

(Critical names, terms, and events are underlined)

- 1–115 Proem (prooimion, introduction)
  - 1–8 First invocation to the Muses
  - 9–21 The songs of the Muses (the gods)
  - 22–35 Hesiod's investiture (initiation) as a poet
  - 36–103 Origin and powers of the Muses
  - 103–115 Second invocation to the Muses, declaration of subject
  
- 116–336 First beings: Chaos, Ge, Tartarus, Eros and their offspring
  - 123–125 Offspring of Chaos
  - 126–210 Offspring of Ge (esp. the Titans, with Uranus)
    - 154–210 Castration of Uranus, birth of Aphrodite
  - 211–232 Offspring of Nyx (Night)
  - 233–239 Offspring of Pontus
  - 240–264 Nereids
  - 265–336 Offspring of Thaumatas, Phorcys, and Ceto
  
- 337–885 Offspring of the Titans and Zeus' rise to power
  - 337–370 Oceanus + Tethys: Rivers and Springs
  - 371–403 Hyperion + Theia: Helius (Sun), Selene (Moon), Eos (Dawn)
  - 404–452 Coeus + Phoebe: Two generations, including
    - 411–452 Hecate
  - 453–506 Cronus + Rhea: Zeus, Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, Poseidon
  - 507–616 Iapetus + Clymene: Atlas, Epimetheus, Menoetius, and
    - 535–616 Prometheus, whose story includes
    - 570–616 Pandora
  - 617–885 Titanomachy: War against the Titans
    - 820–880 Typhoeus
    - 881–885 End of war, Zeus distributes honors
  
- 886–1018 Offspring of Zeus and the other Olympians
  - 886–929 Wives and children of Zeus
  - 930–962 Couplings of first- and second-generation Olympians
  - 963–end Offspring of mortals and goddesses

### Life and Times

- ca. 700 BCE (Archaic Period: *MLS* 54)
- Imagined as contemporary of Homer: *Contest/Certamen of Homer and Hesiod*
- From Asia Minor, settled in Ascra (Boeotia) near Mt. Helicon
- (?unhappily) Married, son
- Brother Perses cheated him out of his inheritance
- Farmer/shepherd-turned-poet: received staff of laurel from the Muses
- Won first prize at funeral games of Amphidamas (Calchis, Euboea)

### Works

- Didactic (Gk. *didaskein*, teach) poetry
- Dactylic hexameter: same meter (and, generally, vocabulary and conventions) as Homer
- *Theogony*: creation of the Greek universe (*cosmos*)
- *Works and Days*: proper means and times for work (dedicated to Perses)
- Attributed (probably rightly): *Catalog of Women*: gods and their mortal lovers/victims
- Attributed (probably wrongly): *Shield of Heracles* (the hero vs. Cycnus, son of Ares)

### Why Hesiod?

- Primary source for creation of Greek universe
- Stories of divine succession (generations of gods), Prometheus, and Pandora
- Excellent case study for patriarchal and gender issues
- Oldest Greek poetic persona