



The Divisions In The Structure Of Genesis

The repetitive use of the word תולדות or toledot seems to be a key to understanding the structure of Genesis and the development of thought within the book:

With the exception of Genesis 1:1 the rest of the major sections begin with a toledot formula. There are eleven of them, making 12 sections in total.

Twelve is a significant number in the Bible as it represents perfection of government. Twelve is the number of the Church, both the Old Covenant Church of Israel founded by twelve physical fathers, i.e. the twelve sons of Jacob-Israel after whom the twelve tribes were named; and the New Covenant Church founded by twelve spiritual fathers, i.e. the twelve Apostles.

Division	Verse	Opening statement	Genesis
1.	1:1	In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth	1:1-2:3
2.	2:4	These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created	2:4-4:26
3.	5:1	This is the list of the descendants of Adam	5:1-6:8
4.	6:9	These are the descendants of Noah	6:9-9:29
5.	10:1	These are the descendants of Noah's sons	10:1-11:9
6.	11:10	These are the descendants of Shem	11:10-26
7.	11:27	Now these are the descendants of Terah	11:27-25:11
8.	25:12	These are the descendants of Ishmael	25:12-18
9.	25:19	These are the descendants of Isaac	25:19-35:29
10.	36:1	These are the descendants of Esau, (that is, Edom)	36:1-8
11.	36:9	These are the descendants of Esau, (the father of Edom)	36:9-37:1
12.	37:2	This is the story of the family of Jacob	37:2-50:26