

Genesis: The Foundations of our Faith

Introduction, Part I

Faith Reformed Church Sunday School

February 18, 2024

1. Introduction: Genesis as Foundational to our Faith

A. Foundational to our *Worldview*

- i. What is real?
- ii. Where did I come from?
- iii. Why am I here?
- iv. Where are things headed?

B. Foundational to *Scripture*

C. Foundational to *Ethics*

2. Opening Prayer

3. Authorship

A. Anonymity

B. The Role of Moses

C. The Role of Spirit-Inspired Scribes

D. Divine Authorship

4. Structure

A. Primeval History (Gen. 1-11) and Patriarchal History (Gen. 12-50)

B. “These are the generations” formula (Gen. 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10, 27; 25:12, 19; 36:1, 9; 37:2)

C. Five “Cycles”:

1. The Adam Cycle (Gen. 1:1-6:8) – **March 10**
2. The Noah Cycle (Gen. 6:9-11:9) – **March 17**
3. The Abraham Cycle (Gen. 11:27-25:11) – **April 7**
4. The Jacob Cycle (Gen. 25:19-35:29) – **April 14**
5. The Joseph Cycle (Gen. 37:2-50:26) – **April 21**

5. Genre

A. “Family History”

B. Three Dimensions:

1. Historical – the way things *were*
2. Etiological – the way things *came to be*
3. Paradigmatic – the way things *are*

6. Theme

A. The book of Genesis is about *God's promise to generate a righteous seed*

B. Outline of the Plot:

Genesis 1

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 4

The Purpose of the Genealogies

The Problem of Sin

The After-Story: Ruth, Chronicles, Matthew

7. Purpose

A. Strengthening the Foundations of our Faith

B. Generating the "Righteous Seed"

8. Closing Prayer