

2024 BIBLE STUDY SERIES
THEME: “GET YOUR HOPES UP!”

JANUARY 2024 - GENESIS SERIES: NEW BEGINNINGS

“CREATION – NEW BEGINNINGS”

Part 2: Days 4, 5, 6, and 7

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4, John 1:1-3, 14

Reflection Questions

- A. The parable of the Sower teaches disciples the importance of preparing their hearts like good soil to receive and retain Jesus’ teachings. What are you doing to prepare your heart to receive and hold on to the Word of God?

- B. Jesus said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world...” (Matt. 5:14-16). What are you doing to let your light shine before men, so they see your good works?

Important Emphasis – Part 2

Genesis 1 not only asserts the Sovereign power of God the creator, it affirms the centrality of mankind in the divine plan.

Unity and Power of God

It portrays a world of harmony, in which animals do not attack each other or men attack animals for all are vegetarian (Genesis 1:29-30)

Continuation- This transpires through the seed that God has provided.

Constellations- The heavenly body's assist in keeping the unity and heavenly order. The Spirit is the agent of creation.

Connection & Contribution - God provides the seed but there must be an earnest participation to fulfill what God has planted within creature(s) and creation. Rather, mankind as God's image bearer represents him on earth and messages the world for the benefit of all.

Humanity is elevated to a superior and responsible relationship with God. God has a unique relationship with the creatures made in his image, and this is the ideal context for blessing. Dominion as indicating a supremacy that is harmonious and mutually beneficial.

Confirmation- God said that it was Good, and it was very Good. On the fifth day God pronounces blessing for the first time (Genesis 1:22). Blessing is a prominent concept in Genesis. In other words, blessing is understood as beneficial power.

Many readers of Genesis lived in a polytheistic society, and it was important to reassure them that there was only one God.

**There were things that look like God.
There were things that were compared to God.
There were others things that are viewed as God.**

Sabbath

God keeps the sabbath to set an example to human beings and to provide a model that they should follow. Exodus 20:11 traces the origin of the Sabbath back to creation. It is also as Jesus says, (the sabbath was) made for man's benefit (Mark:27)

Key terms – Part 1 & Part 2

Authority
Balance
 Blessings
 Beginnings
 Creation
Creative Order
 Darkness
 Earth
 The Fall
 God
 Goodness
 Holy Spirit
Illumination
 Image

Light(s)
Monotheistic
 New
 Origins
 People
Perfection
 Plans
 Promises
Propagation
Procreation
 Purpose
 Redemption
Reflection
Reign

Relationship
Reproduction
 Rest
 Restoration
 Satisfaction
 Seasons
Seeds
Separation
 Sin
 Sovereignty
Speech
 The Word
 World

Genesis Outline

- I. **Overview and Background** (Genesis 1:1)
 - A. **Authorship**
 - B. **Date Written**
 - C. **Audience/Addressees**
 - D. **Purpose for Writing**
 - E. **Main Message**
 - F. **Main Themes**
 - G. **Life Application**
- II. **Creation – New Beginnings** (1:1 – 2:4; John 1:1-3, 14)
 - A. **The Heavens and the Earth**
 - B. **Humankind**
 - C. **The Fall**
 - D. **Life Application**
- III. **Relationships** (2:4 – 5:32)
 - A. **Husbands and Wives**
 - B. **Parents and Children**
 - C. **Sibling Rivalry**
 - D. **Hope of Redemption and Restoration**
 - E. **Life Application**

IV. Generations - Lineages

A. Adam and Eve

B. Noah

C. Abram/Abraham and Sarai/Sarah (12:1 25:7-11)

D. Isaac and Ishmael (25:12-23)

E. Jacob and Esau (25:24-27:46)

F. Jacob and his sons (28:1 – 37:1)

G. Joseph (37:2 – 50:26)

H. Life Application

Introduction (Days 4, 5, 6, and 7)

In Part 1 of Creation – New Beginnings, we learned that there were parallels between the first three days and the last three days:

Day 1 Creation of light

Day 4 Creation of lights that is the sun,
moon, and stars

Day 2 Creation of sea and sky

Day 5 Creation of fish in the sea and birds
In the sky

Day 3 Creation of dry land and plants

Day 6 Creation of animals and man;
plant given for food.

“As the days elapse, the description of God’s activity becomes fuller”

In Part 1, we also learned that God gave “form” to the world by the process of differentiation (vv. 9, 10); but the emphasis begins to shift towards the theme of “fullness” (vv. 11, 12) which will be prominent in the rest of the Chapter [covering Days 4, 5, 6, and 7].¹

Illumination (1:14-19)

Procreation (1:20-23; 24-31)

Perfection (2:1-4)

¹ Kidner, Derek. 1967. [*Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary*](#). Vol. 1. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Exploring the Text

D. ILLUMINATION [Day four] (Genesis 1:14-19)

¹⁴ Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;

¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so.

¹⁶ God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also.

¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,

¹⁸ and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

The creation of physical light sources—the sun, moon, and stars—marks the fourth day of creation. This narrative emphasizes that these celestial bodies are not gods to be worshipped but creations of the one true God. This passage also presents an anti-mythological and anti-polytheistic viewpoint, asserting that the sun, moon, and stars have assigned functions by the one true God and are not self-actualizing or autonomous gods (**Acts 14:15; 17:24**).

The lights in the sky were explicitly designed for three purposes: to distinguish day from night, to serve as signs for the passage of time, and to provide light on earth. The text emphasizes the two greater lights in the sky, avoiding the Hebrew words for sun and moon to avoid associations with pagan deities. The lights serve the purposes of providing light on earth, being the dominant lights during day and night, and separating light from darkness, which they have been doing since the first day. (**Psalms 8:3; Psalm 104:24; Isaiah 45:7-12**)

E. PROCREATION [Day 5 and Day 6] (Genesis 1:20-23 and 1:24-31)**Day 5 (Genesis 1:20-23 NASB)**

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."

²¹ God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

²³ There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

On the fifth day, God commanded the waters to be filled with swarms of living _____ and for _____ to fly above the earth. God created _____, various living creatures, and birds, and saw that it was good. He blessed them, instructing them to be _____, _____, and fill the seas with their offspring, while also multiplying on the earth.

The verdict of God once again notes the _____ of his work (1:21). The Scriptures' first _____ is for the _____ of these newly formed creatures so that they can fill the seas and multiply on earth. God's blessing is not simply a wish, but it endows his creatures with the ability to do what the blessing states.²

Understanding the Text (Genesis 1:14-23)

6. What were the purposes of the lights that God called into being in the heavens on the fourth day? (1:14-15)

7. What physical lights did God create on the fourth day, and what were their purposes? (1:16-18)

² Steinmann, Andrew E. 2019. [Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary](#). Edited by David G. Firth. Vol. 1. The Tyndale Commentary Series. London: Inter-Varsity Press.

8. What did God think about his creation on the fifth day? (1:21)

Exploring the Text

Day 6 (Genesis 1:24-31 NASB)

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so.

²⁵ God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

³⁰ and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to everything that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.

³¹ God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

On the sixth day God created the _____ and the _____ and the _____. Like the third day, the sixth day sees two creative acts, one pronounced *good* by God (v. 25), and the other *very good* (v. 31). Not only is the sixth day the climactic day of creation, but it also serves to draw two distinctions.

One is the distinction between the living creatures created on this day and the previous day. This distinction is highlighted by humans alone being endowed with

the image of God. A second distinction is between God and humans. The humans God creates possess his image, but they are not God—unlike God they are to multiply, and they also need God's provision of food just as the living creatures do.

God's command to the earth to produce living creatures is parallel to his command on the third day that the earth produce plants (v. 11). The animals are listed in three broad categories: domestic animals (*livestock*), animals that creep or crawl on the ground (perhaps reptiles and some insects among others), and *wild animals*. Like the plants, the animals are to reproduce *according to their kinds*.³

Understanding the Text (Genesis 1:22-31)

9. What did God think about the land creatures that he created on the sixth day? (1:25)

10. What blessing did God bestow on his creation on the fifth and sixth days? (1:22 and 1:28)

11. What did God think of everything that he made at the end of the sixth day? (1:31)

Exploring the Text

F. PERFECTION [Day 7] (Genesis 2:1-4)

2¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

2² By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

³ Steinmann, Andrew E. 2019. [Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary](#). Edited by David G. Firth. Vol. 1. The Tyndale Commentary Series. London: Inter-Varsity Press.

⁴ *This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.*

Day 7 (Genesis 2:1-4)

The uniqueness of the seventh day is that God did no new _____ work. That cessation of work marked the holiness of this day and became a model for Israel's need to sanctify the Sabbath (Exod. 16:23; 20:8, 11; 31:14; 35:2; Deut. 5:12; Neh. 9:14; 10:31, 33; 13:22; Isa. 58:13). At the end of this day there is no refrain like those added to the other six days. This lack of the refrain is a literary device that sets this day apart and serves to emphasize its _____.

Verse (2:1) summarizes the previous six days and prepares for the seventh. The completion of God's work covered heaven and earth and *everything in them*. This last phrase translates the Hebrew 'their army' and is often used to describe the stars. The implication is that God had arranged the contents of heaven and earth with each in its own place and with its own function, just as soldiers are organized into an army.

The phrase *the seventh day* occurs three times to signify three activities of God. First, by the seventh day, he had _____ his work. Second, on the seventh day he _____—the word can mean to cease, and here denotes cessation from work. Finally, God _____ the seventh day and declared it to be holy because he ceased his work of creation. It is interesting to note that Genesis mentions God only ceasing creation. God did not cease all work, and his acts of blessing animals (1:22) and humans (1:28) continued.

The creation narrative forms the basis for understanding God's _____ with his creation and its creatures throughout Genesis. It sets the stage for the _____ [*one God*] tone of the rest of the book. Moreover, it demonstrates God's right to order and direct the affairs of humans, such as his sending the great flood (Chapters 7–9), confusing human languages (11:1–9), striking Pharaoh with plagues (12:17), empowering the aged Sarah to bear a son (21:1–2), building a family for Jacob (29:31–30:24) and giving Joseph the ability to interpret dreams (40:8; 41:16). Additionally, the _____ that God places on animals and humans continue throughout the book: through Noah, God saves all living creatures from the flood, and he shows mercy to all nations through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (18:18; 22:18; 26:4).⁴

⁴ Steinmann, Andrew E. 2019. [Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary](#). Edited by David G. Firth. Vol. 1. The Tyndale Commentary Series. London: Inter-Varsity Press.

Understanding the Text (Genesis 2:1-4)

12. What three activities did God engage in on the seventh day? (2:1-2)

13. For what reason did God bless and sanctify the seventh day? (2:3)

14. What can we learn from God's resting on the seventh day of creation? (2:3)

Life Application

- What have you learned from studying Genesis 1:1-31 and 2:1-4 about God and about you as part of God's Creation?
- How does the fact that people are made in God's image affect the way that you treat other people in the future?