

GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

Study 2

The Creator God

Genesis 1:3-26

Part 1 of 3: God has Authority

Recommended split reading: Day 1 (v3-5), Day 2(v6-8), Day 3(v9-13)

Genesis 1:3-13 (ESV)

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

1) a) Fill in the Blanks. Fill in the blanks before for the repeated patterns that can be seen in verses 3-13.

Verses	Patterns	Significance
3, 6, 9, 11	And God____, "Let...."	Everything is created by the power of His word. Words convey the intent of the mind and Genesis shows that creation was born out of God's desire, intent, and design. What He desired He spoke into existence.
7, 9, 11	And it was __	This paints a picture of a sovereign immensely powerful God. Authority: It happens when God dictates it

b) Objective question. Select all that apply. From the video lecture, what other lessons about God can we take away from the passage?

- A. God is transcendent, which means he is separate or outside from creation.
- B. There was no other being speaking, only God.
- C. God used “words” as an agent, to carry out His will.
- D. God is the only one who creates something out of nothing.
- E. God is part of the universe, God is in all things like a force.

Part 2 of 3: Days

2) a) Fill in the Blanks. Fill in the bible passages where the word ‘day’ is used differently.

Types	Day=?	Bible passage
USE 1	Day = LIGHT	Genesis 1:5 (ESV) God called the _____, and the darkness he called Night...
USE 2	Day – Hebrew Definition of the Day	Genesis 1:5 (ESV) God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the _____.
USE 3	Day = Indefinite Period of Time	Genesis 2:1-2 (ESV) Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the _____ from all his work that he had done.
USE 4	Day = Era or Period of Time	Genesis 2:4 (ESV) These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, _____ that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

b) Discussion question. Given that the word ‘day’ is used in 4 different ways, how do you view the ‘6 days’ of creation now?

Recommended split reading: Day 4 (v14-19), Day 5(v20-23), Day 6 (v24-31), Day 7(v.2:1-3)

Genesis 1:14-2:3 (ESV)
 And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the

earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."





So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

4) Reflection question. Share with your group how many times have you read through the chapter on the creation story and the one thing new that you have learned this time?

5) Fill in the blanks with answers from the lecture slides on the 7-Day Design.

Imagery	Creation/Location	Purpose /Inhabitants
	<p>Day 1</p> <p>Light</p> <p>(Space/ Existence/ Universe/ Physical dimension/ time?)</p>	<p>Day 4</p> <p>_____</p>
	<p>Day 2</p> <p>Sky and Water</p>	<p>Day 5</p> <p>_____</p>
	<p>Day 3</p> <p>Dryland, Earth</p> <p>Vegetation, Plants, Trees, Fruits, Seeds</p>	<p>Day 6</p> <p>_____</p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: right;">Day 7 _____</p>		

Part 3 of 3: Design and Purpose of Creation

6) Objective question. Choose the most appropriate. Which of the following is FALSE?

- A. The use of “greater light” and “lesser light” is a polemic use to counter the polytheism and idolatry at that particular time
- B. The goal of creation is for God
- C. All physical creation and desires are a distraction from spiritual life, and hence not good
- D. The response of creation is to proclaim and worship God
- E. Creations are designed to appreciate some standard of beauty

7) Objective question. Select all that apply. Which of the following is TRUE about evolution theory?

- A. There are problems with the evolution theory
- B. There is good evidence for micro (small) evolution but no good evidence for macro (big) evolution
- C. To produce one simplest life form with 239 protein molecules would take 10 billion years whereas the earth is only 4.5 billion years old
- D. There is no fossil evidence of transitional forms (in-between stages) of the animals
- E. For a Chimp's DNA to randomly mutate into Human DNA will take 65 billion years (the whole universe is only 13.7 billion years old)

Takeaway for Genesis 1:3-26-2:3

WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT GOD?

- One God
- Transcendent God
- Sovereign God
- A Speaking God
- A Good God

WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT CREATION?

- Orderly designed world with purpose
- Good and wondrous world

Case Study

Please select which case studies you want to discuss. No need to go through all.

Case 1

Alfred was sharing with a friend from another church about Genesis and Creation. His friend was very adamant that Genesis very clearly stated that the world was created in 7 days and anyone who deviates from that interpretation was a heretic or liberal Christian. At stake is the infallibility of Scripture itself. If we don't accept the literal interpretation of the 7 days then we are denying the inerrancy of Scripture, we are saying Scripture was wrong.

1) Discussion question. How should Alfred answer his friend about reading Genesis 1?

Case 2

Jess was sharing with an Arabic friend from her university days in the USA who stated that what put her off the Christian faith was how unreliable the Bible was. He astutely noted that Genesis 1 stated that the Sun and moon were created on the 4th day and yet there could be morning and evening from the first day which would be an absolute scientific contradiction so Christians must be illogical to believe in such writings. Moreover, he pointed out that it is clear that Genesis 1 creation account was a myth and as such Christianity was based on a lie.

2) Discussion question. How would Jess best discuss the issue with her friend?

Case 3

Harvey prides himself as a very modern person living in Singapore. He graduated in law and is active in social work in the community. He was involved in the Law Reform society where he worked to ensure that the laws of the land would constantly be reviewed to reflect the ever-changing aspirations and values of the society. He supported the legalization of marijuana. He advocated lighter sentences for crimes and a larger focus on rehabilitation. He advocated greater governmental assistance for gifted kids programs and less funding for autistic children or disabled children as they did not contribute much to society. He joined the government think tank in his country which advocated marriage between professionals as the preferred norm in society as he believed the mixing of two superior gene pools will result in better offspring and hence a better society. Hence the government started to provide rewards for professionals who intermarried. Since he was in government with input into immigration policies he favored the inclusion of more Chinese people into the country and avoidance of Africans and Indians as well as Malays as he regarded them as culturally less advanced and inferior.

3) Discussion question. What are Harvey's views in life based on? How does this conflict with Biblical values?

Case 4

Kerry was working with a church in his suburb which is well known for its outreach program working with orphans and the poor.

They have evangelistic meetings almost every quarter where the gospel is shared aggressively. Recently a neighboring church invited Kerry and his church leadership to take part in a recycling drive in their neighborhood as well as a clean-up campaign. Kerry approached his leaders who disagreed and told him that their main mandate as a church was to share the gospel. The focus was the kingdom of heaven. This world will pass away and hence it was no point trying to rehabilitate it.

4) Discussion question. From your understanding of Genesis what do you think of their leader's decision and how do you support your argument?

Case 5

Dennis' brother had recently been diagnosed as having a chronic debilitating disease of the nerves called Motor Neuron Disease which meant that he would progressively lose all strength from his muscles and become dependent on others to feed and clothe him.

When his church friends came to console him, he became very bitter and angry saying how could a good God allow such senseless suffering in this world.

5) Discussion question. Was He not powerful enough to create a perfect world or if He was powerful enough, why did He let such obvious misery come upon his brother and expect him to worship Him?

Case 6

Pan Teeyeesem is a non-believer attending the Alpha course. He comes from a Buddhist background and believes that the universe is a force that recycles, where energy is converted and reincarnation happens. He believes that nature will always be in equilibrium, when something dies, another lives, and that's the way it has been eternally.

6) Discussion question. After sharing his worldview, Pan asks you, an Alpha facilitator: "What do you think about creation and the universe?" How do you respond?

Case 7

Pan after attending the Alpha course, believed in Jesus and converted to Christianity. Pan has a staunch atheist son who does not believe in any God. He strongly believes in the evolution theory and believes men evolved from chimps, which evolved from basic cells. Pan does not know how to handle his questions and brought his son to meet with you over a *teh tarik* session.

7) Discussion question. What points would you prepare to present to Pan about the evolution theory and the bible?

8) Discussion question. Can you discuss how an evolutionary view of creation would deal with the issues of euthanasia, abortion, genetic engineering, and care of severely disabled children compared to the biblical view of creation? What are the inherent dangers of the evolutionary view?