

genesis: fact or fable

you asked for it | week one

post falls campus | june 11th & 14th | bill krause



No prophecy of scripture from one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:20 HCSB

Genesis: The Book of Beginnings

- 20 Core Doctrines of the Christian Faith begin in Genesis
- The 22 Doctrines that form the doctrinal statement of Real Life Ministries can be traced back to the book of Genesis.

You can trust the credibility of the book of Genesis by investigating three validations of reliability.

Approaches to Genesis

	Literal Interpretation John Mac Authur Ken Ham	Modernism John Lenox Hugh Ross	Atheist Richard Dawkins Bill Maher
View of Genesis	Viewed as an accurate historical account of real events, people, and divine actions.	Often viewed as sacred literature, theological narrative, or myth in the scholarly sense (conveying deep truths through story).	Typically viewed as mythology, legend, or ancient literature reflecting the beliefs of its authors and culture.
Relationship to Science	Often prioritizes scriptural interpretation when perceived conflicts with scientific theories arise.	Seeks compatibility between Genesis and modern findings in biology, geology, and cosmology. Scientific evidence (<i>theory</i>) enlightens primitive worldview.	Accepts scientific explanations for origins and sees them as contradictory to biblical claims.
Method of Interpretation	Emphasizes a straightforward or literal reading, especially regarding foundational events and figures.	Emphasizes historical context, literary genre, symbolism, and ancient Near Eastern background.	Uses historical, literary, archaeological, and critical methods without assuming divine inspiration.
Authority Question	Authority rests in the Bible as God's inspired and trustworthy Word, including historical claims.	Authority rests in the enduring theological message and moral message of the story or poem.	Authority derives from evidence, reason, and empirical inquiry rather than Scripture.
View of Biblical Figures and Events	Adam, Eve, Noah, and related events are real historical people and occurrences.	Figures such as Adam, Eve, and Noah may be interpreted symbolically or archetypically.	These figures are generally viewed as legendary, symbolic, or literary characters rather than historical individuals.

Validation of commonality of the flood narrative.

Flood Narrative in other cultures

Modernism- The Jews borrowed from other cultures the Flood Myth

Literal Interpretation - The flood existing in other cultures is proof of a central historical event that these versions of the story emanate from.

Validation of the Science - Geological

Modernism- Observations of geologic formation over long periods of time reveal that the age of the earth exceeds the chronology of the Genesis account, and is therefore not scientific fact.

Literal Interpretation- Geological data seamlessly align with Genesis when viewed through a framework of catastrophic plate tectonics and Noah’s global Flood. Processes long assumed to require millions of years occur rapidly under high-energy, catastrophic conditions.

Validation of Literary Style - Genre

Modernism- Genesis was never intended to be interpreted literally because it is written in the poetic genre; therefore, it should be treated as a story, not history.



Literal Interpretation- Other literary genres have been used to recount historical facts and events.

- Oh Captain My Captain by Walt Whitman - *The assassination of President Lincoln*
- Ballad of Birmingham by Dudley Randall - *The bombing of 16th St. Baptist Church*
- Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson - *Battle of Balaclava 1854*

Jesus’ View of Genesis

Jesus Quote	Genesis Passage
Matt 19:4-6 / Mark 10:6-8	Gen 1:27 & 2:24
Matt 23:35 / Luke 11:51	Gen 4:8-10
Matt 24:37-39 / Lk 17:26	Gen 6:5-7:24
Luke 10:18-20	Gen 11:1-9
Matt 22:32 / Mark 12:26	Gen 17:7; 28:13
Luke 17:28-32	Gen 19:15-26

Resources:

Mike Winger - What are the different views of Genesis - 10 Questions	
Dr. Jeanson - Modern Genetics confirm that we all came from Noah	
20 Core Doctrines of the Christian Faith Rooted in Genesis	