

The Toledoth (Hb) (תולדות) or Ten Family Records of Genesis

The Hebrew word **toledoth** refers to the account of men and their descendants, often translated 'generations'. The author (God) uses the word *toledoth* to organize the narrative into ten sections. Four of the accounts are short genealogies while six of them are extended narratives of God making and keeping promises and working out His plan of redemption through the lives of men and women of faith.

1. Genesis 2:4 – The *toledoth* of the heavens and earth – the creation of humans: Adam and Eve

- The breath of life unites with the dust of the earth and man becomes a living being – an image bearer of God
- One man; two trees; four rivers; animals to name but no helper for Adam; the first marriage; work in the Garden of Eden
- The serpent; the fall; the consequences of sin; God covers Adam and Eve's nakedness and the first of many exiles
- The protoevangelium (3:15); God's expectation that man must rule over sin; Cain murders Abel; Seth is born

2. Genesis 5:1 – The *toledoth* of Adam – Seth's descendants all the way to Noah

- The sons of God take the daughters of mankind as wives; man's wickedness grieves God to the point of regret
- God decrees that He will wipe mankind off of the face of the earth except for Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth (and wives)

3. Genesis 6:9 – The *toledoth* of Noah – a preacher of righteousness and ark builder

- Noah finds favor in Yahweh's eyes. He walked with God, was righteous and blameless; by faith, he built the ark
- Salvation from judgement is found in the ark alone (a type of Christ) and God starts over with Noah
- God enters a covenant with man to never again destroy all flesh with a global flood; the sign of this covenant is the rainbow

4. Genesis 10:1 – The *toledoth* of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth

- The Tower of Babylon (the city of man) and the scattering of the nations (ethnicities)
- The Table of Nations: Japheth's sons, Ham's sons, and Shem's sons and where they lived

5. Genesis 11:10 – The *toledoth* of Shem – a short list of Shem's descendants all the way to Terah

6. Genesis 11:27 – The *toledoth* of Terah, the father of Abram – the patriarch of the Jews

- Yahweh starts over again with one man, Abram, with a 5-part covenant including descendants, but Sarai is barren
- Melchizedek, a king & priest (like Christ), blesses Abram; the angel of Yahweh tells Hagar she will give birth to Ishmael
- Abram is declared righteous by faith (15:6) and becomes Abraham; the sign of this covenant is circumcision
- Abraham pleads for the rescue of the righteous (esp. Lot) in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; Lot is saved
- At 90, Sarah gives birth to Isaac and then God tests Abraham through the sacrifice of Isaac, his only son – a type of Christ
- Sarah dies; the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah and the death of father Abraham

7. Genesis 25:12 – The *toledoth* of Ishmael – a short list of Ishmael's descendants

8. Genesis 25:19 – The *toledoth* of Isaac, the son of promise, and father of twin sons: Esau and Jacob (Israel)

- Esau sells his birthright; Yahweh reaffirms the Abrahamic covenant with Isaac; Jacob deceives Isaac for the blessing
- Esau's anger drives Jacob to flee for his life and in Jacob's first night away he dreams about a stairway to heaven
- Yahweh promises Jacob land in all directions and descendants like the dust of the earth
- Jacob is sent to Laban for a wife, gets tricked by Laban and must marry two women: Leah and Rachel (his true love)
- Four women give Jacob 12 sons starting with Reuben (1); Jacob wrestles with God until he gets a blessing and a new name
- Jacob reconciles with Esau; Simeon (2) and Levi (3) avenge the raping of their sister with a bloodbath of terror
- Jacob returns to Bethel, the place where he first met God; Rachel dies followed by the death of Isaac

9. Genesis 36:1 – The *toledoth* of Esau – a short list of Esau's descendants (the Edomites)

10. Genesis 37:2 – The *toledoth* of Jacob, the father of Joseph – a type of Christ

- Joseph (11), the firstborn to Rachel, loved by his father (the coat) and hated by his brothers, except Benjamin (12)
- Judah's (4) sin; Tamar's deception and the birth of Perez, the son of Judah in the bloodline of Jesus
- Six dreams: beginning with 2 dreams that cause great envy and the eventual interpretation of 4 more dreams
- Joseph's life: left to die, sold into slavery, sold again to Potiphar, thrown in prison, and made Pharaoh's prime minister
- Preparing for famine; the testing of the brothers; the great reveal and reunion; salvation from a famine
- Jacob's 70 migrate to Egypt; Jacob meets Joseph's gentile bride and two sons: Ephraim and Manasseh
- Jacob's last words include a promise that the scepter and staff will not depart from Judah (King David's tribe)
- Israel dies; Joseph's incredible understanding of God's sovereignty and providence (50:20) and his death in Egypt