The English title, Genesis, comes from the Greek translation (Septuagint, LXX), meaning "origins"; whereas, the Hebrew title is derived from the Bible's very first word, translated "in the beginning."

Genesis serves to introduce the Pentateuch (the first five books of the OT) and the entire Bible. The influence of Genesis in Scripture is demonstrated by being quoted over thirty-five times in the NT, with hundreds of allusions appearing in both testaments.

Genesis by content is comprised of two basic sections: (1) **Primitive history (Gen. 1-11)** and

**(2) Patriarchal history (Gen. 12-50)**. Primitive history records four major events: (1) creation (Gen. 1; 2); (2) the Fall (Gen. 3-5); (3) the flood (Gen. 6-9); and (4) the dispersion (Gen. 10; 11). Patriarchal history spotlights four great men: (1) Abraham (Gen. 12:1-25:8); (2) Isaac (Gen. 21:1-35:29); (3) Jacob (Gen. 25:21-50:14); and (4) Joseph (Gen. 30:22-50:26).

**I. The Creation of Heaven and Earth (Gen. 1:1-2:3)**

**II. The Generations of the Heavens and the Earth (Gen. 2:4-4:26)**

1. Adam and Eve in Eden (Gen\_2:4-25)
2. The Fall and Its Outcomes (Gen\_3:1-24)
3. Murder of a Brother (Gen\_4:1-24)
4. Hope in the Descendants of Seth (Gen\_4:25-26)

**III. The Generations of Adam (Gen. 5:1-6:8)**

A. Genealogy—Adam to Noah (Gen\_5:1-32)

B. Rampant Sin Prior to the Flood (Gen\_6:1-8)

**IV. The Generations of Noah (Gen. 6:9-9:29)**

A. Preparation for the Flood (Gen. 6:9-7:9)

B. The Flood and Deliverance (Gen. 7:10-8:19)

C. God's Noahic Covenant (Gen. 8:20-9:17)

D. The History of Noah's Descendants (Gen\_9:18-29)

**V. The Generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen. 10:1-11:9)**

A. The Nations (Gen\_10:1-32)

B. Dispersion of the Nations (Gen\_11:1-9)

**VI. The Generations of Shem: Genealogy of Shem to Terah (Gen\_11:10-26)**

**VII. The Generations of Terah (Gen. 11:27-25:11)**

1. Genealogy (Gen\_11:27-32)
2. The Abrahamic Covenant: His Land and People (Gen. 12:1-22:19)

* Journey to the Promised Land (Gen\_12:1-9)
* Redemption from Egypt (Gen\_12:10-20)
* Division of the land (Gen\_13:1-18)
* Victory over the kings (Gen\_14:1-24)
* The covenant ratified (Gen\_15:1-21)
* Rejection of Hagar and Ishmael (Gen\_16:1-16)
* The covenant confirmed (Gen\_17:1-27)
* Birth of Isaac foretold (Gen\_18:1-15)
* Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:16-19:38)
* Philistine encounter (Gen\_20:1-18)
* Isaac's birth (Gen\_21:1-34)
* Abraham's act of faith with Isaac (Gen\_22:1-19)

C. Abraham's Promised Seed (Gen. 22:20-25:11)

* Rebekah's background (Gen\_22:20-24)
* The death of Sarah (Gen\_23:1-20)
* Isaac's marriage to Rebekah (Gen\_24:1-67)
* Isaac—the only heir (Gen\_25:1-6)
* The death of Abraham (Gen\_25:7-11)

**VIII. The Generations of Ishmael (Gen\_25:12-18)**

**IX. The Generations of Isaac (Gen. 25:19-35:29)**

1. Competition Between Esau and Jacob (Gen\_25:19-34)
2. Covenant Blessings to Isaac (Gen\_26:1-35)
3. Jacob's Deception for the Blessing (Gen\_27:1-40)
4. Blessing on Jacob in a Foreign Land (Gen. 27:41-32:32)

* Jacob sent to Laban (Gen. 27:41-28:9)
* Angel at Bethel (Gen\_28:10-22)
* Disagreements with Laban (Gen\_29:1-30)
* Promised seed (Gen. 29:31-30:24)
* Departure from Aram (Gen. 30:25-31:55)
* Angels at Mahanaim and Penuel (Gen\_32:1-32)

1. Esau's Reunion and Reconciliation with Jacob (Gen\_33:1-17)
2. Events and Deaths from Shechem to Mamre (Gen. 33:18-35:29)

**X. The Generations of Esau (Gen. 36:1-37:1)**

**XI. The Generations of Jacob (Gen. 37:2-50:26)**

1. Joseph's Dreams (Gen\_37:2-11)
2. *Family Tragedy (Gen. 37:12-38:30)* ***1884 BC***
3. Vice Regency over Egypt (Gen. 39:1-41:57)
4. Reunion with Family (Gen. 42:1-45:28) **1450 BC**
5. Transition to the Exodus (Gen. 46:1-50:26)

* Journey to Egypt (Gen\_46:1-27)
* Occupation in Goshen (Gen. 46:28-47:31)
* Blessings on the twelve tribes (Gen. 48:1-49:28)
* The death and burial of Jacob in Canaan (Gen. 49:29-50:14)
* The death of Joseph in Egypt (Gen\_50:15-26)

In God's timing, the Exodus marked the end of a period of oppression for Abraham's descendants (Gen\_15:13), and constituted the beginning of the fulfillment of the covenant promise to Abraham that his descendants would not only reside in the Promised Land, but would also multiply and become a great nation (Gen\_12:1-3, Gen\_12:7). The purpose of the book may be expressed like this: To trace the rapid growth of Jacob's descendants from Egypt to the establishment of the theocratic nation in their Promised Land.

At appropriate times, on Mt. Sinai and in the plains of Moab, God also gave the Israelites that body of legislation, the law, which they needed for living properly in Israel as the theocratic people of God. By this, they were distinct from all other nations (Deu\_4:7-8; Rom\_9:4-5).

**I. Israel in Egypt (Exo. 1:1-12:36)**

1. The Population Explosion (Exo\_1:1-7)
2. The Oppression Under the Pharaohs (Exo\_1:8-22)
3. **The Maturation of Israel's Deliverer—Moses (Exo. 2:1-4:31) 1500BC**
4. The Confrontation with Pharaoh (Exo. 5:1-11:10)
5. The Preparation for Departure (Exo\_12:1-36)

**II. Israel Enroute to Sinai (Exo. 12:37-18:27)**

1. Exiting Egypt and Panicking (Exo. 12:37-14:14)
2. Crossing the Red Sea and Rejoicing (Exo. 14:15-15:21)
3. Traveling to Sinai and Grumbling (Exo. 15:22-17:16)
4. Meeting with Jethro and Learning (Exo\_18:1-27)

**III. Israel Encamped at Sinai (Exo. 19:1-40:38)**

1. The Law of God Prescribed (Exo. 19:1-24:18)
2. **The Tabernacle of God Described (Exo. 25:1-31:18)**
3. The Worship of God Defiled (Exo\_32:1-35)
4. The Presence of God Confirmed (Exo. 33:1-34:35)
5. **The Tabernacle of God Constructed (Exo. 35:1-40:38)**

**Title**

The original Hebrew title of this third book of the law is taken from the first word, translated "and He called." Several OT books derive their Hebrew names in the same manner (e.g., Genesis, "In the beginning"; Exodus, "Now these are the names").

The title Leviticus comes from the Latin Vulgate version of the Greek OT (LXX) Leuitikon meaning "matters of the Levites" (Lev\_25:32-33). While the book addresses issues of the Levites' responsibilities, much more significantly, all the priests are instructed in how they are to assist the people in worship, and the people are informed about how to live a holy life. New Testament writers quote the Book of Leviticus more than fifteen times.

Before the year that Israel camped at Mt. Sinai:

(1) the presence of God's glory had never formally resided among the Israelites;

(2) a central place of worship, like the tabernacle, had never existed;

(3) a structured and regulated set of sacrifices and feasts had not been given; and

(4) a high priest, a formal priesthood, and a cadre of tabernacle workers had not been appointed. As Exodus concluded, features one and two had been accomplished, thereby requiring that elements three and four be inaugurated, which is what Leviticus provides.

Exo\_19:6 called Israel to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

**Leviticus in turn is God's instruction for His newly redeemed people, teaching them how to worship and obey Him.**

**I. Laws Pertaining to Sacrifice (Lev. 1:1-7:38)**

A. Legislation for the Laity (Lev. 1:1-6:7)

1. Burnt offerings (Lev\_1:1-17)

2. Grain offerings (Lev\_2:1-16)

3. Peace offerings (Lev\_3:1-17)

4. Sin offerings (Lev. 4:1-5:13)

5. Trespass offerings (Lev. 5:14-6:7)

B. Legislation for the Priesthood (Lev. 6:8-7:38)

1. Burnt offerings (Lev\_6:8-13)

2. Grain offerings (Lev\_6:14-23)

3. Sin offerings (Lev\_6:24-30)

4. Trespass offerings (Lev\_7:1-10)

5. Peace offerings (Lev\_7:11-36)

6. Concluding remarks (Lev\_7:37-38)

**II. Beginnings of the Priesthood (Lev. 8:1-10:20)**

A. Ordination of Aaron and His Sons (Lev\_8:1-36)

B. First Sacrifices (Lev\_9:1-24)

C. Execution of Nadab and Abihu (Lev\_10:1-20)

**III. Prescriptions for Uncleanness (Lev. 11:1-16:34)**

A. Unclean Animals (Lev\_11:1-47)

B. Uncleanness of Childbirth (Lev\_12:1-8)

C. Unclean Diseases (Lev\_13:1-59)

D. Cleansing of Diseases (Lev\_14:1-57)

E. Unclean Discharges (Lev\_15:1-33)

F. Purification of the Tabernacle from Uncleanness (Lev\_16:1-34)

**IV. Mandates for Practical Holiness (Lev. 17:1-27:34)**

A. Sacrifice and Food (Lev\_17:1-16)

B. Proper Sexual Behavior (Lev\_18:1-30)

C. Neighborliness (Lev\_19:1-37)

D. Capital/Grave Crimes (Lev\_20:1-27)

**E. Instructions for Priests (Lev. 21:1-22:33**)

F. Religious Festivals (Lev\_23:1-44)

G. The Tabernacle (Lev\_24:1-9)

H. An Account of Blasphemy (Lev\_24:10-23)

**I. Sabbatical and Jubilee Years (Lev\_25:1-55)**

J. Exhortation to Obey the Law: Blessings and Curses (Lev\_26:1-46)

K. Redemption of Votive Gifts (Lev\_27:1-34)