

# Genesis: Creation

## Lesson 1

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### Memory Work:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

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Genesis is a book of firsts. Not only is it the first book of the Bible and the first book of the Law written by Moses, but it also records many of the firsts of creation and mankind. A solid understanding of God's work described in Genesis provides the foundation for faith and comprehension of God's messages throughout Scriptures.

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### Read Genesis 1:1-2:3

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1. How is God's creative power described throughout chapter one? What response does this elicit from you?

2. Fill in the boxes with what was created each day:

Day One	Day Four
Day Two	Day Five
Day Three	Day Six

**Who** wrote Genesis?

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**Who** is Genesis about?  
Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph

**When** was Genesis written?  
c. 1500 B.C.

**When** did the events of Genesis take place?  
from Creation until c. 2090 B.C.

**What** is Genesis about?  
God's creative activity, origin of sin in the world, results of sin, God's choice of a people to carry His promises

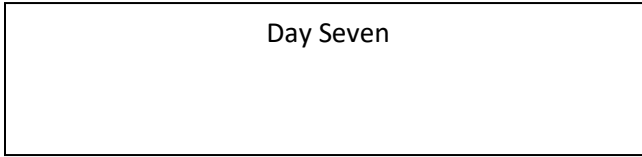
**Where** did the events of Genesis take place?  
in various areas of the Middle East, ranging from Turkey and Iraq to Egypt

**Why** was Genesis written (see lesson introduction; this question will be asked again at the end of the Genesis lessons for your ideas about why it was written)?

In Mark 13:19, Jesus speaks of God creating in the beginning.

kind = those that are able to bring forth or reproduce<sup>1</sup>

3. How was the seventh day different from the other days of Creation?



holy

- set apart
- regarded or deserving special respect or reverence

4. What relationship do you see in what was created according to the boxes across from each other?

5. What do you find interesting/unexpected in God's creative order (for example: consider the creative order of Days 3 and 4)?

6. According to verse 5, what interval of time makes up a day of creation?

7. What was God's expectation of the creatures He created on day 5 (v 22)?

8. How old was the earth at the time of the creation of man (v 31)?

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9. What did God use as the model for his creation of mankind? (v 27)

image = a visual representation, a copy of an original

10. How does knowing you are in the image of God affect your view of yourself? Of others?

11. Why is the creation of man considered the climax of God's creative activity?

What was God's comment after His creation of man (v 31)? Compare with vv 10, 12, 18, 21, 25

12. What tasks did God give to humans? (v 28)

13. What was the food of birds, beasts, and mankind? (vv 29-30)

14. What is God's evaluation, repeated six times, of what He created (vv 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25)?

The Creation account provides the basis for the seven-day week of our calendar.

15. What did God determine about the seventh day? (Gen. 2:3) Why did He do this?

John 1:1-4 describes the Creation. Read the following translations of this passage of Scripture.

*In the beginning was the word (logos), and the word (logos) was with God, and the word (logos) was God. This was in the beginning with God. Through it everything was done; and without it not even one thing was done, which has been done. In it was life, and the life was the light of men. (Diaglott<sup>2</sup>)*

The Greek *logos* which is translated "word" has the meaning of a plan, a thought. "Jews . . . equated knowledge, wisdom and word."<sup>4</sup> When God created in the beginning, He had an entire plan in mind.

*In the beginning there was God's grand design, and that declaration was with God, related to Him as His project, and it was fully expressive of God Himself. This was with God in the beginning. Everything came into existence through it, and without it nothing of what came into being existed. In it there was life and that life was the light of men. (The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation<sup>3</sup>)*

The *Diaglott* is a literal word-for-word translation showing the Greek text with English translations directly beneath.

*The One God* translation captures the meaning of the original Greek words.

16. Describe the connection or relationship between God and His creation.

17. Just as our words reveal who we are, God's word shown in creation reveals Who He is. What do you know about God from your observations of His creation?

18. Read Romans 1:20. What knowledge of God is available to all mankind from His creation?

theory:

- an assumption or guess based on limited information or knowledge
- speculation

19. What is the theory of evolution, as you understand it?

20. How does the theory of evolution deny the Word of God? Consider both His logos and the Bible account of creation.

21. What relationship is there between Romans 1:21-23 and the theory of evolution?

Different aspects of evolutionary theory:

1. Cosmic evolution - Origin of time, space and matter
2. Big Bang. Chemical evolution - Origin of higher elements from hydrogen
3. Stellar and planetary evolution- Origin of stars and planets
4. Organic evolution- Origin of life from inanimate matter
5. Macroevolution- Origin of major kinds as animals and plants change from one kind to another
6. Microevolution - Variations within kinds<sup>5</sup>

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**Read Genesis 2:4-25**

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22. Genesis 2 gives details of God's activity on Day 6 of Creation. How does the picture of God in this chapter differ from chapter one?

"Evolution" according to *The American Heritage Dictionary*:

- a gradual process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex form
- the theory that organisms, as species, may change with passage of time so that descendants differ morphologically and physiologically from their ancestors

23. Complete the equation of human life from Genesis 2:7.

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = a living being (soul)

The phrase "heaven(s) and earth" in Scripture is an example of a figure of speech called a *merism*, where two opposites are combined into an all-encompassing single concept, in this case the totality of creation.<sup>6</sup>

24. Where did God place the first man? (v 8)

25. Where did the garden come from? (vv 8-9)

"Living soul" (KJV) or "living being" (NIV) is translated from the Hebrew *nephesh haya*. This does not indicate that man has a soul, but rather that man *is* a soul (being) - either a living one (while breathing) or a dead one. *Nephesh* can be translated soul, being, or creature, and is used for both man (2:7) and animals (Genesis 1:20, 24; 2:19).

26. What special trees grew in the garden? (v 9)

See Psalm 104:29b for the reverse of the human life equation.

27. What assignment(s) did God give to the man? (vv15, 19-20)

Psalm 146:4, Eccl. 12:7, James 2:26a - "spirit" in these verses refers to the breath of life given to man at creation, a life animating power. *Ruach* and *neshamah* are Hebrew words for spirit, *pnuema* is Greek for spirit.

"Man's breath of life or spirit is not a being or an entity in itself. It enables man's mind to work, but it does not possess a mind independent of man's brain. . . It has no ability to think, feel, or will in itself. The breath of life is not something that has consciousness apart from man's body."<sup>7</sup>

28. What did God determine the man needed? (vv 18, 20)
29. What is significant about how God formed the woman compared to the creation of man (vv 7, 21-22)?
30. How is the relationship between the man and woman characterized? (vv 23-25)
31. Read Matthew 19:4-6 where Jesus quotes this passage. What is He emphasizing about the relationship between a man and woman?

Jesus' teaching on this is also found in Mark 10:5-9

32. What do you imagine life in the Garden of Eden would have been like? What would have characterized man's relationship with God during this time? What would man's relationship have been with woman?

Sequence of evolution	Sequence in Genesis
matter (of unknown origin)	heavens & earth
Big Bang	light
sun (& other objects in space)	plants
earth	sun, moon, stars
first life form (accidental)	birds, fish
death	animals
millions of years of time passing	man (in image of God)
increasingly developed life forms, fossil record	sin & death
man (evolved from animal)	fossil record from Flood

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**LIFE APPLICATION**

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33. What aspects of Creation give you an appreciation of God the Creator? Spend time praising Him for these characteristics.
34. The study of Creation and the theory of evolution leads to the inevitable question: How can you know truth? Where do you put your foundational faith? In God or science? How does one answer these questions? How do you personally answer these questions?

35. Through what lens will you view the world and reality: God's Word?  
or a man-made philosophy?

How old do you believe the earth to be today? Why?

*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*

Colossians 2:8 (NIV)

PROPHECY: Read 2 Peter 3:2-13

How does Peter describe the creation in the beginning (v 5)?

Peter describes three "ages" of the earth's existence. Write what they are in the column at the right →

Which of these periods do we live in?

What will characterize the third age that we look forward to (v 13)?

**Peter's ages of the earth:**

First age (vv 5-6):

What marks the end of this age (v 6)?

Second age (v 7):

What marks the end of this age (vv 7, 10, 12)?

Third age (v 13):

How are evolutionists described in this passage (v 3, 5)?

<sup>1</sup> Michael Oard. "Appendix 3: The Elephant Kind." 1 Oct. 2004. Accessed 23 Aug. 2012 <<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/fit/the-elephant-kind>>.

<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Wilson. *The Emphatic Diaglott* (Miami, FL: The Abrahamic Faith Beacon Publishing Society, Inc., 2004).

<sup>3</sup> Anthony F. Buzzard. *The One God, the Father, One Man Messiah Translation* (Restoration Fellowship, 2014).

<sup>4</sup> "John 1:1 *Caveat Lector* (Reader Beware)." Accessed 7 Mar 2011 <<http://www.focusonthekingdom.org/articles/john1.htm>>.

<sup>5</sup> Eric Hovind. "Six Meanings of Evolution," 24 Aug 2010. Accessed 4 Mar 2018 <<http://creationtoday.org/six-meanings-of-evolution/>>.

<sup>6</sup> Ken Ham. "Could God Have Created Everything in Six Days?" 27 Sept 2007. Accessed 7 Mar 2011 <<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/could-god-have-created-in-six-days>>.

<sup>7</sup> Alva Huffer. *Systematic Theology* (McDonough, GA: Atlanta Bible College, 1960) 141.