

Time Adds Context

## Disclaimer

As with many of these kinds of teachings, this is not designed to create a crises of faith. This is not an attempt to have anyone change their faith but to change the way we practice our faith in יהוה and apply His sacred word to our lives so that we live the way He designed us to live.

There are some who believe that the first five books of the Bible were written by several authors separated by several years. One main reason is noted in the 18th century by Jean Astruc (who identified separate "memoirs" based on divine names in Genesis), then expanded by scholars like Johann Gottfried Eichhorn, Herman Hupfeld, Karl Heinrich Graf, and Julius Wellhausen into the full four-source model.

These supposedly learned scholars did not differentiate between the name (the tetragrammaton (יהוה)) and the title God (אלהים)

Neither do they understand the difference between historical narrative and legal instructional language as it was and is used in the Hebrew language.

So, I will continue under the assumption that it was indeed Moses who wrote the first five books of the Bible.

What I want to concentrate on is the question; When did Moses write Genesis and why is this important?

Genesis appears  
to be the first  
book of the  
Bible, but was it  
the very first  
book Moses  
actually wrote?

Ezra and Nehemiah are credited with canonizing the Hebrew Bible.

2 Maccabees 2: 10, The same things are reported in the records and in the memoirs of Nehemiah, and also that he founded a library and collected the books about the kings and prophets, and the writings of David, and letters of kings about votive offerings.

Jewish traditions crediting Ezra with foundational work on the canon, including the threefold division (Torah, Nevi'im, Ketuvim), often linked to the Great Assembly (Men of the Great Synagogue), of which Ezra and Nehemiah are considered members.

The Babylonian Talmud, Bava  
Batra 14b-15a

The books mentioned in 2 Maccabees were not bound books as we think of them today. Some were parchment papers fastened together and some were scrolls. Some may have been fragments of other writings and the order they were written was unclear.

If Genesis was not the first book Moses had written, or if it was and he wrote it with the accumulated knowledge of all that he had learned would it change how we think about Genesis?

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God (אלהים) created  
the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 2:4

This is the account of the heavens  
and the earth when they were created,  
in the day that the LORD (יהוה)  
God (אלהים) made them.

How does Moses know the name without

Exodus 3:15?

God also told Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, (יהוה) the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.

## Genesis 7:2

You are to take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate; a pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate;

The question of how did Noah know what was clean or unclean becomes clearer if Moses is writing this with the knowledge of Leviticus 11.

## Genesis 9:3

Everything that lives and moves will be food for you; just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you all things.

There would be no need to clarify what was food and what wasn't if the knowledge of Leviticus 11 is included in this verse.

## Genesis 14:18 — 20

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine since he was priest of God Most High and he blessed Abram and said: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.

Why are the exact words used in the Kiddish not given in this verse?

Could it be that the tradition of saying the blessing before eating bread or drinking wine were so engrained in the Hebrew people there was no need to repeat these words Here because everyone knew where it originated?

# Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God  
created the heavens and  
the earth.

Moses was not an eye  
witness to this event.

There are about 400 times recorded by Moses of when God spoke to him directly, but Moses does not always give a transcript of every conversation. Instead, Moses reveals the content of those conversations through Historical narrative or passing along the instructions he received.

The only part of the first five books that can not be attributed to Moses is Deuteronomy 34 which describes the death of Moses. No one knows exactly when this was added or by whom. Some think it was Joshua, some think Jeremiah, others think Ezra and Nehemiah could have added it or included it from another writing.

Exactly when Moses writes Genesis is unknown, however there is enough information contained in Genesis to consider that it was written with the complete knowledge of all that our Creator had given to Moses while wandering in the wilderness. Genesis was not written from tradition or ignorance it is historical narrative that also contains the knowledge of the other four books Moses wrote.

For the scholars in the  
room...

If Moses did not write  
Genesis first, does this  
change the “article of first  
mention” for word study?

What are some of the other questions you may have had that would be clearer now that you are considering Moses wrote Genesis with the complete knowledge of the rest of the Torah?

