

Genesis: Gen. 28:10-19; 32:22-31; 35:9-15

January 4, 2023

I. Introduction

II. How and when was Genesis composed?

A. Dictated by God to Moses

1. Not found in Bible
2. Moses writes something (Deut. 31:24)
3. Allusions to
 - a. "The book of the law of Moses" (Josh 8:31; 23:6; 2 Kings 14:6; etc.)
 - b. "The book of Moses" (2 Chron. 25:4; 35:12; Ezra 6:18; . . . Mark 12:26)

B. Documentary Hypothesis (1878-1970)

1. J-Yahwist, 10th-9th c., use Yahweh, under David and Solomon, vivid, God immanent
2. E-Elohist, 9th-8th c., use Elohim, once Israel and Judah split
3. P-Priestly, 6th-5th c., use Elohim, repetitious, God distant
4. More to hypothesis, but not needed for Genesis
5. Redacted together by P around exile
6. Not embarrassed by repeats and contradictions, better reflect whole

C. Serious questions begin around 1970

1. Cannot identify source of all texts
2. Sources: Did P edit? How much? Is E separate from J?
3. No viable alternative, so still leading theory

III. Other areas of Genesis study

A. Storytelling features and final form

1. Compellingly speak thousands of years later
2. Effects of narratives for shaping identities

B. Theme: blessing (82 times in various forms; Gen. 12:2-3)

C. ANE parallels: *Epic of Gilgamesh*, *Atrahasis Epic*, *Sumerian Flood*

IV. Texts of Jacob's name change and Bethel

A. Genesis 28:10-19 (JE): Fleeing land

1. Land promise (26:13)
2. Pillar (28:18)
3. Bethel (28:19)

B. Genesis 32:22-31 (J): Re-entering land

1. Blessing (32:26)
2. Name (32:28)
3. Peniel (32:30)

C. Genesis 35:9-15 (JEP): Coming together

1. Blessing (35:9)
2. Name (35:10)
3. Land promise (35:12)
4. Pillar (35:14)
5. Bethel (35:15)

V. What else is applicable for us?

VI. Questions and comments

VII. LET US PRAY!

Next time: Jan. 18 Exodus

Genesis 28:10-19

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Genesis 35:9-15

God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and he blessed him. ¹⁰ God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall you be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he was called Israel. ¹¹ God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. ¹² The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." ¹³ Then God went up from him at the place where he had spoken with him. ¹⁴ Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. ¹⁵ So Jacob called the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.