



The Creation of the Creator's Temple & Kingdom

By Jim Myers




Progress Update

Last May I had a total knee replacement surgery on my left knee. In August I had the same surgery on my right knee. This morning my wife Susan and I went for our daily morning walk. I walked for over three miles in about 45 minutes without any pain or problems with my knees. Almost every morning, as I am walking, I think about different people who played a role in making each step I take possible. Some were involved in the medical procedures and rehab, others prayed for me, encouraged me with calls, notes, cards, and posts on social media. Among those people are family members, friends, neighbors, strangers, and some of you who are reading this update. *I am very thankful for each and every one who has helped me make it to this day!*

The Journey Continues in 2023

This journey began in August of 1980 when I prayed this prayer: "*Dear God, please show me what you want me to read in my new Bible.*" This was not an abstract futuristic request. My Bible was on the table in front of me and I expected God to show me what to read -- *right now!*

And then, these words popped into my mind – "*Unless you know how words work you cannot understand the words in the Bible.*" Where did those words come from? I definitely didn't think they were an answer to my prayer. So, I forgot them! I didn't realize that I was at the beginning of a journey that I would still be on in 2023. It would take almost four years for me to begin to realize the importance of the words that "*popped into my mind.*" I cannot prove that they came from God, or that they were an answer to my prayer – *but I do know that they are a **fact!*** Based on this fact and what I later discovered, I created the *three tools I still use in Exploring the Bible today.*

 <p><u>How Words Work</u></p> <p><i>A word is a symbol or group of symbols with an attached bundle of associations and they are a product of the Source's culture, time period, location, and personal experiences.</i></p>	 <p><u>Context</u></p> <p><i>Context is defined as that which precedes and follows any part of a discourse that can throw light on a Source's meanings - words, sentences, paragraphs, stories, books, etc.</i></p>	 <p><u>Primary Guideline</u></p> <p><i>My Belief System will be large enough to include all facts, open enough to be examined and questioned, and flexible enough to change if errors or new facts are discovered.</i></p>
---	---	--

For over 30 years of my journey, I used these tools with **Ike** (Dr. Tennison), **Jeffrey** (Rabbi Leynor), members of the church I pastored, people who attended meetings, and readers of articles I have published regularly since the mid-1980's – including those who are reading this newsletter. *In other words, a lot of people are aware of and have used the tools above.*

Ike, Jeffrey, and I became a team – *the original BHC Home Team of Explorers*. Each of us brought our unique life experiences and educations with us. **Ike**: *university professor and professor of Classical Greek and Latin, dean of a college, and ordained minister.* **Jeffrey**: *member of a rock band, Hebrew language speaker, archaeological digs, and ordained rabbi.* **Me**: *nurseryman, finance company manager, USAF surgery technician, banker and, ordained minister.* Those experiences gave us a unique knowledge base for “**working with words**.”

Over our long journey together, we studied, translated, and reconstructed many portions of the Bible. Our focus and conversations were often about subjects that English-only speakers would not understand. We discussed texts written in multiple languages, grammatical structures, belief models of ancient cultures, and more recently, complex functions of human brains. It took all of these things, and more, to translate and reconstruct portions of the Bible, as well as, *track the biblical heritages that emerged from other people's interactions with biblical texts.*

A series of events began in 2020 that changed many things in America and at BHC. On January 21, 2020, a 35-year-old man tested positive for COVID-19. On September 16, 2020, Jeffrey passed away, and on March 22, 2022, Ike passed away. Their deaths were not linked to COVID-19, as far as I know. Their loss have had a big impact on my life. First, I lost two very close and longtime friends. Second, it affected what BHC would be doing in 2023. I realized that for 30 years, many of the things I have been writing about were linked to how we came to our conclusions about words and stories in the Bible – but we had not been publishing our versions of those stories. That is now a top priority!

(Continued on page 4)

December & January Memorials

In Loving Memory

**MARJORIE
ANN STEWART**

b. 1927
d. December 21, 2009

*May you dwell under His wings
in complete SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

**JULIE FALLIN
KELSOE**

January 12, 1960
January 19, 1990

*May you dwell under His wings
in complete SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

**HOMER
MELTON (DOC) PITNER**

October 7, 1914
January 10, 1971

*May you dwell under His wings
in complete SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

**LINDA INEZ
BROWN**

b. November 6, 1945
d. December 20, 2014

*May you dwell under His wings
in complete SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

**AMOS DANIEL
HAZELWOOD**

September 23, 1908
January 25, 1969

*May you dwell under His wings
in complete SHALOM forever!*

In Loving Memory

**GLADYS GERALDINE
MYERS**

October 1, 1916
January 29, 2009

*May you dwell under His wings
in complete SHALOM forever!*

In Their Remembrance

*May their memories inspire us to seek those qualities of mind and heart,
which they shared when we walked life's journey together.
May we help to bring closer to fulfillment their highest ideals and noblest strivings.
May their memories deepen our loyalty to those things which we valued and shared -
faith, love, peace and devotion. As long as we live, they too will live;
for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.*

(Inspired from prayers found in Yitzhor Reflections - The New Mahzor – The Prayer Book Press)

(Continued from page 2)

Preparing to Hear Ancient Stories of the Bible

It is important for you to be familiar with the whole story before you begin exploring specific parts of it. Please do two things as you read the first story in the Bible.

- First, think about what the words of the story mean to you.
- Second, imagine that it is 450 BCE, you are with family members, neighbors, friends, strangers, rich people, poor people, highly educated people and uneducated people. Every week at the same time you come together to hear this story. Imagine you have been doing this your entire life. Now, what would this story mean to you?

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

The Beginnings

*When the Creator began changing things that existed
to create the skies and the dry land,
dry land was without form or substance,
darkness was on the surface of deep water,
the breath of the Creator hovered above the surface of the water.*

Light One

*The Creator said,
“Let light exist!”*

Light existed!

The Creator saw that the light was TOV.

*The Creator distinguished between the light and darkness:
He named the light, “Day,” and the darkness He named “Night.”*

It was evening and it was morning, Day One.

Light Two

*The Creator said,
“Let there be a solid dome-like structure in the middle of the deep water.
Let it separate the water inside it from the water outside of it.”*

*The Creator made the solid dome-like structure.
He separated the water which was inside it from the water that was outside it.
And it was so.*

The Creator named the solid dome-like structure, “Skies.”

It was evening and it was morning, Day Two.

Light Three

*The Creator said,
“Let the water inside the Skies be gathered together into one place.
Let the dry thing appear.”
And it was so.*

*The Creator named the dry thing, “Dry Land.”
The gathered waters He named, “Seas.”*

The Creator saw that it was TOV.

*The Creator said,
“Let the dry land cause to sprout fresh grass, the green plant yielding seed,
and the tree bearing fruit with seed after its kind on the dry land.”
And it was so.*

*And the dry land caused to sprout fresh grass, green plants yielding seed after its kind,
and the tree that produces fruit according to its kind.*

The Creator saw that it was TOV.

It was evening and it was morning, Day Three.

Light Four

*The Creator said,
“Let there be lights in the skies to separate the day from the night,
to be for signs, for seasons, and for days, and for years;
and let them be for lights in the skies to give light on the dry land.”
And it was so.*

*The Creator made two large lights:
the great light to rule the day, and the small light to rule the night,
and the stars.*

*The Creator set them in the solid dome-like structure skies
to give light on the dry land, and to rule over the day and the night,
and to separate between the light and the darkness.*

The Creator saw that it was TOV.

It was evening and it was morning, Day Four.

Light Five

*The Creator said,
“Let the waters move with moving creatures with a living soul,
and let winged creatures fly above the dry land and below the skies.”*

*The Creator created the great sea creatures,
every moving creature that moves in the waters,
and every winged creature that flies.*

The Creator saw that it was TOV.

*The Creator blessed them and said,
Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters of the seas.
Let the winged creature multiply on the dry land.*

It was evening and it was morning, Day Five.

Light Six

*The Creator said,
Let the dry land bring forth a living soul like her kind,
large animals, smaller animals, and wild predatory animals.
And it was so.*

*The Creator made the wild predatory animals like her kind,
the large animals like her kind, and the smaller animals like his kind.*

The Creator saw that it was TOV.

*The Creator said,
“Let us make ADAM in our image and according to our likeness.
Let them rule over the fish, over the winged creatures,
over the large animals, over all the dry land, and the small animals.”*

*The Creator created the ADAM in His image,
in the image of the Creator He made him,
He created them male and female.*

*The Creator blessed them and said to them:
Be fruitful and multiply, fill the dry land and subdue her;
and rule over the fish of the seas, the birds of the skies,
and every living smaller creature that move on the dry land.*

*The Creator said,
Look! I have given you every green plant yielding seed that is on the
surface of all the dry land, and every tree that has seed producing fruit;
it shall be for food for you.*

*And to every wild predatory animal of the dry land,
every winged creature of the skies, and to everything that moves on the dry land,
within which is a living soul, every green plant is for food.”
And it was so.*

The Creator saw everything He had made. Look! It was very TOV!

It was evening and it was morning, Day Six.

Light Seven

Thus, the skies and the earth were finished, and all their host.

*On Day Seven, the Creator completed His work He had made,
He rested on Day Seven from all His work which He had created.*

*The Creator blessed Day Seven and sanctified it because on it
He rested from His work which the Creator created and had made.*

*These are the generations of the skies and
the dry land when they were created.*

Exploring The First Story in Genesis

The reader from the ancient world would know immediately what was going on and recognize the role of Day Seven. Without hesitation the ancient reader and audience conclude that this is a **temple text** and that Day Seven is the most important of the seven days. As we will see, it is the true climax without which nothing else would make any sense or have any meaning. The key is the piece of information that everyone knew in the ancient world and to which most modern readers are totally oblivious:

A god rests in a temple, and only in a temple.

This is what temples are built for. This is what a temple is — *a place for divine rest*. When the deity rests in the temple it indicates that he is taking command, that he is mounting to his throne to assume his rightful place and his proper role.

*The phrase “the Created rested” signaled
the completion of His Temple and the beginning of His Kingdom.*

The Relationship of the Creator to Humans

One of the primary ways this story stands out from other ancient creation stories is the relationship the Creator establishes with people. On **Day Six** the Creator created “the **ADAM**,” which is a **human collective** – *an entity of two humans*. I will call this entity “**ADAM the collective**.” This will become clear when we read the next story when “**ADAM the individual**” is formed. It is **ADAM the collective** that is made in the “**image of the**

Please Make a Special “Beginning of the Year” Contribution to Help Fund BHC’s Work in 2023!

We have traditionally had an “End of the Year” fund raising project, but 2022 was not a “traditional” year. I was focused on “catching up.”

I am very thankful for those who made “Year End” donations.
They came at exactly the right time!

I am also very thankful for those who make “Monthly Donations.”
Your generosity plays a major role in making BHC’s work possible.

And, I am very thankful for those make donations at other times.

*Our work is completely funded by and dependent on donations
from people who view this work as important and needed today.
I would like to invite you to join those above in making it possible
for us continue our work and provide more in 2023.*

**Make Beginning of the Year Donation • Become a Monthly Contributor
• Send a One Time Donation • Remember BHC in Your Estate Planning**

Thank You!

Creator.” Understanding this is essential because, among the many things, “the image of the Creator” may signify and imply, one of them, and probably the main one, is that **ADAM the collective** is delegated a godlike role (function) in the world. All of the rest of creation functions in relationship to **ADAM the collective** (humankind), and **ADAM the collective** serves the rest of creation as the **Creator’s vice regent** – *one who acts in the place of the King.* **ADAM the collective** will also represent the Creator as His **Co-Shepherd.**

ADAM the collective is the climax of the creation account.
ADAM the collective represents the Creator to the rest of creation.

But, for **ADAM the collective** to function according to the Creator's blessing, the male and female that are the collective, must act in harmony making the Creator's blessing a reality in the creation. *The Kingdom is on dry land, but the King is high above the skies.*

The Creator's Temple

Six days a week the creation is the Kingdom of the Creator. On Day Seven, the entire creation becomes the Creator's Temple. The Creator blessed three things: (1) *water and winged creatures*, (2) *ADAM the collective*, and (3) *Day Seven*. The text reveals what the Creator said in the first two blessings, but not in the third.

When this is viewed as a temple text, we gain a different perspective on the nature of the Genesis creation account. It can now be seen as the creation of an earthly kingdom and a temple with the skies as its ceiling and the dry land as its floor. Members of the ancient audience were very familiar with the functions of temples. One of the primary functions is that they were the place where the wisdom of the god of the temple was revealed. The stories of the gods were performed by scribes for the people. This was how they acquired one of the most sought-after treasures in the ancient world – *the wisdom of the gods*.

On *Day Seven* **ADAM the collective** is to gather to hear the first story in Genesis performed so they can acquire the **Creator's wisdom**. It is a time of learning. *Day Seven* is a *holy day*, which means that it is set apart from the other six days for this purpose. Many generations later, Moses received the *Ten Commandments*. Below is the *Fourth Commandment* (Exodus 20:8-11).

Remember the Shabbat Day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but Day Seven is the Sabbath of Yahweh your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on Day Seven. Therefore, Yahweh blessed the Shabbat Day and hallowed it.

Long before Judaism or Christianity, people were reading this wisdom text on Day Seven. *Try reading the Genesis story weekly and see what wisdom you acquire! Shalom! BHC*