

LESSON 2

Genesis 1 -- Creation

The Book of Beginnings and the Foundation of Biblical Revelation

MAIN IDEA Genesis 1 is unlike anything else in the Bible. Genesis 1 takes up about a page and is the most unique page in the Bible.

Lesson Objectives

- Overview of Genesis 1
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about Humanity?
- What unanswered questions are raised in Genesis 1 and what do we do with them?

Teaching Overview

Genesis 1 is an unwitnessed narrative. All other narratives are either told in the first person by someone who was there when the event happened or told as handed down and told to them. There was no one around during Genesis 1, therefore, it is an unwitnessed narrative. We can use Genesis 1 to understand attributes of God's nature and key attributes of Humanity. Through studying Genesis 1, we can also see the purpose of creation and humanity's role in creation.

Key Scripture Passages

Genesis 1:1-2:3: The narrative of creation.

1. Overview of Genesis 1

- While nowhere else do we see the play-by-play narrative of the Creation Story, we do see creation mentioned and admired in other Biblical texts.
- God describes His role in creation when answering Job in Job 38-42.
- The Psalmists admire and describe creation in various psalms (Psalm 8, Psalm 19:1-6, Psalm 104).
- New Testament writers mention creation as it relates to Jesus' participation in creation (John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:14-16; Revelation 3:14; Revelation 4:11).
- Other Passages:

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE Read Genesis 1 with an understanding of how unique this passage is.

2. What do we learn about God in Genesis 1

- We see His power and capabilities.
- God is creative, orderly, intentional and forward thinking.
- God is communal
- Other attributes of God in Genesis 1:

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE While they are never spelled out and pointed to specifically, through examination of this passage, we learn a great deal about God's attributes.

3. What do we learn about Humanity in Genesis 1

- We are created in the likeness of God. (Imago Dei)
- We are created to co-rule with God.
- We are created to work.
- Other attributes of Humanity in Genesis 1:

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE Mankind is God's masterpiece and co-regents created to bring Him glory by being His image.

4. Genesis 1 can sometimes raise more questions than it answers

- Questions:

THEOLOGY IN PRACTICE Accepting Genesis 1 as it is without having to have all the answers is the basis for our faith. Hebrews 11:3 “By faith, we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.”

Resources Used in This Lesson

- Kenneth A. Mathews, Genesis 1–11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary.
- Chad Bird, The Christ Key,
- Carmen Joy Imes, Being God’s Image
- Justin Whitmel Early, Made for People