

The Book of Genesis

The Book of Genesis Creation

Introduction: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Psalm 19:1; 8:3-4)

- I. In the Beginning (Genesis 1:1-2)
 - A. The beginning refers to the beginning of the material world – the universe.
 1. Time - “In the beginning”
 2. Force - “God”
 3. Motion - “created”
 4. Space - “the heaven”
 5. Matter - “and the earth”
 - B. Consider the simplicity and profoundness of Genesis 1:1.
 - C. “He who was in the beginning, did not begin, when the beginning began” (Guy N. Woods).
 1. God is eternal – He has no beginning or ending.
 2. He is the First Great Cause (cf. Psalm 90:2).
 3. Two competing worldviews:
 - a. Matter is eternal (or created itself)
 - b. Mind (spirit) is eternal
 - D. The word for God in this passage is “Elohim.”
 1. It is the fourth word in Scripture (third in Hebrew), and the first name of God used in the Bible.
 2. It is plural – not that there are many gods, but one God in three persons.
 3. It means, “Mighty ones;” “gods, rulers, judges,” or “godlike ones.”
 4. It is translated as “God” over 2,350 times in the Bible.
 5. It is used 35 times in the first 2 chapters of Genesis.
 6. It emphasizes the power and glory of God – especially in Creation.
 7. The Creation demonstrates the omnipotence of God!
 - E. The word for ‘created’ is “bara.”
 1. It is only used of God.
 2. It means to create out of nothing.
 3. Notice God’s actions in the creation account...
 - a. Created, moved, said, divided, called, made, saw, set, blessed, ended, and rested
 - b. “God said” is recorded 10 times in Genesis 1.
 - F. The earth was “without form” (‘waste’ [ASV]) and “void” – it was without its ultimate arrangement.
 - G. Darkness covered all for light had not been created.
 - H. The phrase “the face of the deep” indicates that the earth was covered with water.
 - I. Yet, the Holy Spirit moved – “hovered, brooded, fluttered” – over the earth, an active Agent in the Creation (cf. Job 26:13; John 1:1-3).

The Book of Genesis

- II. Day One - Light (Genesis 1:3-5)
- A. "And God said, 'Let light be;' and light is (YLT).
 - B. This is the first record of God speaking – demonstrating (at the very beginning) the power of His Word! (Cf. Psa. 33:6, 9; Rom. 1:16; etc.)
 - C. After bringing light into being, God separated it from darkness – indicating the beginning of Earth's rotation on its axis (evening and morning).
 - D. Note that light existed before the Sun, Moon, and Stars were created (1:14-19; cf. 1 John 1:5; Jam. 1:17).
- III. Day Two - Atmosphere (Genesis 1:6-8)
- A. The Hebrew word for 'firmament' means, "Expanse."
 - B. This is a reference to the atmosphere that surrounds the earth – where birds fly and clouds drift.
 - C. The waters above the firmament may refer to a vapor canopy that once surrounded the planet.
- IV. Day Three - Dry Land and Vegetation (Genesis 1:9-13)
- A. The waters were gathered into one place, causing dry land to appear.
 - 1. This could have been accomplished by a process of depression and elevation.
 - 2. It is possible that there was one large continent of land since the waters were gathered into "one place."
 - 3. Yet, they are called "seas" (plural).
 - B. God created plants – grass, herbs, trees, etc. – to cover the dry land. *{Note that in the Bible, life began on the land, not in the ocean.}*
 - C. Each of them had the ability to reproduce within themselves – according to their kind.
- V. Day Four - Sun, Moon, Planets, and Stars (Genesis 1:14-19)
- A. The word for 'lights' means, "Light-givers, luminaries, luminous bodies."
 - B. They were created for the benefit of man – to mark time, signs, and seasons.
- VI. Day Five - Fish and Fowl (Genesis 1:20-23)
- A. The word for 'bring forth abundantly' means, "To swarm or abound."
 - B. The word for 'whales' actually means, "Creature or monster."
- VII. Day Six - Animals and Man (Genesis 1:24-31)
- A. Of course, these were animals that lived on the land.
 - B. Finally, God created man – the pinnacle and goal of His Creation.
 - C. Man was created in the image and likeness of God.
 - D. Man was given dominion over all the earth and its inhabitants.
 - E. Man was created male and female.
 - F. Man was instructed to fill and subdue the earth.
 - G. Everything God made was very good.
- VIII. Day Seven - God Rested (Genesis 2:1-3)
- A. This means that He ceased from His work of Creation.
 - B. It was to be the pattern God would use to establish the Sabbath Day.