

Genesis

"God and Man"

Genesis "The origin or mode of formation of something"

Genesis tells how everything came to be
as relevant to man from God's perspective

It's important to read Genesis as it is, the truthful telling of God what man needs to know

1. about the beginning of time and creation (before man),
2. the beginning of man,
3. the origin of sin,
4. and the groundwork for God's way out for man of the sin he got himself in

Rough outline of the events of Genesis

- Creation
- The Fall of Man
- The Spread of Man and Sin
- The first worldwide judgment
- Noah
- Sin spreads
- The patriarchs
- Egypt and the seeds for a nation

Genesis account written by Moses. Pentateuch. First five books (gen, ex, lev, num, deut)

A verbal account passed down through the Generations. We'll look at the connections and overlap of generations as we get into the study.

- First we'll see God in the beginning and what God made
- Then we'll see God in the garden with the people He made
- Then we'll see God outside the garden dealing with the children of the people he made
- Then we'll see God's perspective on the people who begin to populate the earth
- Then we'll see God interacting personally with the one person left who seeks Him, Noah
- We'll see a new covenant and see God interact with Abram personally and call him out.
- We'll see God personally involved in the lives of the patriarchs
- And we'll close the book with God intimately, yet seemingly behind the scenes of his chosen vessel, Joseph, to rescue his people, as a very clear picture of the promised messiah, Jesus

What was your beginning? Today? Your childhood? Your marriage? Your education? Your career?

What did you believe as a child? What do you believe now?

Why do you believe what you believe? Is it because someone told you?
Because a textbook says it? Because a group of people (society, college, etc) believe it?

Do you believe what you believe because God showed you or because man showed you?

Ultimately: What is the fruit of what you believe? Is it life? Or is it death?

[Luk 6:43-49 NKJV] 43 "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 "For every tree is known by its own fruit. For [men] do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. 45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. 46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? 47 "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 "But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

***Do we believe what God tells us about how things are?
Or do we need to bend it to fit what we believe about how things are?***

Even Job, a very smart, influential and rich man in his time, struggled with this, and God calls him out on it:

Turn to Job 38

There are a lot of theories, perspectives, thoughts and more on the origins of life, the universe, man and sin (and theories on if that even exists).

However, in this study, **let's consider the scriptures -- what God says** -- and come to it with an open mind, and open heart, and open eyes to see what the Bible openly says when it's opened.

[pray]

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God Created”

[Read v 1]

There’s a lot here already

In the beginning

One word: *re'shiyth*

first, beginning, best, chief

the first, in place, time, order or rank (specifically, a firstfruit):—beginning, chief(-est), first(-fruits, part, time), principal thing.

[Jas 1:18 NKJV] 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

[Rom 11:16 NKJV] 16 For if the firstfruit [is] holy, the lump [is] also [holy]; and if the root [is] holy, so [are] the branches.

[Pro 3:9 NKJV] 9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

[1Co 15:20 NKJV] 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, [and] has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

At the very beginning. When was it? I believe about 6,000 years ago based on how the Bible describes it and following events.

Others believe other things. Do you want to know what they believe? Ask them lol.

What do I need to believe, as a believer? “In the beginning...” That’s it. Whenever that was exactly on the calendar, God knows, but I need to know...the beginning.

OK, so we’ve established when....

Who? God
'elohiym

I. (plural)

- A. rulers, judges**
- B. divine ones**
- C. angels**
- D. gods**

II. (plural intensive - singular meaning)

- A. god, goddess**
- B. godlike one**
- C. works or special possessions of God**
- D. the (true) God**
- E. God**

the supreme God

EI

EI Chuwl

The God Who Gave You Birth

EI Deah

God of Knowledge

EI Elyon

The God Most High

EI Roi

The God Who Sees

EI Shaddai

God Almighty

Elohim

The Creator

Yahweh

The Self-Existent One

Yahweh-Bore
The Lord Creator

Yahweh-Nissi
The LORD My Banner

In the beginning God...no other

God is eternally self-existent.

We get a picture of the Godhead/trinity here in that the word is plural and yet singular at the same time.

Sort of how we may say they were “of the same mind” or even how we might come to an agreement with ourself.

We'll see pictures of this later in Genesis as well

The trinity is not just a “new testament” doctrine

God's complete fingerprint is clearly visible throughout the entire scripture, and that's very clear throughout the 50 chapters in Genesis

Created

Bara' - even the first part of the definition here speaks of what God does in Genesis and the entire history of creation

- I.* to create, shape, form
 - A.* (Qal) to shape, fashion, create (**always with God as subject**)
 - i.* of heaven and earth
 - ii.* of individual man
 - iii.* of new conditions and circumstances
 - iv.* of transformations
 - B.* (Niphal) to be created
 - i.* of heaven and earth

- ii.* of birth
- iii.* of something new
- iv.* of miracles

C. (Piel)

- i.* to cut down
- ii.* to cut out

II. to be fat

A. (Hiphil) to make yourselves fat

Even the be fat part is interesting. Being fat obviously isn't a picture of peak physical form, but in some sense, it was a sign of royalty or wealth throughout history as one had more than enough to eat and a life of relative leisure if they could accumulate body energy wealth.

But don't we feel fat, full, satisfied when we create something? Make something new? Do something well? Doesn't it urge us to do more? Create more? I think in a sense, this is a rough picture of God creating and the joy and intrinsic nature of a good, holy God, who would naturally create.

If he was not Good, He would not create.

We think of death and life - and good leaders create, bad leaders destroy
Love creates life, lust/selfishness/hate destroys life

He has the absolute right to create *and* to destroy.

My kids playing Legos. If one creates something out of the legos they have the right to take it apart. But if the other one wants to take it apart or break it, they do not have that right and will ultimately have to make some sort of restitution.

God created everything. He has a right to do what He desires with it. To create it. To judge it. To destroy it. To restore it.

No one else does.

We'll see later in Genesis how the enemy tries to destroy it, man tries to take it, and even today, don't we claim to be the sole proprietor of the universe, a destiny of our own making?

The heaven (KJV)
shamayim

heaven, heavens, sky

A. visible heavens, sky

- i.* as abode of the stars
- ii.* as the visible universe, the sky, atmosphere, etc

B. Heaven (as the abode of God)

I believe this to be heaven, the spiritual realm, and not heaven the universe or the sky based on what happens next - the earth and then v2 begins to talk about the "earth"

I'm no scholar, read it for it yourself, let God speak to you about it

But again

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If this is the case, we're not given an account of how the angels came to be- but if my reading here is right, *we don't need to know those things as a part of our relationship with God*

Turn to Jude 1-11

[Jde 1:10 NKJV] 10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

And the earth.

'erets

land, earth

A. earth

- i.* whole earth (as opposed to a part)
- ii.* earth (as opposed to heaven)
- iii.* earth (inhabitants)

I believe this to be, at least in this context, what we would consider creation

Rev 4:6

[Rev 4:6 NKJV] 6 Before the throne [there was] a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, [were] four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

[Rev 15:2 NKJV] 2 And I saw [something] like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark [and] over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

Don't take this to be gospel or fact, but I can't help but imagine that perhaps this sea of glass is in some way a representation of all of creation. Now, I'm really out on a limb here, but just thinking. We don't know what it was.

But in Gen 1:2 we'll see God's spirit moving on the face of the waters. Again, just thinking a little here.

As in revelation, there are many things the prophet saw that he couldn't quite fully describe with words. Our physical form just can't handle the splendor of eternity.

1 Cor 13:12

[1Co 13:12 NKJV] 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

Even all people can't handle Einstein's theory of relativity, or multiple dimensions in math (children can and so can people trained in the math) - and God wants Genesis, the bible, and most importantly, Himself, to be known by all men - intellectual giants and the youngest of children and everyone in between - in all times - to know him. He has no interest in explaining how molecules work here or what specifically it is in all of space time or whatever, his interest is explaining to you the groundwork for the wonders that is having a relationship with him - creation with it's creator - but you and me with a God who is personal, loving, all intelligent, and yet able to come down to us on our level.

So to me, sure, God created the heavens and the earth. I'll take that at face value. Could it be more complicated than that? Sure. Could it be just as simple as that? Sure. Nothing is complicated for God, so why do we need to complicate it for ourselves? We really begin to miss the point and sometimes try to figure out something that perhaps we'll never figure out this side of heaven.

Telling my kids about what I'm doing when I'm fixing the car, computer, work, etc...

The important part here is that we don't miss what God is saying to us. In the beginning, He made everything. Him. No one else. Not spontaneously coming about by itself (what an evil, dumb, foolish joke). This is an important foundation.

[Col 1:15-20 NKJV] 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased [the Father that] in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.