

***Our Great God: Maker of Heaven and Earth***  
**Genesis 1:1-2:3**

I. Introduction

- A. Debates over Genesis in our day . . .
  - 1. Worldview debates between Christians and non-Christians: Creation vs. Evolution
  - 2. Christian debates: Age of the earth
- B. Why was Genesis written?
  - 1. Genesis was written to show the covenant community wandering in the wilderness who their God was, who they were (people) and what God was doing with them.
  - 2. With this understanding, they would be able to have faith in the creator God to fulfill all His promises and be encouraged to enter the promised land

II. Proposition

- A. The Lord our God, the king of creation, creates a place for His people and places His people in His place, under His rule (Word) and care (rest).
  - 1. This is the pattern of the kingdom of God, and it is established in Eden.
    - a. Ruler/King – God, Yahweh
      - 1). Rule – God’s Word/Law
    - b. Place/Earth – kingdom
    - c. People/Seed – subjects
    - d. Presence/Rest – peace, protection, provision
  - 2. In Eden God established His kingdom where He ruled by His Word and dwelt with His people in a kingdom of peace and righteousness.

III. Exposition

- A. **Ruler/King: The Lord our God is the sovereign creator (Gen. 1:1).**
  - 1. This is the primary message of Genesis – not how God created or how long it took God to create, but that HE created all things from nothing (*ex nihilo*—Hebrews 11:3)!
    - a. Various Bible believing evangelical groups differ on specifics of the “how.”
      - 1). PCA/OPC
  - 2. So, from the creation account, what is it that we as Christians must affirm:
    - a. The triune God existed from all eternity and He freely and purposely chose to create.
    - b. The triune God created all things from nothing.
    - c. The Genesis account is historical – not mythical.
    - d. That God created man in His own image, and thus distinct from all other creation, and all humanity comes from Adam and Eve.
    - e. That God accomplished His creative work in six days and rested on the seventh day, and we recognize that various Christians interpret “day” in a variety of ways that are permitted by exegesis.
  - 2. Yahweh brought everything into existence of His own free will “in the beginning”.
    - a. He is the Lord of time and history.
  - 3. Yahweh rules by His Word:
    - a. The Israelites had God’s Ten Words: i.e., the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20; Deut 5).
      - 1). Ten is the number of fullness.
    - b. God creates all things with ten words: “And God said” (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29).
      - 1). John 1:1 – Jesus Christ!

- c. The Lord our God continues to sustain His universe by the power of His Word (Heb. 1:3).  
1). See Psalm 104 – Worship God!!!

**B. Place/Earth: The Lord our God creates a good place for His people (Gen. 1:2-25).**

1. The creation account is a polemic against the ANE worldviews:  
a. Example: sun, moon and stars are important in ANE cultures, even gods, goddesses.  
1). They are created on the fourth day and not even named – “and stars”
2. God’s creative acts purposely prepare the earth for habitation: God brings the earth out of the formless, dark void by providing form, filling the void and overcoming the darkness.  
a. Gen. 1:2 – earth is without form and void; it is dark (uninhabitable).

b.

<b>Unformed becomes formed</b>	<b>Uninhabitable becomes inhabited</b>
Day 1: Light created: light divided from darkness	Day 4: Luminaries designated to fill the heavens and rule times and seasons
Day 2: Heaven divided from waters below	Day 5: Living creatures of the sea and air created to fill sea and heaven – blessed
Day 3: Land appears for vegetation	Day 6: Land animals created to inhabit land and blessed; human life created and blessed and tasked with dominion

3. God’s creative works:  
a. Day 1: Light dispels the darkness:  
1). Light source must be God, for sun comes on day 4 (Rev. 22:5).
4. This world points to man as the crown of God’s creation – the anthropic principle (Psalm 18).
5. The place God created was very good (declared good: 6, very good: 1 = seven times).  
a. Theme: land . . . Canaan. . . new heavens and new earth

**C. People/Seed: The Lord our God creates a people for His glory and places them in His good place and blesses them (1:26-31; cf. 2:15-17).**

1. God created man in His image to have dominion (Gen. 1:26-27): more next week.  
a. Implication: ecology
2. God blessed the man (Gen. 1:28):  
a. Theme: Blessing – through procreation.  
b. Man will exercise dominion over creation, partly through procreation.
3. God blesses His entire creation through the man.  
a. Theme: seed (generations – *toledoth*) – see Genesis 3:15  
1). Of the heavens and the earth (2:4-4:26)  
2). Of Adam (5:1-6:8)  
3). Of Noah (6:9-9:29)  
4). Of Shem, Ham and Japheth (10:1-11:9)  
5). Of Shem (11:10-26)  
6). Of Terah (11:27-25:11)  
7). Of Ishmael (25:12-18) – non-elect line  
8). Of Isaac (25:19-35:29)  
9). Of Esau (twice: 36:1-8, 9-37:11)  
10). Of Jacob (37:2-50:26) – this leaves the twelve tribes in Israel
4. Note the implications in relation to God’s faithfulness – Deuteronomy 7:6-11

5. This is the same God we serve, and He continues to be the faithful, covenant-keeping God!
  - a. You can trust Him!

**D. Presence/Rest: The Lord our God dwells with His people in His creation (Gen. 2:1-3).**

1. God completed His works of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day.
  - a. Israel would understand the rhythm of six days of work and a day of rest.
2. Presence/Rest/Sabbath: Exodus 20:10-11

IV. Conclusion

- A. History records man's rebellion against the creator God – Genesis 3-11.
- B. God is at work to bring His people back to His place under His rule and rest – Jesus Christ!
- C. Hebrews 3:12-4:16

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