

Questions in Genesis

Seeing the questions will help us understand the author, the addressees and the purpose of writing more clearly. The following points are taken into account:

1. Identify who asks the question (God, author or addressee).
2. The question is answered or is a rhetorical question.
3. The question affirms or defines the author's purpose.

	Genesis (NASB)	Who asks?	Answer or Rhetoric	Purpose
1	3: 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, ' You shall not eat from any tree of the garden ? '"			
2	3: 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, " Where are you? "			
3	3:11 And He said, " Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"			
4	3:11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat? "			
5	3:13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, " What is this you have done? "			
6	4: 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, " Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"			
7	4:6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? "			
8	4: 7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."			
9	4: 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, " Where is Abel your brother? " And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"			
10	4: 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper? "			

11	4:10 He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.			
12	12:18 Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?			
13	12:18 Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?			
14	12:19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go.”			
15	13: 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if <i>to</i> the left, then I will go to the right; or if <i>to</i> the right, then I will go to the left.”			
16	15: 2 Abram said, “O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”			
17	15: 8 He said, “O Lord God, how may I know that I will possess it?”			
18	16: 8 He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where have you come from and where are you going?” And she said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.”			
19	16:13 Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “You are a God who sees”; for she said, “Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?”			
20	17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear <i>a child?</i> ”			
21	17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear <i>a child?</i> ”			
22	18: 9 Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “There, in the tent.”			
23	18:12 Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”			

24	18:13 And the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘ Shall I indeed bear a <i>child</i>, when I am so old? ’			
25	18:14 Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”			
26	18:17, 18 The Lord said, “ Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?			
27	18:23 Abraham came near and said, “ Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?			
28	18:24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep <i>it</i> away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?			
29	18:25 Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are <i>treated</i> alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly? ”			
30	18:28 Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five? ” And He said, “I will not destroy <i>it</i> if I find forty-five there.”			
31	19: 5 and they called to Lot and said to him, “ Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.”			
32	19:12 Then the <i>two</i> men said to Lot, “ Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring <i>them</i> out of the place;			
33	19:20 now behold, this town is near <i>enough</i> to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) that my life may be saved.”			
34	20: 4 Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, “ Lord, will You slay a nation, even <i>though</i> blameless?			
35	20: 5 Did he not himself say to me, ‘ She is my sister? ’ And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”			

36	20: 9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”			
37	20: 9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”			
38	20:10 And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What have you encountered, that you have done this thing?”			
39	21: 7 And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”			
40	21:17 God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.			
41	21:29 Abimelech said to Abraham, “What do these seven ewe lambs mean, which you have set by themselves?”			
42	22: 7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”			
43	23:15 “My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead.”			
44	24: 5 The servant said to him, “Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came? ”			
45	24:23 and said, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father’s house?”			
46	24:23 and said, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father’s house? ”			

47	24:31 And he said, "Come in, blessed of the Lord! Why do you stand outside since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels? "			
48	24:47 Then I asked her, and said, ' Whose daughter are you? ' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him'; and I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists.			
49	24:58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, " Will you go with this man? " And she said, "I will go."			
50	24:65 She said to the servant, " Who is that man walking in the field to meet us? " And the servant said, "He is my master." Then she took her veil and covered herself.			
51	25:22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, " If it is so, why then am I <i>this way</i>? " So she went to inquire of the Lord.			
52	25:32 Esau said, " Behold, I am about to die; so of what <i>use</i> then is the birthright to me? "			
53	26: 9 Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, certainly she is your wife! How then did you say, ' She is my sister? '" And Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'I might die on account of her.'"			
54	26:10 Abimelech said, " What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us."			
55	26:27 Isaac said to them, " Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you? "			
56	27:18 Then he came to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son? "			
57	27:20 Isaac said to his son, " How is it that you have <i>it</i> so quickly, my son? " And he said, "Because the Lord your God caused <i>it</i> to happen to me."			
58	27:24 And he said, " Are you really my son Esau? " And he said, "I am."			
59	27:32 Isaac his father said to him, " Who are you? " And he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."			

60	27:33 Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, “Who was he then that hunted game and brought <i>it</i> to me, so that I ate of all of <i>it</i> before you came, and blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.”			
61	27:36 Then he said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has supplanted me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.” And he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”			
62	27:37 But Isaac replied to Esau, “Behold, I have made him your master, and all his relatives I have given to him as servants; and with grain and new wine I have sustained him. Now as for you then, what can I do, my son? ”			
63	27:38 Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, <i>even</i> me also, O my father.” So Esau lifted his voice and wept.			
64	27:45 until your brother’s anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send and get you from there. Why should I be bereaved of you both in one day? ”			
65	27:46 Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?”			
66	29: 4 Jacob said to them, “My brothers, where are you from?” And they said, “We are from Haran.”			
67	29: 5 He said to them, “Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?” And they said, “We know <i>him</i> .”			
68	29: 6 And he said to them, “Is it well with him?” And they said, “It is well, and here is Rachel his daughter coming with the sheep.”			
69	29:15 Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?”			
70	29:15 Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be? ”			

71	29:25 So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, “ What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?”			
72	29:25 So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?”			
73	29:25 So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me? ”			
74	30: 2 Then Jacob’s anger burned against Rachel, and he said, “ Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb? ”			
75	30:15 But she said to her, “ Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? And would you take my son’s mandrakes also?” So Rachel said, “Therefore he may lie with you tonight in return for your son’s mandrakes.”			
76	30:15 But she said to her, “Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? And would you take my son’s mandrakes also? ” So Rachel said, “Therefore he may lie with you tonight in return for your son’s mandrakes.”			
77	30:30 For you had little before I came and it has increased to a multitude, and the Lord has blessed you wherever I turned. But now, when shall I provide for my own household also? ”			
78	30:31 So he said, “ What shall I give you? ” And Jacob said, “You shall not give me anything. If you will do this <i>one</i> thing for me, I will again pasture <i>and</i> keep your flock:			
79	31:14 Rachel and Leah said to him, “ Do we still have any portion or inheritance in our father’s house? ”			
80	31:15 Are we not reckoned by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and has also entirely consumed our purchase price.			
81	31:26 Then Laban said to Jacob, “ What have you done by deceiving me and carrying away my daughters like captives of the sword? ”			

82	31:27, 28 Why did you flee secretly and deceive me, and did not tell me so that I might have sent you away with joy and with songs, with timbrel and with lyre; 28 and did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters? Now you have done foolishly.			
83	31:30 Now you have indeed gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house; <i>but</i> why did you steal my gods?"			
84	31:36 Then Jacob became angry and contended with Laban; and Jacob said to Laban, " What is my transgression? What is my sin that you have hotly pursued me?"			
85	31:36 Then Jacob became angry and contended with Laban; and Jacob said to Laban, "What is my transgression? What is my sin that you have hotly pursued me? "			
86	31:37 Though you have felt through all my goods, what have you found of all your household goods? Set <i>it</i> here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two.			
87	31:43 Then Laban replied to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, and the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne? "			
88	32:17 He commanded the one in front, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, ' To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these <i>animals</i> in front of you belong? '"			
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91	32:27 So he said to him, " What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."			

92	32:29 Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, " Why is it that you ask my name? " And he blessed him there.			
93	33: 5 He lifted his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, " Who are these with you? " So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."			
94	33: 8 And he said, " What do you mean by all this company which I have met? " And he said, "To find favor in the sight of my lord."			
95	33:15 Esau said, "Please let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, " What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord."			
96	34:31 But they said, " Should he treat our sister as a harlot? "			
97	37: 8 Then his brothers said to him, " Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.			
98	37: 8 Then his brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us? " So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.			
99	37:10 He related <i>it</i> to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, " What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?"			
100	37:10 He related <i>it</i> to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground? "			
102	37:15 A man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, " What are you looking for? "			
103	37:26 Judah said to his brothers, " What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? "			

104	37:30 He returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is not <i>there</i> ; as for me, where am I to go? "			
105	38:16 So he turned aside to her by the road, and said, "Here now, let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said, " What will you give me, that you may come in to me? "			
106	38:18 He said, " What pledge shall I give you? " And she said, "Your seal and your cord, and your staff that is in your hand." So he gave <i>them</i> to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him.			
107	38:21 He asked the men of her place, saying, " Where is the temple prostitute who was by the road at Enaim? " But they said, "There has been no temple prostitute here."			
108	39: 9 There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God? "			
109	40: 7 He asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, " Why are your faces so sad today? "			
110	40: 8 Then they said to him, "We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Then Joseph said to them, " Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell <i>it</i> to me, please."			
111	41:38 Then Pharaoh said to his servants, " Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit? "			
112	42: 1 Now Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said to his sons, " Why are you staring at one another? "			
113	42: 7 When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly. And he said to them, " Where have you come from? " And they said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."			
114	42:22 Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not tell you, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood."			

115	42:28 Then he said to his brothers, "My money has been returned, and behold, it is even in my sack." And their hearts sank, and they <i>turned</i> trembling to one another, saying, " What is this that God has done to us? "			
116	43: 6 Then Israel said, " Why did you treat me so badly by telling the man whether you still had <i>another</i> brother? "			
117	43: 7 But they said, "The man questioned particularly about us and our relatives, saying, ' Is your father still alive? Have you <i>another</i> brother?' So we answered his questions. Could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"			
118	43: 7 But they said, "The man questioned particularly about us and our relatives, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you <i>another</i> brother? ' So we answered his questions. Could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"			
119	43: 7 But they said, "The man questioned particularly about us and our relatives, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you <i>another</i> brother?' So we answered his questions. Could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'? "			
120	43:27 Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, " Is your old father well, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"			
121	43:27 Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, "Is your old father well, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive? "			
122	43:29 As he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, he said, " Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? " And he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son."			
123	44: 4 They had <i>just</i> gone out of the city, <i>and</i> were not far off, when Joseph said to his house steward, "Up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, ' Why have you repaid evil for good? '"			
124	44: 5 Is not this the one from which my lord drinks and which he indeed uses for divination? You have done wrong in doing this."			

125	44: 7 They said to him, “ Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing.			
126	44: 8 Behold, the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks we have brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord’s house?			
127	44:15 Joseph said to them, “ What is this deed that you have done? Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed practice divination?”			
128	44:15 Joseph said to them, “What is this deed that you have done? Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed practice divination? ”			
129	44:16 So Judah said, “ What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord’s slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.”			
130	44:16 So Judah said, “What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord’s slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.”			
131	44:19 My lord asked his servants, saying, ‘ Have you a father or a brother? ’			
132	44:34 For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me—for fear that I see the evil that would overtake my father? ”			
133	45: 3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive? ” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.			
134	46:33 When Pharaoh calls you and says, ‘ What is your occupation? ’			
135	47: 3 Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, “ What is your occupation? ” So they said to Pharaoh, “Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers.”			
136	47: 8 Pharaoh said to Jacob, “ How many years have you lived? ”			

137	47:15 When the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “ Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For <i>our</i> money is gone.”			
138	47:19 Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be slaves to Pharaoh. So give us seed, that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate.”			
139	48: 8 When Israel saw Joseph’s sons, he said, “ Who are these? ”			
140	49: 9 “Judah is a lion’s whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?			
141	50:19 But Joseph said to them, “ Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place?			