The Importance of Studying Genesis

The book of Genesis is not to be left behind as ancient myth or folklore in our so-called “advanced” scientific generation, as if science has advanced us beyond the Bible. Rather, because we understand that the Bible was given by God, it is without error and thus we must look at life through the lens of Scripture – not the other way around.

Genesis makes definitive statements about the following:

1. The origins of the cosmos, earth, and mankind.
2. The nature of mankind, i.e. the image of God and man’s conscience.
3. The institution of marriage.
4. The 7-day structure of the week.
5. The origin of sin in mankind.
6. The origin of physical and spiritual death.
7. The need for blood sacrifice.
8. The catastrophic judgment in the flood and resulting changes in global geography and climate.
9. The origin of the rainbow and the promise that the earth would never again be destroyed by flood.
10. The establishment of human government and capital punishment.
11. The origin of multiple languages and the nations.
12. The origins of the Hebrew people and the blessings and curses associated with them.
13. The family history of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
14. The premiere example of justification by faith in Abraham.
15. The origin of Ishmael and the Arabic people groups.
16. The significance of Mount Moriah (2 Chron. 3:1).
17. The origin of the tribes of Israel.
18. The individual history of Joseph.
19. The sovereignty of God even in the midst of seeming disaster for Joseph.
20. The presence of Israel in Egypt and the prophecy of their bondage and release.

Many later statements of Scripture become false or at best misleading of Genesis is not literally true. This is particularly notable in the references of Jesus Christ and the apostles to Genesis.

False views that Genesis, when taken literally, shows plainly to be false include, among many others:

1. Atheistic evolution, theistic evolution; the gap theory; the framework hypothesis. The supposed requirement of long ages (billions of years) in order to “create” what we see today in the world, the animal kingdom, and mankind.
2. That strict uniformitarianism is a viable way to interpret earth history.
3. That Israel was not present in Egypt.
4. “Civilized” cultures do not use capital punishment.
5. That Israel will not have a future in God’s program, i.e. that the church has replaced it.