

# Genesis 1-3



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# A. Challenges of Gen. 1-3

- ◆ Framework for all of history
- ◆ Framework for redemption
- ◆ Possible conflicts with scientific claims
- ◆ From an unfamiliar cultural setting
- ◆ Sparse
- ◆ Presuppositional influence

Big challenge!



## B. Presuppositions

- ◆ God
- ◆ Miracles
- ◆ Bible is the infallible word of God

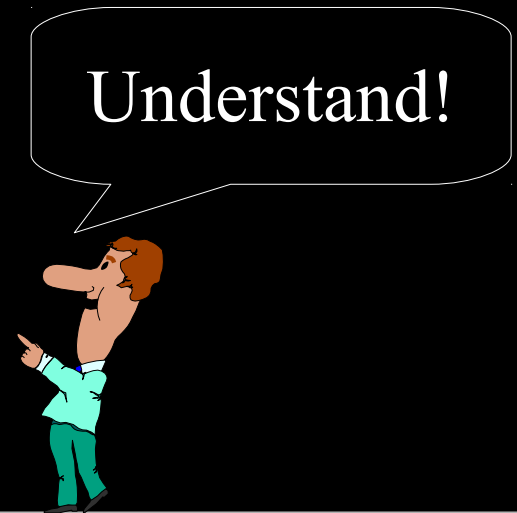
# Subordinate Presuppositions

- ◆ Bible has phenomenal language
- ◆ Bible is distinct from Ancient Near East
- ◆ Ancient Near East is not easy

## C. Genre of Genesis

# What Is Genre?

- ◆ Style and form
- ◆ At the time
- ◆ Belonging to a culture
- ◆ Bigger or smaller pieces of text



# Bigger and Smaller

## Genesis

Generations of Jacob (37:2-50:26)

Last days of Jacob (48:1-50:26)

Speech of Jacob (49:2-27)

Prophecy about Zebulun (49:13)

# Basic Genre

Narrative

Prose

Many  
Episodes

Nonfiction



# Nonfiction

Claiming to be about  
the real world

versus

an imaginary world

# Evidence of Nonfiction

- ◆ Genre like Numbers and 1-2 Samuel
- ◆ Realistic depiction
- ◆ Tie with later history (Exod. to 2 Kings)
- ◆ Later biblical references assume real people
- ◆ Luke 3:23-38
- ◆ 1 Cor. 15:22

# Real Death to Race

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

– 1 Cor. 15:22

# Claim Validated

Claiming to be about  
the real world

God speaking



Genesis Is about Real World

## D. Genre of Genesis 1-3

# Genealogical History

- ◆ Gen. 1 (Prologue)
- ◆ Gen. 2:4 "These are the generations of ..."
- ◆ Gen. 5:1 "This is the book of the generations of Adam."
- ◆ Gen. 6:9 "These are the generations of Noah."
- ◆ ...

# Gen. 1-3

Guidance from Genesis as a whole



Gen. 1-3 Is about Real World

# E. Genesis 1-3 and Providence



# Genesis 1:6

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." – 1 Kings 18:44

# Genesis 1:9

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear."

And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, .... – Isaiah 8:7-8

## F. Themes in Genesis 1-3

- ◆ Creation
- ◆ Light
- ◆ Land
- ◆ Blessing
- ◆ Fruitfulness
- ◆ Fall and sin
- ◆ Promise of redemption