

GENESIS 1: CREATION

I. OVERVIEW

- A. The main character of the Bible is introduced – God
- B. God creates the heavens and the earth in six days
 - i. Separation occurs on the first three days
 - a. Light from dark, water from water, land from water
 - ii. Creation is filled with inhabitants in the last three days
 - a. Stars, sea and sky creatures, land creatures and humans
- C. Humans are given a blessing
 - i. Be fruitful and multiply
 - ii. Fill the earth
 - iii. Subdue the earth
 - iv. Have dominion over every living thing
 - v. Plants are given for food

II. GOD - V. 1

- A. Hebrew *Elohim*
 - i. Plural
 - ii. Yet verbs and pronouns are singular
 - iii. Many use this as support for Trinitarian doctrine
 - a. However, the same word is used for pagan gods
 - i. ***Judges 16:23 Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god (Elohim) and to rejoice, and they said, “Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand.”***
 - b. 11th Century Jewish commentator Rashi – plural denotes all authority¹
 - c. Charles John Ellicott (18th Century theologian) - ***Thus, in the name Elohim it included in one Person all the powers, mights, and influences by which the world was first created and is now governed and maintained. In the Vedas, in the hymns recovered for us by the decipherment of the cuneiform inscriptions, whether Accadian or Semitic, and in all other ancient religious poetry, we find these powers ascribed to***

¹ Sigal, Gerald. “Oneness of God - the Meaning of 'Elohim.’” *Jews for Judaism*,
<https://jewsforjudaism.org/knowledge/articles/oneness-of-god-the-meaning-of-elohim>.

*different beings; in the Bible alone Elohim is one. Christians may also well see in this a foreshadowing of the plurality of persons in the Divine Trinity; but its primary lesson is that, however diverse may seem the working of the powers of nature, the Worker is one and His work one.*²

- B. Introduces main character of Bible

III. GOD CREATED – V. 1

- A. What question is the Bible answering?
 - i. Evolution was not a theory at this time
 - ii. Pagan myths were
 - iii. We can't be disturbed by godless theories of creation but we also can't force the Bible to answer questions the author's weren't asking

IV. DEEP – V. 2

- A. Or sea, ocean
 - i. Implied confusion, chaos

V. SPIRIT – V. 2

- A. Or Breath of Life
 - i. Primary function of Spirit
 - a. Bring what is dead to life
 - b. Bring order out of chaos

VI. THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION:

- A. First three days – creation is **ordered**
 - i. Day 1 – **light** separated from darkness
 - ii. Day 2 – **waters** above separated from waters below
 - iii. Day 3 – water separated from **land**, plants and trees sprout up
- B. Last three days – creation is **inhabited**
 - i. Day 4 – **lights** created in heavens
 - ii. Day 5 – Creatures in **water** below and water above
 - iii. Day 6 – Creatures on **land**, **humans**

VII. THESE DAYS OF CREATION PROVIDE SEVERAL THEMES AND IMAGES THAT WILL BE EXPLORED THROUGH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE

² Ellicott, Charles J. "The Creative Week." *Ellicott's Commentary For English Readers*, <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ellicott/genesis/1.htm>.

- A. Spirit – breath of life
- B. Waters/darkness – death, chaos
- C. Dry land/light – life, refuge
- D. God splitting the waters – overcoming evil³

VIII. THE NUMBER SEVEN

- A. Signifies completeness

IX. PATTERNS IN GENESIS 1:1-2:3 (BIBLE PROJECT)⁴

- A. Seven words in v.1 and fourteen in v. 2
- B. Seven paragraphs including “evening and morning”
- C. Seventh paragraph has three lines of seven words each
 - i. And He finished
 - ii. And He ceased
 - iii. And He blessed
- D. Each key word in v. 1 repeated multiple of seven times
 - i. God – 35x
 - ii. Land – 21x
 - iii. Skies/dome – 21x
- E. Other key words repeated seven times
 - i. Light/day on day 1
 - ii. Light on day 4
 - iii. Living creature – day 5-6
 - iv. God saw that it was good
- F. God speaks ten times
 - i. Seven times to creation
 - a. Let there be...
 - ii. Three times to humanity
 - a. Let us make...
 - b. Be fruitful and multiply...
 - c. Behold, I have given you...

³ Mackie, Tim. “Visual Commentary: Genesis 1.” *Bible Project*,
https://d1bsmz3sdiplr.cloudfront.net/media/Study%20Notes/VC_Genesis-1_Study%20Notes_final.pdf.

⁴ *ibid*

X. US – V. 26

- A. Evidence of Trinity
- B. Divine Council
 - i. Concept shared by many ancient near east cultures
 - ii. Evidence in Scripture but not well developed or understood

XI. IMAGE – V. 26

- A. Guzik - *This means the incarnation was truly possible. God (in the second Person of the Trinity) could really become man because although deity and humanity are not the same, they are compatible.*⁵

XII. BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY – V. 28

- A. First job given to humans
- B. Partner with God to subdue earth
 - i. Creation in the rest of the world outside Eden was unfinished

XIII. I HAVE GIVEN YOU – V.29

- A. God gave plants to humans for food
- B. Meat was not introduced as food until after the flood
- C. This is the ideal for the human body

XIV. AFTER GOD SPOKE THREE TIMES, HE SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD

- A. This will become important later

XV. POINTS TO JESUS

- A. God spoke the world into existence
 - i. The words that He spoke were also The Word, Jesus
 - a. *John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- B. All things were created through Jesus
 - i. *Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

⁵ Guzik, David. "Study Guide For Genesis 1." *Blue Letter Bible*, 2018,
https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-1.cfm.

- C. New creation begins in us the same way it began in Genesis 1 when we receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- i. **2 Corinthians 4:3-6** *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
- D. Jesus is the image of God as intended at creation
- i. **Hebrews 1:3** *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

XVI. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- A. What does Genesis 1:1 teach us about God?
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- B. How is there light present before the sun was created? What is the true source of physical light?
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- C. What are some ways that we reflect the image of God? Why did God create humans in His image?
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- D. Why did God see the need to create seasons?
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- E. Why did God create the earth in six days instead of speaking everything into existence in an instant?

XVII. FURTHER STUDY

- A. How did other biblical authors view the creation account in Genesis? How did Jesus view Genesis? (See Psalm 136; Isaiah 48:13; Matthew 19:4-6; Matthew 23:35)

- B. What does Psalm 90 say about the origin of God?

- C. What is the purpose of the sun, moon and stars (Psalm 19)?

- D. Why did God create darkness? Why will there be no need for night or for darkness in the New Jerusalem? See Job 30:26; Psalm 104:19-20; Isaiah 9:2-3; Revelation 21:23-25

- E. Why did God create the sea? Why will He remove it in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1)?
