



SERIES: BEGINNINGS

Chapter 1 - "In the Beginning..."

I. Why Study the Old Testament?

A. The importance of origin stories

- You have to know the past to understand the present.
- Origin stories help us to understand the "larger story" (metanarrative) that we are living in.

CREATION ----- FALL ----- REDEMPTION ----- RESTORATION

- Origin stories help us answer the big questions of life: identity, meaning of life, my greater purpose, how to form ethics, etc.

II. As we study our origin story (Genesis), what exactly is it that God wants us to see?

Genesis 1

Who

What

Why

When

How

³ And **God said**, "Let there be light," and there was light...

⁶ And **God said**, "Let there be an expanse..."

⁹ And **God said**, "Let the waters under the heavens..."

¹¹ And **God said**, "Let the earth sprout vegetation..."

¹⁴ And **God said**, "Let there be lights..."

²⁰ And **God said**, "Let the waters swarm..."

²⁴ And **God said**, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures..."

²⁶ Then **God said**, "Let us make man in our image..."

And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply..."

²⁹ And **God said**, "Behold, I have given you..."

So, if God spoke the universe into existence, then His speaking /words must be _____ & _____?

"Now the earth was
unformed and *unfilled*" 1:2

God forming

God filling

1 Light from darkness

2 Sky from water

3 Land from water

4 Sun, moon, stars

5 Birds, fish

6 Animals, Man

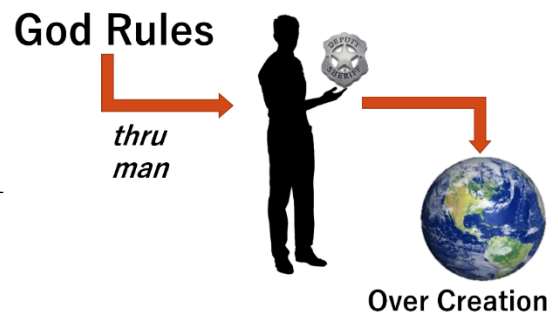
III. What does it mean to be created in God's Image? Answer: We are created on purpose for a purpose.

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth." 27 God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it! Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground."

We Are Created To Reflect _____

We Are Created To Represent _____



IV. Genesis 2 – God Gives _____

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

God gave Adam & Eve a choice: Were they going to trust God's Word and definition of good and evil? Or, would they ignore His Word and define good and evil for themselves?

Life Group Questions:

- 1) Remember to open your life group with a time to "preach" to each other (a.k.a. proclaim how God has been at work in/through you this past week).
- 2) What aspect of tonight's lesson was new, challenging, confusing, or convicting to you?
- 3) What "origin story" for the universe is most often accepted as true in our culture at large? How does this starting place impact the way that people think through the big questions of their life: meaning of life, purpose for life, approach to morality, sense of identity, sense of worth, etc.? How does the biblical "origin story" present different answers to these questions?
- 4) Consider the way that you typically read the Bible. Has your approach been to read it historically, morally, or theologically? Why is it so important to read Scripture through the correct lens?
- 5) Quick review: What is the major point of Genesis 1 (Remember: Who & How)? Why is it important for us to realize that when God speaks, His words are powerful and trustworthy? How can we practically "hear" from God in our lives?
- 6) How did tonight's lesson broaden your understanding of what it means to be created in God's image? How should this impact the way that we view both ourselves and others?

7) Close by sharing prayer requests / praying as a group.