An Outline of the Book of Genesis†

A. Primeval Stories

Prologue: Creation of Heaven and Earth (1:1—2:3)
1. Introductory statement (1:1)
2. Negative state at time of creation (1:2)
3. Six days of creation (1:3—31)
4. Summary statement (2:1)
5. Epilogue: Sabbath rest (2:2-3)

1. Toledot of the Heavens and Earth (2:4—4:26) [→ Narrative]
   “These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created”
   1. Superscription (2:4)
   2. Negative state at time of humankind’s creation (2:5-6)
   3. Adam and Even on probation in paradise (2:7-25)
   4. Fall and its consequences (chap. 3)
   5. Escalation of sin in line of Cain (4:1-24)
   6. Godly remnant (4:25-26)

2. Toledot of Adam’s genealogy (5:1—6:8) [→ Vertical Genealogy]
   “This is the list of the generations of Adam”
   1. Superscription (5:1a)
   2. Covenant line of Seth (5:1b-32)
   3. Escalation of sin before the flood (6:1-8)

3. Toledot of Noah (6:9—9:29) [→ Narrative]
   “These are the generations of Noah”
   1. Superscription (6:9a)
   2. Account of the flood (6:9b—8:22)
   3. Covenant not to destroy the earth (9:1-17)
   4. Prophecies about Noah’s sons (9:18-27)
   5. Epilogue (9:28-29)

4. Toledot of Shem, Ham, and Japheth (10:1—11:9) [→ Horizontal Genealogy]
   “These are the generations of Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth”
   1. Superscription (10:1)
   2. Table of nations (10:2-32)
   3. Escalation of evil in Babylon (11:1-9)

5. Toledot of Shem (11:10-26) [→ Vertical Genealogy]
   “These are the generations of Shem”

B. Patriarchal Stories

   “And these are the generations of Terah”

† Prepared by Tyler F. Williams (2003).
1. Superscription (11:27a)
2. Genealogy and migration (11:27-32)
   a. Rebekah’s family background (22:20-24)
   b. Death of Sarah (chap. 23)
   c. Gift of Rebekah to Isaac (chap. 24)
   d. Isaac the sole heir (25:1-6)
   e. Death of Abraham (25:7-11)
7. Toledot of Ishmael (25:12-18) [→ Horizontal Genealogy]
   μηραβιατοντονεατον “And these are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham’s son”
8. Toledot of Isaac (25:19—35:29) [→ Narrative]
   μηραβιατοντονεατον “And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham’s son”
   A. Beginnings. Birth, predictions, Jacob steals Esau’s birthright (25:19-34)
   B. Isaac and the Philistines (26:1-22)
   C. Jacob cheats Esau of his blessing (27:1-40)
   • “He took [laqah] my blessing [beraka]” yikfrbihq(gv. 35-36)
   D. Jacob’s flight from Esau (27:41-28:5)
   E. Encounter with God at Bethel (28:10-22)
   F. Jacob in Haran; Rachel, Laban (29:1-30)
   G. Children born and wealth acquired (30:1-43)
   F’ Departure from Haran; Rachel, Laban (31:1-55)
   E’ Encounter with God at Mahanaim (32:1-2)
   D’ Jacob’s approach to Esau (32:3-32)
   C’ Jacob returns Esau’s blessing (33:1-20)
   • “Accept [laqah] my blessing [beraka]” yikfrbihq(v. 11)
   B’ Dinah and the Hivites (34:1-31)
   A’ Endings. Death, fulfillment, Jacob & Esau together again (35:1-29)
9. Toledot of Esau (36:1—37:1) [→ Horizontal Genealogy]
   μνυνατοντονεατον “These are the generations of Esau (that is, Edom)”
   rycehbybnuynavatwoenotea “These are the generations of Esau, father of Edom, in the hill country of Seir” (Gen 36:9)
10. Toledot of Jacob (37:2—50:26) [→ Narrative]
   bqbbytvojotea “These are the generations of Jacob”
   1. Joseph sold into Egypt (37:2-36)
      a. Superscription (37:2)
      b. Joseph’s dream of rulership (37:2-11)
   2. Family sins: Tamar & Judah (37:12—38:30)
   3. Joseph’s rise to power over Egypt (39:1—41:57)
      a. Joseph & Potiphar (39:1-20)
      c. Joseph in the Palace (41:1-57)
   4. Joseph refines the covenant family (42:1—47:31)
      a. 1st Visit to Egypt (42:1-38)
      B. 2nd Visit to Egypt (43:1–45:28)
      C. 3rd Visit to Egypt (46:1–47:31)
   5. The Last Days of Jacob and Joseph (48:1—50:26)
      a. Jacob’s blessings on twelve tribes (48:1—49:28)
      b. Jacob’s death and burial in Canaan (49:29—50:14)
      c. Joseph’s burial in Egypt with promises of Canaan (50:15-26)