

Introduction to Genesis

Genesis is the launch pad of the biblical story: the story of creation, the birth of the human race, the introduction of sin, the origin of the nation of Israel and the first steps of God's plan of salvation. Grasping the message of Genesis is the basis for all that follows. In this session we will introduce the purpose, structure and themes of Genesis and prepare to study through this book in the coming days together.

Andy Hamilton is originally from Northern Ireland but has lived in Italy for most of his life. Andy obtained a Master of Theology from Queen's University Belfast through Belfast Bible College and a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He lives in the outskirts of Rome where he serves as Vice Principal of the Italian Evangelical Bible Institute (www.ibei.it) as well as being involved in church leadership. He is married to Ruth, and they have three children: Isaiah, Hollie, and Joshua.

I. Introduction:

A. Genesis in the Torah

B. Genesis in the Canon

C. Two titles

D. Two audiences

II. Book structure:

A. Macrostructure

B. 4 Events & 4 Generations

C. Toledot

III. Book of the beginnings:

A. Universe

B. Man

C. Marriage

D. Sin

E. Covenant

IV. Genesis as Literature:

A. Historically Accurate

B. Theologically Driven

C. Artistically Sophisticated

V. Genesis and Us:

A. Infallible not Omniscient

B. Priority not Curiosity

C. Levels of Narrative

Suggested Readings:

Arthurs, Jeffrey D., *Preaching with Variety: How to re-create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2007.

Ross, Allen P., *Creation & Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1998.

Goldingay, John. *Genesis*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020.