

God of Creation | Genesis Ch. 1-11

Session Three: Genesis 1:1-2:3 | Six Days and a Rest

Big Picture Questions:

- Who created?
 - A) God alone.
- Why He created?
 - A) For His glory.

Creation was an *orderly* work.

- Why does Moses spend so much time repeating language?
- **Formula of repetition:**
 - command: "God said, 'Let (there be)..."
 - report: "And it was so ..."
 - assessment: "And God saw that it was good."
 - statement of dominion: "God called..."
 - time marker: "And there was evening and there was morning, the ____ day."
- **Repetition is a memory technique**
 - ... for auditory learners
 - Remember who the original audience was!

God will bring form and fullness

- Genesis 1:2 NIV: "formless and empty"
- God is going to bring form and fullness in this creation account

The Spirit

- The Spirit: hovering and waiting to bring life into God's creative act
- The Spirit is expectant- it can't wait for what is about to take place!

Assessment: "It was good"

- God does things that were beyond necessary (beauty and enjoyment)
- ...but also...
- "Good" = Perfect, Complete

Statement of Dominion: "God called..."

- "Dominion" = takes responsibility for
- God takes responsibility for that which He has created

God is a God who separated

"Heaven" = the sky

Form	Fullness
Day 1: Light	Day 4: Populating the heavens (light) with the luminaries (sun, moon, stars)
Day 2: Sea & the expanse (sky)	Day 5: populating the sea and the expanse with birds and fish
Day 3: Earth & Vegetation	Day 6: Populating the earth with lands, animals, and humans
	Day 7: God separates as holy and complete

Cross references of the heavenly bodies

- Exodus 23:14-19 The heavenly bodies work for and come from God
- Revelation 6:12-14
- Revelation 21:23

The seventh day: Completeness

- God finished His work.
 - Matthew 11:28-29 “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
- Rest- Jesus Christ will establish rest for our souls
 - ...as the sabbath Friday begins and he dies on a cross, saying...
 - John 19:30 “When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

The seventh day: Rest

- If God doesn't need rest, why does He rest?
- The 4th commandment of the 10 commandments is the longest- “Keep the Sabbath Holy”
- As humans, we have the sin tendency to begin seeing ourselves as the creator and sustainer of our own little universes.
- ...So God institutes a pattern of rest.
- Hebrew concept of Sabbath:
 - the ceasing of labor (the labor necessary to keep life and body together) for the purpose of actively devoting ourselves for the joyful calling of worship (which is our true calling).

God will finish the work of the *new* creation, just as He did the *old* creation.

- Christians are new creations
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
- Think about the new creation in light of the old creation; this story in chapter 1 *IS* the story of every child of God.

Summary:

- We were once darkness, and He spoke, “let there be light.”

- 1 Peter 2:9-10 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”
- Where there was once nothing, there is now something.
 - We had no righteousness, and now there is righteousness in us.
- God brings order out of chaos.
 - What we once couldn't even discern to be sin, we now know to be sin, and we are called to be separate from it.
 - God begins to place space between us and who we used to be.
 - He sets us apart as holy.
- He brings about fruitful and multiplication in our life.
 - Fruit like Galatians 5:22-23 “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”
- We begin to walk in the power of the Spirit and have dominion over, rule and subdue sin.
- We begin to find rest.
 - It's a partial rest right now; there still remains for the people of God a sabbath rest.
 - There is no time marker to finish up the seventh day, because the final seventh day for us will go on for eternity.
- Just as God finished the work of the first creation, He will finish the work of the new creation.
 - Philippians 1:6 “ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”