

Torah Studies

The Creation Story Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Genesis: In the Beginning



Rabbis Studying Scripture – Konstanty Szewczenko

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Introduction: A Prayer

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Introduction: A Prayer

- Psalm 119:9-16

9 How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

10 With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not wander from your commandments!

11 I have stored up your word in my heart,

that I might not sin against you.

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Introduction: A Prayer

- Psalm 119:9-16

12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes!

13 With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.

14 In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.

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Introduction: A Prayer

- Psalm 119:9-16

15 I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

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Introduction: A Promise

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Introduction: A Promise

- Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

1. **Inspiration** – God spoke through the human authors of Scripture as they wrote.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- 2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

2. **Preservation** – God has providentially guarded His word, so that, though written long ago, is still available to us today.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- Psalm 119:152, 160

152 Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever.

160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

3. **Inerrancy** – The Bible is completely true and without error in all that it teaches and in all that it says.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

4. **Infallibility** – The Bible will not fail to produce the desired results in all that God intends His word to do.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- **Isaiah 55:10-11**

10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven

and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ...

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- **Isaiah 55:10-11**

... 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

5. **Clarity** – The Bible – and above all its most important truths – can be adequately understood by a normal person applying due diligence to the task.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- Psalm 119:130

The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

6. Sufficiency – The Bible is enough.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- **Deuteronomy 8:3**

And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

7. **Authority** – All of the above tells us that we need to submit to the Bible. It is our standard and, after all, God's Word.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- In his arguments with the devil, Jesus responded each time with “It is written ...,” assuming its authority.

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- In his arguments with the devil, Jesus responded each time with “It is written ... ” assuming its authority.

- **Matthew 4:4**

But he answered, “It is written,

““Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- In his arguments with the devil, Jesus responded each time with “It is written ... ” assuming its authority.

- **Matthew 4:7**

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Important Doctrines Pertaining to Scripture

- In his arguments with the devil, Jesus responded each time with “It is written ... ” assuming its authority.

- **Matthew 4:10**

Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

Introduction to Genesis

Introduction to Genesis

- *Torah* = Law, Instruction
- *Pentateuch* = Five Volumes (*Pente* + *Teucha*)
 1. Genesis
 2. Exodus
 3. Leviticus
 4. Numbers
 5. Deuteronomy

Introduction to Genesis

- **Author:** Moses – who probably compiled most of it from pre-existing material
- **Date:** Approximately 1500BC
- **Title:** Our title **Genesis** is from Greek.
- Hebrew is *Beresheet* – “In the Beginning”

Introduction to Genesis

- Four Events **Genesis 1 – 11**
 1. Creation
 2. Fall
 3. Flood
 4. Babel
- At least 2000 years

Introduction to Genesis

- Four People **Genesis 12 – 50**
 1. Abraham
 2. Isaac
 3. Jacob
 4. Joseph
- Approximately 360 years.

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Outline

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Outline

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| I. The Beginning of Creation | 1:1-2 |
| II. Forming: Days 1 – 3 | 1:3-13 |
| III. Filling: Days 4 – 6 | 1:14-31 |
| IV. The Seventh Day | 2:1-3 |

I. The Beginning of Creation

1:1-2

I. The Beginning of Creation

1:1-2

- 1:1 In Hebrew there are 7 words and 28 letters.
- Beginning with the last letter of the first word, every 50th letter spells Torah.
- The same thing happens in Exodus
- God = Elohim a plural form, appears 35 times in this section.

I. The Beginning of Creation

1:1-2

- 1:1 God *created* = *bara* = something only He can do.
- The traditional understanding of creation is that it is creation *ex nihilo*, from nothing.
- It is kind of like a Big Bang, except that the Bible tells us who made it all go boom.

I. The Beginning of Creation

1:1-2



The Hebrew word bara is a word that is used only of God and only of the work that only God can do. It is never used with anything that man does. There are several words in the Hebrew Bible that are used only of God, and this is one of them.

– Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Russian-born, Messianic Jewish theologian.

I. The Beginning of Creation

1:1-2

At this moment it seems as though science will never be able to raise the curtain on the mystery of creation. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason ...

*– Robert Jastrow (1925 – 2008),
Astronomer in God and the
Astronomers, 1978*



I. The Beginning of Creation

1:1-2

*... the story ends like a bad dream.
He has scaled the mountains of
ignorance; he is about to conquer
the highest peak ...*

*– Robert Jastrow (1925 – 2008),
Astronomer in God and the
Astronomers, 1978*



I. The Beginning of Creation

1:1-2

... as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.

*– Robert Jastrow (1925 – 2008),
Astronomer in God and the
Astronomers, 1978*



I. The Beginning of Creation

1:1-2

1:1 There are various *isms* that this verse rejects.

- Atheism
- Agnosticism
- Pantheism
- Panentheism
- Polytheism
- Materialism
- Naturalism
- Dualism
- Humanism

I. The Beginning of Creation

1:1-2

- 1:2 This is sort of an initial unformed chaos.
- It seems to be the raw material used to form other things.
- How much time is there between this verse and what follows?

II. Forming: Days 1 – 3

1:3-13

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1:3-13

- Day One 1:3-5
- 1:3 And God said God speaks
- 1:4 No source of light is needed
- 1:5 Day and Night, Day One

II. Forming: Days 1 – 3

1:3-13

- John 1:1-2

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

II. Forming: Days 1 – 3

1:3-13

- Colossians 1:15-17

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

II. Forming: Days 1 – 3

1:3-13

- Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

II. Forming: Days 1 – 3

1:3-13

- The Second Day 1:6-8
- The waters are separated by an expanse called Heaven, or “the sky.”

II. Forming: Days 1 – 3

1:3-13

- The Third Day 1:9-13
- 1:9-10 Water and Land are now separated.
- 1:11-13 Plants begin to appear, growing out of the earth.
- According to its kind Plants and (later) animals are created with certain genetic boundaries.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

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1:14-31

- Note the matching of this set of three days to the previous set.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

- The Fourth Day 1:14-19
- Now the sun, the moon and the stars are all created.
- Before this, there was light, but God must have been the source of it.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

- Revelation 21:23

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

- Revelation 22:25

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

- The Fifth Day 1:20-23
- 1:21 Again *bara* is the word used for created.
- God fills the water and the sky with living creatures.
- Notice again, they are created according to their kinds.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

- The Sixth Day 1:24-31
- 1:24-25 God makes a distinction between livestock and all the wild animals.
- 1:26 man = *adam*
- Image, likeness This is what separates us from all the other creatures God has made.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

- The Sixth Day 1:24-31
- 1:27 God created man
- The word *bara* is used 3x in this verse.
- He creates them male and female.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

- The Sixth Day 1:24-31
- 1:28-31 God rules over the universe, but He intended humanity to rule over the earth and all that is in it.
- Humans and animals were originally all vegetarian.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

Ramifications of Being Made in God's Image:

- We can relate to God on a personal level.
- God can communicate to us and vice versa.
- Jesus could become a man.
- We, something like God, can be creative.
- We can express ourselves and communicate with one another even at a high level.

III. Filling: Days 4 – 6

1:14-31

- Even after the Fall and after the Flood, the image of God in us is still there.
- God said to Noah,
- **Genesis 9:6**

Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.

IV. The Seventh Day

2:1-3

IV. The Seventh Day

2:1-3

- 2:2 And he rested
- The root word for rested is *shabat*.
- The primary sense is to stop or cease from something.
- God stopped his work of creating the heavens and the earth.

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Conclusion

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Conclusion

- Isaiah 44:24

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer,
who formed you from the womb:

“I am the Lord, who made all things,
who alone stretched out the heavens,
who spread out the earth by myself.”

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Conclusion

- God made all things, so He is the ultimate ruler.
- God created us in His own image, so we are responsible to Him.
- The marriage of male and female (one man, one woman, one lifetime) is part of God's plan.
- God made us the rulers of His creation, so it is ours to enjoy, but also to govern as stewards.

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Conclusion



- Christians differ on the timing and method of creation.
- Still, the text itself only allows so much wiggle room.
- **Norman Geisler** identified **five points** that define a Christian understanding of the Genesis account.

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Conclusion



(1) There is a theistic God.

*(2) Creation of the universe is ex nihilo
(out of nothing).*

*(3) Every living thing was created by
God.*

*– Norman Geisler (1932 – 2019),
theologian, philosopher, apologist*

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Conclusion



(4) Adam and Eve were a direct and special creation of God.

(5) The Genesis account of creation is historical, not mythological.

*– Norman Geisler (1932 – 2019),
theologian, philosopher, apologist*

The Creation Story

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

- Let's close with Psalm 19.

Conclusion