

In the Beginning - Session 3: Creation (Days 1-5)

List some abilities you would describe as creative. How does this kind of creativity imitate God's creativity?

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. - Genesis 1:1-2

The Trinity in Genesis 1:1-2:

In the beginning - Jesus; God - God the Father; the Spirit of God - The Holy Spirit

“the heavens and the earth”

literally the skies and the ground

Merism - polar opposites that signify all of something

Example: “I am tired from my head to my toe.”

God's plan displays and provides His presence to all of creation. He wants to bless everything.

“Created” versus “Made”

Bara - created (1:1, 21, 25, 27; 2:3)

Bookmark creation (1:1, 2:3)

Asah - to do/make (1:7, 16, 25, 26, 31, 2:2, 2:3)

Yatsar - fashioning/forming (2:7)

a potter's work with clay

Tohu Wabohu

Wasteland to Promise Land

“wilderness”

like where the Israelites wandered for 40 years waiting to enter the land (Deuteronomy 32:10)

God is preparing for man's habitation

tohu - “deserted”, tob “good”

“Having described the land as uninhabitable, the remainder of Genesis 1 portrays God as preparing the land for the place of man's dwelling.” - John Sailhamer

Creation: Days 1-5

1. Light out of darkness, day and night separated
2. Waters above and below separated: heaven
3. Seas gathered and dry land appears: vegetation
4. Heavenly luminaries formed to rule and divide times
5. Marine life and birds created and blessed

Genesis 1 has several phrases repeated throughout:

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| - Then God said | - And God saw that it was good |
| - Evening came and then morning | - God blessed them |

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Theological Themes

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| 1. Light created; light divided from darkness | 1. Revelation of God's goodness and separation from evil |
| 2. Heaven divided from waters below | 2. Separation from evil abyss (deep) |
| 3. Land appears for vegetation | 3. Provision of fertile land for all types of vegetation |
| 4. Luminaries designated to rule times and seasons | 4. Designation of appointed times and seasons for ordering creation |
| 5. Living creatures of the sea and air created and blessed | 5. Provision and blessing of all kinds of animal life |

Poetry in Genesis 1

Day 1	Light (1:3-5)	Day 4	Lights (1:14-19)
Day 2	Firmament (1:6-8) sky seas	Day 5	Inhabitants (1:20-23) birds fish
Day 3	Dry land (1:9-10) Vegetation (1:11-13)	Day 6	Land animals (1:24-25) Human beings (1:26-31)

“These are the recordings of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation at the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.” - Genesis 2:4

“The earth and the heavens”

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| - Genesis 1 - heavens and earth
- creation focuses on heavens | - Genesis 2 - earth and heavens
- creation focuses on earth |
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Similarities

General introduction statement
Condition of land (1:2 & 2:5)
Existence of water
Creation of man
Man is given mastery over the animal kingdom

Differences

No absolute statement in Genesis 2 creation like Genesis 1:1
Chapter 2 - planting of a garden and human life in that garden
Genesis 1 focuses on cosmic
Genesis 2 - God is more intimately involved with man

“The first chapter stressed the importance of the word of the Lord as the powerful means of creation (everything obeyed God's decree); the second chapter employs the word as the test of obedience. The word of the Lord in this unit comes in the form of a command to be obeyed, one that the man and the woman are able to obey in view of their created nature.” - Keathley and Rooker