SONG OF MOSES; MOSES DIES'		
A	20.1-26.19	going to war; 'treasured possession', honoured above all nations		
B	27.1-28.68	laws - to be written down on plaster on stone, curses and blessings		
B'	29.1-34.12	Covenant renewed; Joshua succeeds Moses, his Song and death		