

Origins #1

In the Beginning

January 14, 2024

- **Where were you born?**

We hear the Bible differently and beautifully when it is read in a community of people. As a group, read Genesis 1.

The Bible is a collection of writings by over 40 different authors from across a period of roughly 1500 years. Its overarching story is God's mission in partnership with His people. Its purpose is to teach us about God and form us as His missional people.

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

- Does this first and simple verse bring out awe and worship in you? How and why?
- God created the world with the spoken word. What other spiritual things can words create?
- Why do you think God created the world with words?

Genesis 1:2

"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

Out of the chaos God creates an ordered and structured world.

Genesis 1:3-5

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.' And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day."

Day 1 - Light and dark

Day 2 - Sky and water

Day 3 - Land

Day 4 - Sun, moon, and stars

Day 5 - Birds and sea creatures

Day 6 - Animals and humans

God speaks and things spring into being and into life. And everything is now held together by his authority and for his glory.

- **How does the structured, orderly process of creation reflect God's nature?**
- **How does the concept of the "six days of creation" resonate with the idea of rest and work-life balance in our current society?**

God spends the first three days creating space, and the next three filling it up

Day 1 goes with 4, day 2 with 5 and day 3 with 6. It's a pattern. All leading to the pinnacle of creation...

Genesis 1:26-27

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

- **Why does the text say "Let us make man in our own image?" Why the plural?**
- **What does it mean that we are made in God's image?**

We spend lifetimes searching and trying to form our identity. According to Genesis, it's not something we find, it is given to us.

- **What does being made in God's image say about your value?**
- **What does it say about your identity?**
- **We should find our identity in God, but this is not always the case. Where do you often find your identity?**
- **Where do you often find your value?**

Genesis 2:1-3

"Thus, the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so, on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."

Creation theology leads us as people to see ourselves and God correctly, and our response

is to recognize, honor, and worship Him. Worship is about obedience, submission gratitude and dependence. Genesis was not written as a scientific explanation of the origins. It is not making scientific claims, but theological claims. And what it wants is for us to respond in worship to our creator. The good and loving God who made all this and us and gave us dominion.

What Genesis 1 says is that you are more than you think you are.

- **Talk about this beautiful statement.**

PRAY FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR GROUP

Pray that, as we go through Genesis, you will see what God has for you and respond in a way that is worshipful and honoring.

PRAY FOR OUR OUTREACH PARTNERS

Pray for FCCHB local nonprofit partner, Waymakers' Youth Shelter, as they care for minors separated from their families. Pray for the youth to find stable and restorative home lives so that they can excel in their studies and formative years.