

# Genesis 1 - The Creation Narrative

**INTRODUCTION:** Last week, we began our study of Genesis by looking at the fact that Moses penned this account for the myriad of nomadic Jews wandering in the wilderness, preparing to take possession of the land God promised to Abraham and his descendants.

The first five books of the Bible, the books of Moses, were written to give them an identity and culture. They show them who they are and whose they are. The account serves us in much the same way.

## Genesis 1:1–5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

**PERSPECTIVE** - Verses 1 and 2 are told from the perspective of the Father looking down on a formless and void planet covered in water. There is nothing yet to see, for there is no light to illuminate the planet.

The Holy Spirit has made Himself manifest over the face of the deep. This grants us a second perspective. As the creation account progresses, it will be told from that spot on the face of the deep where the Holy Spirit Hovered. I can show you that in the text.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was **evening** and there was **morning**, the first day.

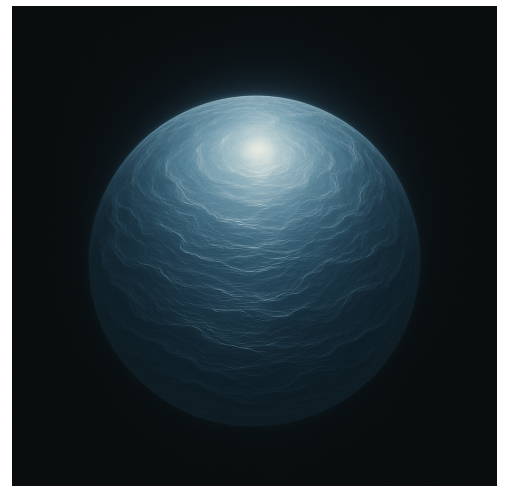
**Day 1 - SUNDAY of creation - Light is made and separated from darkness.**

### A few very important observations:

**1. Formation and Rotation** - We are told that there was evening and there was morning, the first day. This seems to indicate that this was a typical 24-hour day, which the Jews would measure from sunset to sunrise.

For a sunset to occur, the perspective had to shift to a localized spot on the planet, which I would take to be that place where the Holy Spirit is hovering over the face of the deep.

The Ancient Rabbis believed that this was happening directly over the place where Jerusalem would one day be built, above the piece of real estate where the temple would one day stand. Currently, there stands the structure of the Al Asqua Mosque (the Dome of the Rock), under which is the stone outcropping - that they believe was where God took the soil with which he made Adam.



Also, for sunset to occur, there had to be rotation of the planet. So, imagine if you will the Holy Spirit manifesting, hovering, vibrating, over that spot... darkness and water covering it. Then, the Earth begins to spin at 1,037 miles per hour and takes shape, no longer without form.

God speaks the light into existence, and there in space from the Father's perspective, you see a single solitary planet, perfectly blue, not yet a spot of dry land.

We can also deduce from the narrative that light was directional. This is important because the Sun would not be created until day 4. Light is always directional, but from which direction did the light come in order to generate a sunset?

I would presume the light came from God the Father. The shikina glory of the Lord lighting the earth. We are told in the New Jerusalem that the Sun would be unnecessary because God's glory would light the city. In the same way, here we see light emanating from God to Earth.

Can you imagine that first sunset? Supernatural light fills the horizon.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

### **Day 2 - MONDAY of creation - God separates the firmament above from the waters below.**

Now, this is more than the evaporization of the water, now rising to form the atmosphere. Somethingg else had to be happening.

You see the word Moses used to describe the "waters" above and the "waters" below, was a very different word than the word translated "cloud". There were several Hebrew words for clouds, but Moses used none of those words. He used a very specific word for water.

This seems to indicate that, in the beginning, there was a watery layer that enveloped this planet. Later in Genesis 6-9 when we see a catastrophic global flood - one must ask, "From where did the water come"? You see if all of the water in our atmosphere suddenly fell from the sky - it would be enough for about an inch of water over the whole planet.

Thus, we can be certain that at some point, there was a massive sheet of water - which is referred to in the text as the firmament. That firmament would be broken up to flood this planet in Noah's day.

Now, imagine the radical difference in oxygen concentration and chemical composition of the atmosphere.



This would explain why animals grew far larger at this time than they do now, and the very long lives people experienced in the first few generations.

The world was different then - imagine if you will how the firmament may have affected the light as it dispersed through the sky.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

### Day 3 - TUESDAY of creation - God brings for land

God brings forth the land and separates the land from the Sea. And notice that He sees that it is good... The text doesn't say that of Monday... see even God doesn't like Mondays.

Day 3 creation continues....By the way, pay special attention to this day... I will show you why later.

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Again, notice how God is causing the earth to be good for man. How many of you had **coffee** this morning? Well you enjoyed one of the benefits of **day 3**. Think about it - when God made the Earth, He knew you would enjoy coffee, so he cause a coffee plant to grow.

<sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> 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.

Now I have to stop here for a moment - and draw your attention to those **last three words**... AND THE STARS. That is how God describes the creation of the entire universe apart from our solar system. Every galaxy, every super nova, every black hole.... He simply says.... And the stars.

**RECENTLY** *astronomers discovered a star that is as large as our solar system. It takes Pluto 248 years to make 1 revolution around the sun. It takes light from the sun 4.5 months to reach Pluto. There is a star out there that is so immense that it is as big as the orbit of Pluto. Yet the Bible says, “and the stars”*

Genesis gives **13 chapters to the story of Joseph** and **3 words** to the creation of the stars... **John Phillips** said *that reminds us that God is more interested in making SAINTS than STARS.*



<sup>17</sup> And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

#### **Day 4 - WEDNESDAY of creation - God fills the Universe**

We are told that the primary reason that God made the heavenly bodies is so that they could guide man in the rhythm of life. They are to determine seasons, days, and years. They help us segment life into a manageable calendar.

- Sunset and Sunrise - Determines our days.
- The Phase of the Moon - Determines our Months.
- The Changing of Seasons as the Earth Revolves around the Sun - Determines our Seasons.

So there is a time to work, and a time to sleep... He makes seasons so we can know - now is the time to plant, to cultivate, to reap.

Imagine also - with the firmament covering the earth - the magnification effect it would have had on the sun, moon, and stars. All would appear much larger - what a sunset.

<sup>20</sup> 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." <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

#### **Day 5 - THURSDAY of Creation. – Water is filled with creatures, and the sky is filled with creatures.**

Do you like to fish? Thank God for day 5 of creation. Do you enjoy sushi? That's a day 5 blessing. How about eggs? Did anyone have eggs for breakfast? Those are the wealthy people who can afford eggs. Well, eggs began on Day 5.

Again, the animals were larger, as they lived under the firmament. Some studies suggest the animals were much more colorful.

#### **Day 6 - FRIDAY of Creation. – The land is filled with creatures, and Man is created.**

<sup>24</sup> 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.

Note that phrase "after their kind". This indicates a clear division of species from the earliest days of creation. So monkeys have baby monkeys. Goats have baby goats. Humans have baby humans. Thank God that when you discovered you were pregnant, you didn't have to say - "I hope it's a human". Can you imagine if the Dr. said, "it's a puppy!". That would be weird.

**NOTE:** that God made various KINDS. If you are thinking in terms of TAXONOMY, this would closely relate to the FAMILY level. This is the level that was represented on the ARK later.

In other words, there were canines on the ark. Through natural selection they became - various types of wolves, or developed in foxes, coyotes, German shepherds, chihuahuas you name it - but the original KIND God created.

<sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

The word **image** should bring to mind the metaphor of a mirror. The mirror closely reflects the image of a man. As such, it is our image bearer, our reflector. Man was God's mirror. All of creation should be able to look at man and say, "Oh, that's what the Creator is like".

Also, notice the plurality and unity in the Godhead - God (Singular) said, "let US (Plural) make man in our (Plural) image.

So there you see the early indication of the Trinitarian view of God - One God eternally existing in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Spirit. Someone says - Pastor, explain to me exactly how that works. I can't.

**Augustine said,** *"If we try to explain the Trinity, we lose our minds; if we deny the Trinity, we lose our souls".*

I'm simply showing you that it is there - a singularity and a plurality. Taken with the totality of scripture, the doctrine of the Trinity is the only explanation.

**NOTICE the authority given to the image bearer -**

26b. And let them have dominion (dominion refers to the domain of a king) 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." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male** and **female** he created them.

Next week in Chapter 2, we will see a retelling of this story from the perspective of man, the narrative will slow down and give us play by play on Day 6.

But see him there, Man, Adam, before the fall, in every way reflected the nature of God... except for one. God's triune nature. Thus, the Triune God said, "It is not good for man to be alone". He fashioned for the man a helper, a wife - together they would reproduce and fill the earth... Thus Man, Woman, and eventually the Child reflecting in the family unit the very Image of God.

<sup>28</sup> And God **blessed** them.

Stop for a moment and see God's heart toward Adam and Eve - He was a loving Father that desired to "BLESS" them.

All of the creation is designed as the perfect dwelling place for mankind. All of the marvelous trees, plants, fruit, and animals were designed FOR MAN.

We will see soon that Satan's primary tactic is to emphasize what Man CANNOT have rather than focusing on the abundance. ***Sadness is always the result of focusing on the few things God says we cannot have rather than a multitude of blessings.***

<sup>28</sup> 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." <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> 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.

The Triune God looks over His creation and declares it **VERY GOOD - tov kel tov in Hebrew, meaning exceedingly good.**

## **Day 7 - Saturday of Creation. – God Rested**

### **Chapter 2**

<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

Incidentally, as we said earlier -

- Sunset and Sunrise - Determines our days.
- The Phase of the Moon - Determines our Months.
- The Changing of Seasons as the Earth Revolves around the Sun - Determines our Seasons.

Yet, every culture on the face of the planet as long as history has been recorded has also had a 7 day week... yet, there is nothing in nature to produce a 7 day rythm... the only explanation is that ancient memory that God created the earth in 6 days and rested on the 7th.

### **C.S. Lewis, reflecting on the suggestion that intelligent life exists because of the accidental collision of two molecules, said this -**

'If the solar system was brought about by an accidental collision, then the appearance of organic life on this planet was also an accident, and the whole evolution of Man was an accident too. If so, then all our present thoughts are mere accidents—the accidental by-product of the movement of atoms. And this holds for the thoughts of the materialists and astronomers as well as for anyone else's. But if their thoughts—i.e. of materialism and astronomy—are merely accidental by-products, why should we believe them to be true? I see no reason for believing that one accident should be able to give me a correct account of all the other accidents. It's like expecting that the accidental shape taken by the splash when you



upset a milk-jug should give you a correct account of how the jug was made and why it was upset.'

No my friend, you are NO accident - you were fearfully and wonderfully made.

See it there, the very definition of PARADISE. Man walking with God in the cool of the day, naked and unashamed - think of that... NO SHAME. No trauma, no anxiety... everything they could ever want surrounding them.

On top of that, they were given a massive challenge... challenges bring excitement and adventure to life - they were to take what they had in Eden and cover the planet with it.

They were to tend the garden, expand the garden... and make babies. What a life.

Feel it for a moment... yearn for it.... For that is home... that is what you were made for... and remember - that the New Heaven and New Earth that is coming is infinitely better than the Paradise of Eden.

You must see that fully in order to understand the height from which our race has fallen.

**YET, even in the midst of our fall, the Creator has provided.**

• **I reminded you earlier to pay attention to DAY 3...You see on the third day 3**

- God brought forth the land that would one day form that stony outcropping on the outskirts of Jerusalem, that would one day be named "Golgatha".
- On the 3rd day.... He brought the trees whose descendants would one day be used to form a Roman crucifix.
- And 4 millennia later, the second Adam would be hung on the tree that He had created.
- And then and only then would the phrase - **take and eat**, no longer be the utterance of death, but now it would forever become a summons to life.

**INVITATION/CONCLUSION:** Perhaps you are here today and life feels meaningless, chaotic, and disordered. What God did globally in the beginning... he does locally in each individual life it we will let him. He brings order out chaos, beauty out of ashes... in the words, of Jesus, "Behold, I make all things new".