

# GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

Study 1

In The Beginning God

Genesis 1:1-2

Part 1 of 3: Genesis affects Our World view

**1) a) Objective question. Choose all that apply. Based on the video lecture, why is Genesis important?**

A. It affects our identity

B. It affects our purpose

C. It affects how we perceive the world

D. It affects our values

E. It gives us hope

F. So that we can use it to bible bash those who believe in evolution theory


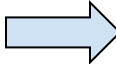
**b) Fill in the blanks. There are 4 major worldviews in regard to creation, fill in the blanks.**

	Scientific view/ Philosophical Naturalism	Young Earth Creationism	Old Earth Creationism	Theistic Evolution
<b>Creator</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>View of Man</b>	Just another animal	Pinnacle of Creation	Pinnacle of Creation	Pinnacle of Creation
<b>Timing</b>	Billions years	6 days	Billions years	Billions years
<b>Mechanism</b>	Unguided Evolution	Special Creation	Billions years	God Directed

Part 2 of 3: Interpretation Issues

2) Fill in the blanks. From the slides in the video lecture, fill in the missing information regarding 'literal' interpretation.

a) Outlook 1: Literal interpretation= Plain Meaning



Grammatical construction	 Helps you understand	Plain meaning	 Intended by the	Author
Historical context				

b) Outlook 2: Literal VS Literalistic.



Literal		Literalistic
Grammar	VS	Direct meaning
Syntax		No symbolism or metaphors
Genre		
Literary context		
Historical context of author		
Social		
Example of Application (x)_____		Example of Application (y)_____

**b) Objective question. Choose the most appropriate answer. Which of the application example shows the correct difference between literal vs literalistic?**

**i) Literal vs literalistic application of John 10:7 “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”**

	Literal (x)	Literalistic (y)
A.	 <p>Jesus =</p>	Jesus is the means of salvation
<b>B.</b>	Jesus is the means of salvation	 <p>Jesus =</p>

**ii) Literal vs literalistic application of John 15:1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.”**

	Literal (x)	Literalistic (y)
A.	 <p>Jesus =</p>	Jesus is the means of spiritual growth
<b>B.</b>	Jesus is the means of spiritual growth	 <p>Jesus =</p>

**3) Objective question. Choose the most appropriate answer. Which genres are Genesis 1 & Genesis 2-3?**

	Genesis 1	Genesis 2-3
<b>A.</b>	Exalted prose/ poetry	Narrative/ Detailed story
B.	Narrative/ Detailed story	Exalted prose/ poetry

**4) Objective question. Choose all that apply. According to the video lecture, what are the problems with literalistic interpretations?**

- A. You need to read a lot of historical context to get it
- B. It ignores the literary style of the chapter
- C. It makes claims to a truth where the Bible does not make
- D. The people who use it did not attend biblical interpretation class

**5) Objective question. Choose the most appropriate answer. According to the video lecture, which is true?**

- A. The author of Genesis want to teach us a Science lesson
- B. The author of Genesis chose particular literary genres for their medium of communication that best fit their purposes and audience

Part 3 of 3: God in the Beginning Gives Meaning

**Verse 1-2**

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

**6) Objective question. Choose the most appropriate answer. According to verse 1 and the video lecture, which is true?**

- A. The universe is eternal
- B. The universe had a beginning

**7) Fill in the Blanks. Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences for the Kalam Cosmological Argument.**

1.	Whatever	begins	to exist has a	cause	Of its existence
2.	The universe	began			To exist
3.	Therefore, the universe has a		cause		Of its existence

**8) Fill in the Blanks. Fill in the blanks on why the Presence of God in Genesis is important vs the Absence of God?**

1.	Presence of God provides	purpose	which gives significance to why the world matters.
2.	Presence of God provides	meaning	which is a goal or reason for the existence of creatures in it.
3.	Presence of God provides	value	good or evil, right or wrong. It is determined by God's will.
4.	Absence of God only provides human	illusions	As there is no purpose, meaning or tangible value

**Takeaway for Genesis 1:1-2**

- Genesis is the basis of our world view and our world view is fundamental to the way we live
- Genesis needs to be read in its original context as Moses wrote it to Israel as a book about the origin and purpose of life. It is not a science book
- Genesis is exalted prose which is a historical narrative with poetic elements with use of imagery
- Genesis is to be interpreted according to the "plain meaning" conveyed by its grammatical construction and historical context according to the author's intent
- There was a beginning of the universe
- God is the cause of that beginning
- God is the one who gives purpose, meaning and value to our world
- There is no gap between verse 1 and 2

**Case Study**

**Case 1**

Jenna See grew up in a Christian family, but after going to university and learning about evolution which took millions of years, started having questions and doubts because she had been told that the Christians believe that the world was only created in 7 days.

**9) Discussion question. Jenna came to you, a leader of her life group, to ask about the problem of evolution and the verses in Genesis. How would you answer her?**

**Case 1.1**

Jenna brought a friend, Dichard Rawkins, who is an atheist, to the church during an Alpha session. The friend heard a Christian answer that God provides purpose, meaning and value to our life. He exclaimed: "It's not true! We can make our own meaning and value in life! We don't need God to have them!"

**10) Discussion question. You are one of the facilitators in the Alpha session, how do you reply him?**