Archeological questions

1. **Who wrote the book of Genesis?**

The New Testament tells us that **Moses** wrote the first five books of the Bible (known collectively as the Pentateuch). See Numbers 33:2, Deuteronomy 31:24, Luke 24:44, and John 5:46. In addition to the direct revelation he received from the Lord, he probably also referred to oral traditions and written records that existed at the time, just as modern authors refer to letters, books and other written material in research for documentaries and biographies they write.

Moses is Israel’s deliverer, law giver, prophet, judge, and the spiritual father of the nation.

1. **When was it written?**

Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch was written during the 40 years that Israel wandered in the wilderness. This happened somewhere between 1600 bc and 1400 bc, i.e. around **3500 years ago**.

1. **To whom was it written?**
	1. Genesis was written to the generation of **Israelites about to enter the “Promised Land”** (Canaan) under Joshua’s leadership. Moses had sinned and so could not enter Canaan himself, although God did allow him to glimpse part of the land before he died. Even though he couldn’t go with his people into Canaan, he did want to prepare them for what they would face: a land filled with people who were openly hostile to them and as thoroughly pagan as Egypt had been. He wanted them to remember where they came from and Who they belonged to. He wanted them to know how deeply God loved them, and he wanted to give them godly principles to live by. As Jen Wilkin puts it, Moses gave his people roots and shoots.
	2. But Genesis was also written to **us**! Romans 15:4 says, *“For whatever was written in former days was written* ***for our instruction,*** *that**through endurance and…the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”*
2. **In what style was it written?**
* Genesis was written as **historical narrative**, meant to be taken as fact.
* It is **archetypal** in nature. *Archetype* has two meanings that apply to the book of Genesis:
	1. the original pattern or model or prototype – Genesis is filled with “firsts”: the first man and woman, the first temptation, the first death, etc.
	2. a perfect example or a type or group – There are many examples of people, events, and rituals in the book of Genesis that are types of Christ. That is, they picture something of His person or work. Some examples are Melchizedek, Joseph, the animal sacrifices, the ark that delivered Noah and his family, etc.
1. **What is the central theme of the book?**

The theme of Genesis is **creation, sin, and re-creation**. “God made the world very good, but because of man’s disobedience, first cursed it and then destroyed it in the Flood. The new world after the Flood was also spoiled by human sin.” (*Women’s Study Bible,* page 7)