**Week 3 Genesis 1**

## THE BIBLE PROJECT

**Big Ideas: Creation, Part 2**: Genesis 1

**Review**

**God is not the creation; creation is not God. HOLINESS**

His medium is chaos, the face of the deep. The means is His Word. (God says, “Let there be…. And it was so.” But what God makes does not add to himself. Creation is God’s object.

Extra: Self-generated creation is the primitive, mythological, ancient and surprisingly modern view. Ancient and primitive views envision a “MOTHER” from whom all spring. The “current cultural view” is that Nature is its own platform. The cosmos happens. In all these views, nature and human nature merely is, or worse, is the slave of “nature.”

But the biblical world view has a God who made all things and owns his creation.



Hand shapes the world, not vice versa

**God acts to rescue from chaos**



This is an area of questions: Genesis 1:2 says the earth was (became) formless and empty … Is there a story between Genesis 1 and 2? Why was the earth formless and empty? What caused that?

**God owns creation**

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Grasp between thumb and first finger

If you make something, to whom does it belong?

When God makes the world, no other owner has the right to claim it.

When God makes the world, he does not just make processes, purposes, laws and mechanics.

God directs human activity. He judges human failure. He acts to cleanse and restore. He generates reconciliation and restoration. He has a plan for final victory.

Contrary to Richard Dawkins “Blind Watchmaker,” God is personally engaged and caring about his creation.

He remains attached to it. Is 43:2-3; Psalm 23; Psalm 46:1-3; Psalm 91: 11-13; Psalm 121; 1 Peter 5:7

**CREATION, Part II**

**God made everything good**

God created all things good—another contrast with Mesopotamian legend.

Gen 1:31 not universally accepted *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*

1. Other major religions:
2. Greco-Roman philosophy
3. Some forms of Christian attitudes

**What God makes is good in itself (intrinsically)** But everything must be used as the creator intended for it to remain good. Even the “good” can be abused into becoming evil.

***“God don’t make no junk”***

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God’s right hand makes no junk.

**God makes humans, plural, in His image—the image of God**

*So God created mankind in his own image,  
    in the image of God he created them;  
    male and female he created them.*

What is God’s image in humanity? Fingerprints all over the “dust.”

Reason 

Emotion

Conscience—Will

Memory

Relationships

Self image comes from where?

From what does the image of God seen in Jesus come?

(Clue: *“Like Father, like Son.”*

**God gives primacy to humans**

Humans are not like the rest of Creation.

To no other animal or plant group does God give commands that can be disobeyed.

God gives humanity the responsibility for governing the rest of Creation. *Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground*.

Psalm 8:4-6:

*what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
    human beings that you care for them?*

***5****You have made thema little lower than the angels[*[*e*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14018e)*]  
    and crowned themwith glory and honor.****6****You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
    you put everything under their feet …*

**God commands obedience—God is LAWGIVER**

The Covenant of Creation

Hittite Suzerainty Covenants

Stipulations and Sanctions

**God makes covenant/cultural mandate with his human creatures.**

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Replenish

Subdue

Manage (dress, till and keep)

Take charge

**Week 3 Assignment (for Week 4)**

READ

* Genesis 3-11, Psalm 8
* Seek to find examples in Scripture of different literary styles. For example: Narrative, Imperative/Command; Fable; Simile/Metaphor; Allegory, etc.
* CS Lewis handout

ANALYZE:

When the Bible says God made EVERYTHING GOOD, does that include human nature? Was Adam sinless and able not to sin?

Compare Adam to Jesus. (First Adam/Second Adam) Make a chart.

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| --- | --- |
| **1st Adam** | **2nd Adam--Jesus** |
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CONCEIVE:

Images of SHALOM/ BALANCE/ COOPERATION/ SYNERGY

Have you seen a depiction in paintings/movies/MUSIC?

**Markers:**

Genesis 11: Tower of Babel

Genesis 12: Abraham’s Call—Blessed to be a blessing

Genesis 13: Abraham distinguished from Lot

Genesis 15: Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 17: Covenant sign—circumcision

Genesis 19: Origins of Moab and Ammon

Genesis 22: Test on Mt. Moriah

Q & A True/False

Genesis 1 gives complete description of Creation T / F

Genesis 1 is silent on the condition of God’s creation T / F

Genesis 1 indicates that animals and humans are essentially equal T / F

Genesis 1 says humans are given definite tasks by God’s plan T / F