

Steve Whitacre

SESSION 1 | Genesis 1-2: “In the beginning”

BASICS

I. THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

Prologue (1:1–2)

“It is no accident that *God* is the subject of the first sentence of the Bible, for this word dominates the whole chapter and catches the eye at every point of the page: it is used some thirty-five times in as many verses of the story. The passage, indeed the Book, is about Him first of all; to read it with any other primary interest (which is all too possible) is to misread it.” Derek Kidner, *Genesis*, 43.

Six Days of Creation (1:3–31)

Day / Form	Day / Fill
1. Light (vv. 3–5)	4. Lights (vv. 14–19)
2. Expanse (vv. 6–8) – Sky – Seas	5. Inhabitants (vv. 20–23) – Fish – Birds
3. Dry Land (vv. 9–10) Vegetation (vv. 11–12)	6. Land Animals (vv. 24–26) Humanity (vv. 27–31)

This chart is adapted from Bruce Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology*, 185.

Rest (2:1–4)

- Apocalypse 1:1
 - Prophecy 1:3
 - Epistle 1:4, 11
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II. THE CREATION OF ADAM AND EVE

“The woman was made out of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.” Matthew Henry, *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, on Genesis 2:21-25.

III. THE THEOLOGY OF GENESIS 1–2

- God

- God’s Word

- The priority of Adam and Eve in creation

- Biblical manhood and womanhood

Challenges:

- Creation and science
 - Literal 24-hour day theory
 - Day-age theory
 - Gap theory
 - Literary framework theory

- Manhood and womanhood

"Genesis 1 and 2, however, tell us who without giving many answers about how. Some today may think this is a defect; but in the long perspective of history our present-day “scientific” preoccupation with how rather than who looks very odd in itself. Rather than criticize these chapters for not feeding our secular interest, we should take from them a needed rebuke for our perverse passion for knowing Nature without regard for what matters most; namely, knowing Nature’s creator.

GENESIS: The Origin of the World & the beginning of the people of God

The message of these two chapters is this: “You have seen the sea? the sky? sun, moon, and stars? You have watched the birds and the fish? You have observed the landscape, the vegetation, the animals, the insects, all the big things and little things together? You have marveled at the wonderful complexity of human beings, with all their powers and skills, and the deep feelings of fascination, attraction and affection that men and women arouse in each other? Fantastic, isn’t it? Well now, meet the one who is behind it all!” As if to say: now that you have enjoyed these works of art, you must shake hands with the artist; since you were thrilled by the music, we will introduce you to the composer. It was to show us the Creator rather than the creation and to teach us knowledge of God rather than physical science, that Genesis 1 and 2, along with such celebrations as Psalm 104 and Job 38–41, were written.” J. I. Packer, *I Want to Be A Christian*, 42.

IV. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GENESIS
