

## Contents

<i>General Editors' Preface</i>	<i>page xv</i>
<i>Preface</i>	xix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xxiii
1 WHAT IS A "THEOLOGY OF GENESIS"? . . . . .	1
Toward a "Theology of Genesis"	3
The Contested Nature of "Theology"	3
Historical Criticism and Socially Valued Knowledge	5
Ideological Criticism of the Biblical Text	8
A Proposal for a "Theology of Genesis"	12
Biblical Text and Canonical Contexts	12
Text and Contexts: An Example	17
Conclusion	20
2 ON READING GENESIS 1–11 . . . . .	21
Building on the History of Interpretation	22
Noah and the Flood	28
The Perspective and Convention Embodied in the Use of Hebrew Language	34
Literary Conventions and Theological Interpretation	36

x	CONTENTS
3	GENESIS 1: PICTURING THE WORLD . . . . . 42
	A First Reading of Genesis 1 . . . . . 43
	Genesis 1 in Relation to Its Possible Compositional Context . . . . . 48
	Genesis 1 in Relation to Alternative Ancient Pictures . . . . . 50
	Jon D. Levenson's Reading of Genesis 1 . . . . . 54
	Genesis 1 and Evolutionary Biology . . . . . 57
	Genesis 1 and Alternative Pictures of the World: A Proposal . . . . . 65
4	GENESIS 2–3: ADAM AND EVE AND “THE FALL” . . . . . 70
	James Barr on Genesis 2–3 . . . . . 71
	A Reformulated Version of the “Traditional” Interpretation . . . . . 75
	Is a Gnostic Precedent a Good Precedent? . . . . . 76
	Identifying the Key Issue . . . . . 78
	Rereading the Narrative . . . . . 83
	Conclusion . . . . . 87
5	GENESIS 4: CAIN AND ABEL . . . . . 88
	Exposition of Regina M. Schwartz's Interpretation . . . . . 89
	A Theological Reading of Cain and Abel . . . . . 92
	Conclusion: Doing Well in Demanding Circumstances . . . . . 98
6	GENESIS 6–9: CATAclySM AND GRACE . . . . . 102
	Reflections on Some Characteristic Modern Approaches . . . . . 103
	Pentateuchal Criticism and Reading Strategy . . . . . 103
	The Flood in Genesis and the Epic of Gilgamesh . . . . . 105

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-68538-2 - The Theology of the Book of Genesis

R. W. L. Moberly

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS		xi
A Characteristic Postmodern Anxiety		106
Toward a Theological Interpretation of the Flood		
Narrative		110
The Collocation of Genesis 6:5 with 8:21		111
The Evil-Thought Clause in Genesis 8:21		112
Reading the Story without the Evil-Thought Clause		114
Reading the Story with the Evil-Thought Clause		115
Israel and the World, Sinai and the Flood		118
7 ON READING GENESIS 12–50 . . . . .		121
The Patriarchs as a Problem for Jewish Observance		
of Torah		121
Genesis as a Compositional and Religio-Historical		
Problem		126
A Third Way: A Canonical Approach		130
Genesis as “The Old Testament of the Old		
Testament”		131
On Interpreting the Revelation of the Divine Name		132
The Distinctive Patterns of Patriarchal Religion		135
Theological Issues in a Canonical Approach to the		
Patriarchal Narratives		137
8 GENESIS 12:1–3: A KEY TO INTERPRETING THE OLD		
TESTAMENT? . . . . .		141
A Contemporary Christian Approach to Genesis		
12:1–3		142
An Alternative Reading of Genesis 12:1–3		148
The Idiomatic Meaning of “Blessing”		150
The Significance of the Proposed Reading		155
Theological Interpretation as a Continuing Task		156
Exegesis and Theology		156

On Evaluating Gerhard von Rad's Interpretation	158
A Jewish–Christian Dimension	159
<b>9 GENESIS 12:3A: A BIBLICAL BASIS FOR CHRISTIAN ZIONISM?</b> . . . . .	162
Why Christians Should Support Israel	163
Some Factors in the Use of Scripture	167
An Appeal to the “Plain Sense” of the Text	168
Merely Human Words?	169
Some Observations on Unconditional Divine Promises	170
The Bearing of the New Testament on Christian Appropriation of the Old Testament	173
Conditionality and Christian Attitudes toward Jews	173
Who Are the Children of Abraham?	174
Politics and Self-Interest	176
Conclusion	178
<b>10 GENESIS 22: ABRAHAM – MODEL OR MONSTER?</b> . . . . .	179
Interpretive Clues within the Biblical Text	184
Model or Monster? Some Factors for Making Progress	189
De-instrumentalizing Isaac	193
The Nightmare Scenario	196
A Christian Epilogue	198
<b>11 ABRAHAM AND THE “ABRAHAMIC FAITHS”</b> . . . . .	200
Exposition of Karl-Josef Kuschel's Account of Abraham	202
Preliminary Critique of Kuschel	208
Jon D. Levenson's Critique of Kuschel	210

	CONTENTS	xiii
Should We Continue to Speak of “Abrahamic Faiths/Religions”?		216
Conclusion		220
12 GENESIS 37–50: IS JOSEPH WISE? . . . . .		225
The Joseph Narrative in Gerhard von Rad’s Analysis		226
Analysis of von Rad’s Account		229
Reenvisioning Key Elements in the “Solomonic Enlightenment” Hypothesis		230
Reenvisioning the Joseph Narrative in Relation to Proverbs		231
Joseph’s Treatment of His Brothers		237
Divine Sovereignty and Human Activity		241
Conclusion		244
<i>Further Reading</i>		247
<i>Author Index</i>		253
<i>Scripture Index</i>		256
<i>Subject Index</i>		263