

## MELODIC LINE OF GENESIS

“In spite of man's sin and rebellion, the Creator God of the Universe keeps His promise to deliver us into His presence and bless the world for His namesake.”

## OVERVIEW: GENEALOGICAL (TO-LE-DOT) STRUCTURE OF GENESIS

- I. Introduction: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (1:1)
  - A. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created (2:4)
  - B. This is the book of the generations of Adam (5:1)
  - C. These are the records of the generations of Noah (6:9)
  - D. Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth (10:1)
  - E. These are the records of the generations of Shem (11:10)
  - F. Now these are the records of the generations of Terah (11:27)
  - G. Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son (25:12)
  - H. Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son (25:19)
  - I. Now these are the records of the generations of Esau (that is, Edom) (36:1)
  - J. These are the records of the generations of Jacob (37:2)

## PARALLEL STRUCTURE GENESIS 1-11

### CREATION: GENESIS 1:1 – 6:8

- A Creation out of chaotic water with divine blessing (1:1-2:3)
- B Sin involving nakedness, seeing/covering nakedness; curse (2:4-3:24)
- C Division of humanity into the people of God and the enemies of God (3:15-4:16)
- D No descendents of sinful of murdered younger, righteous Abel (4:8)
- E Descendents of sinful Cain: builds a city (4:17-24)
- F Descendents of chosen son Seth: ten generations to Noah (5:1-32)
- G Downfall: unlawful unions – men & women / marriage (6:1-4)
- H Brief introduction to a faithful savior: Noah (6:5-8)

### RE-CREATION: GENESIS 6:9-11:32

- A' Creation out of chaotic water with divine blessing (6:9-9:19)
- B' Sin involving nakedness, seeing/covering nakedness; curse (9:20-23)
- C' Division of humanity into the people of God and the enemies of God (9:24-27)
- D' Descendents of younger, righteous Japheth (10:1-5)
- E' Descendents of sinful son Ham: builds multiple cities (10:6-20)
- F' Descendents of chosen son Shem: ten generations to Terah (10:21-32)
- G' Downfall: unlawful union – men / government (11:1-9)
- H' Brief introduction to a faithful savior, Abram (11:27-32)



## SECTION OVERVIEW: GENESIS 10:1-11:9

### I. INTRODUCTION: IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH (1:1)

- A. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created (2:4)
- B. This is the book of the generations of Adam (5:1)
- C. These are the records of the generations of Noah (6:9)
- D. Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth (10:1)
  - 1. 10:1-32 “clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations”
    - a) Japheth 10:2-5
    - b) Ham 10:6-20
      - (1) Nimrod 10:8-12, Shinar 10:10
    - c) Shem 10:21-30
      - (1) Peleg 10:25
    - d) 32 These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.
  - 2. 11:1-9
    - A All the earth one language v1
    - B People settle together there v2
    - C Said to each other v3a
    - D Come let us make bricks v3b
    - E A city and tower v4
    - X And Yahweh came down v5**
    - E' The city and tower v6
    - D' Come now... let us confuse v7
    - C' Not understanding each other v7b
    - B' People disperse from there v8
    - A' Languages(pl) of the whole earth v9
- E. These are the records of the generations of Shem (11:10)
- F. Now these are the records of the generations of Terah (11:27)
- G. Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son (25:12)
- H. Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son (25:19)
- I. Now these are the records of the generations of Esau (that is, Edom) (36:1)
- J. These are the records of the generations of Jacob (37:2)



## GENESIS 1:1-11:26 (THE “HEAD” OF THE MELODIC LINE)

- The point of Genesis 1-11 is that YHWH is the sovereign king who creates by making order from chaos, the order is designed to bring life and that is what makes it good.
- Man’s unique role in His good creation is that of YHWH’s image bearers who rule over the rest of creation so that YHWH’s kingdom might be expanded.
- Man neglected his role, sin entered the world and God’s good design was perverted and twisted into wickedness.
- Due to sin, the earth was corrupt and full of evil all the time.
- Even though man continued to sin, YHWH kept giving humans the chance to do the right thing with His good creation and to expand His kingdom.
- Yet, man kept sinning, failing to fulfill his responsibility as an image bearer.
- Genesis 1-11 fits into the “melodic line” of Genesis by demonstrating that “In spite of man's sin and rebellion, the Creator God of the Universe keeps His promise to deliver us into His presence and bless the world for His namesake.
- It establishes the reason for Yahweh’s choosing one man, Abraham, to make into a great nation, through whom He would redeem the world back to Himself and restore His creation back to its original purpose.

## CHIASM

Chiasms are literary structures that shape the words of Scripture in a X-like manner (hence, chiasm for the Greek letter X [Chi]). That is, chiasms work like a series of concentric circles, with an outer ring (A, A’), an inner ring(s) (B, B’), and an emphasized center (C).

### WHAT MAKES A VALID CHIASM?

1. Look at the Parallels
2. Look at the size and shape of the chiasm.
3. Look for symmetry in the rest of the book.

### 1. LOOK AT THE PARALLELS

1. repetition (exact words, phrases etc)
2. conceptual parallels
3. oppositions

### 2. SIZE AND SHAPE

1. It is unlikely that a chiasm will be unbalanced. Like good art, the biblical prophets, when they employed literary structures did so with great balance (e.g., Psalm 119).

### 3. SYMMETRY IN THE REST OF THE BOOK

1. Just as the size and shape of a given chiasm should look balanced, even symmetrical, so the book as a whole should not be a fabric of anomalies. The authors of Scripture were not only inspired prophets, but gifted poets. Thus, we should expect literary structures to work together in a given book.



## SECTION OVERVIEW: GENESIS 11:27 - 24

- II. Introduction: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (1:1)
  - A. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created (2:4)
  - B. This is the book of the generations of Adam (5:1)
  - C. These are the records of the generations of Noah (6:9)
  - D. Now these are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth (10:1)
  - E. These are the records of the generations of Shem (11:10)
  - F. Now these are the records of the generations of Terah (11:27)

### ABRAHAM

- A Genealogy of Terah (11:27-32)
  - B Promise of a son and start of Abraham's spiritual journey (12:1-9)
    - C Abraham lies about Sarah; Yahweh protects her in a foreign palace (12:10-20)
      - D Lot settles in Sodom (13:1-18)
        - E Abraham intercedes for Sodom and Lot militarily (14:1-24)
          - F Covenant with Abraham; annunciation of Ishmael (15:1-16:16)
            - X – Genesis 17:1-5 – God changes Abram's name to Abraham**
              - F' Covenant with Abraham; annunciation of Isaac (17:1-18:15)
                - E' Abraham intercedes for Sodom and Lot in prayer (18:16-33)
                  - D' Lot flees doomed Sodom and settles in Moab (19:1-38)
                    - C' Abraham lies about Sarah; Yahweh protects her in foreign palace (20:1-18)
                      - B' Birth of son and climax of Abraham's spiritual journey (21:1-22:19)
                        - A' Genealogy of Nahor (22:20-24)
                          - G. Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son (25:12)
                          - H. Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son (25:19)
                          - I. Now these are the records of the generations of Esau (that is, Edom) (36:1)
                          - J. These are the records of the generations of Jacob (37:2)



# PATRIARCHAL CHIASMS IN GENESIS

## JACOB

- A – Genesis 25:12-18 – Genealogy and generations of Ishmael
- B – Genesis 25:19-34 – Struggle in childbirth; Jacob born
- C – Genesis 26: 1-35 – Trouble with foreigners; deceit; pact with foreign nation
- D – Genesis 27:1-28:22 – Messengers; Jacob fears and flees Esau
- E – Genesis 29:1-30 – Arrival at Haran
- F – Genesis 29:31-30:21 – Fertility of Jacob and his wives
- X – Genesis 30:22-25 – God’s remembrance**
- F’ – Genesis 30:26-43: Fertility of Laban and Jacob’s flocks 37
- E’ – Genesis 31:1-54 – Flight from Haran
- D’ – Genesis 32:1-33:20 – Messengers; Jacob returns and fears Esau
- C’ – Genesis 34:1-31 – Trouble with foreigners; deceit; pact with foreign nations
- B’ – Genesis 35:1-22 – Struggle in Childbirth; Jacob reborn
- A’ – Genesis 35:23-29 – Generations and genealogy of Jacob

## JOSEPH

- A – Genesis 37:1-36 – Death; Departure
- B – Genesis 38:1-30 – Interlude; Joseph not present
- C – Genesis 39:1-23 – Reversal – Joseph and Potiphar’s wife
- D – Genesis 40:1-41:57 – Joseph, hero of Egypt
- E – Genesis 42:1-43:34 – Journeys to Egypt
- F – Genesis 44:1-34 – Final test
- X – Genesis 45:1-8 – Joseph’s revelation**
- F’ – Genesis 45:9-28 – Conclusion of the test
- E’ – Genesis 46:1-47:12 – Migration to Egypt
- D’ – Genesis 47:13-27 – Joseph, hero of Egypt
- C’ – Genesis 47:28 – 48:22 – Reversal – Ephraim and Manasseh
- B’ – Genesis 49:1-28 – Interlude; Joseph only nominally present 53
- A’ – Genesis 49:29-50:26 – Death; Departure



