

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

**JANUARY 2024 - GENESIS SERIES: NEW BEGINNINGS**

**“CREATION – NEW BEGINNINGS”**

**Part 1: Days 1, 2, and 3**

**Genesis 1:1 – 2:4, John 1:1-3, 14**

**Reflection Questions**

A. What makes beginning a new project, job, school year, or relationship so exciting?

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B. What theories about the origins of life are generally accepted by people in our society?

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C. How does it make you feel when you have created something or when you have completed a big project?

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**Important Emphasis**

**“The first eleven chapters of Genesis are among the most important in Scripture”**

**Faith ought to seek understanding!**

**God sense** - God doesn’t have to think He already sensed what he desired to do.

**God speaks**- The things in which God articulated came to past.

**God sees**- The manifestation of what is said was evident.

**God's seed-** The importance of a seed was key to the continuation of God's creation

**God's support-** After God created what He has created he does not abandon it but he sustains what he created through his sustaining power. "The creation has not been turned loose on its own"

Examining the Performance of God- God first \_\_\_\_\_ order, God secondly provides an \_\_\_\_\_ of occupancy, thirdly, what God \_\_\_\_\_ is manifested through oral means.

In the Beginning... Jewish translators according to Dr Ellens says that "God stood on the principles of chaos and created cosmos."

### **The Caller and the Called**

The main theme of the text is this God and God's creation are bound together in a distinctive and delicate way. It is the deepest premise from which good news is possible.

"Each Text is an invitation to faithfulness and an exploration of the risks and temptations that accompany faithfulness." Unless one is tested how do we verify that one is faithful. Walter Brueggemann suggests these text bear the burdens which are important to us.

The persistent claim is that God has promised to stay with his called partner until his way is accomplished. The partner- creation / Israel is called to rely only on God's promise. God is gracious for he makes his promise even to the unqualified. And God is faithful, watching over his promise to fulfillment.

**"The mode of this call is \_\_\_\_\_."**

**Genesis is a process of storytelling in which there are important transactions between listener and teller... The old concrete events may intrude upon and transform the present situation.**

**Key terms**

Blessings  
 Beginnings  
 Creation  
 Darkness  
 Earth  
 The Fall  
 God  
 Goodness

Holy Spirit  
 Image  
 New  
 Origins  
 People  
 Plans  
 Promises  
 Purpose

Redemption  
 Rest  
 Restoration  
 Satisfaction  
 Sin  
 Sovereignty  
 The Word  
 World

**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

In the Overview and Background lesson on Genesis, we learned that it is the book of beginnings and serves to introduce the drama of redemption that is played out in the rest of Scripture. Additionally, we learned about God's expression of love in Creation, among the Creatures, and beyond Corruption. We also learned four reasons why Genesis is relevant to our current everyday living—purpose, position, partnerships, and the promise of New Beginnings that God has for us intended for His glory.

Today's Bible Study in the Genesis Series will focus on the Creation Story found in Genesis 1:1 to Genesis 2:3. We will explore the methodology behind God's creation work--preparation, separation, propagation, illumination (Days 1, 2, and 3). In Part 2 we will cover Days 4, 5, 6, and 7--, illumination, procreation, and God's declaration of perfection upon completion when "God said, it was very good!"

### Exploring the Text

#### A. PREPARATION (Genesis 1:1-2 NASB 1995)

<sup>1</sup>*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

<sup>2</sup>*The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

**In the beginning--** God affirms a beginning. Genesis teaches a point in time at which an irreversible process began. We must go back to this origin if we are ever to grasp the nature of the world we live in, and the meaning of our individual lives.

**God** [Hebrew – *elohim*]**—**the name of the Supreme Being, signifying in *Hebrew*, "Strong," "Mighty." It is expressive of \_\_\_\_\_ power; and by its use here in the *plural* form, is obscurely taught at the opening of the Bible, a doctrine clearly revealed in other parts of the Bible, namely, that though God is one, there is a plurality of persons in the \_\_\_\_\_—Father, Son, and Spirit, who were engaged in the **creative work** (**Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:3, 10; Heb 1:1-2**)

**created**—not formed from any pre-existing materials but made out of nothing—(Latin *ex nihilo*).

The four great truths from the earliest Scripture narrative (Genesis) are: the creation of all things by the word of God's power, the descent of all men from Adam and Eve, our connection with Adam as the head of the human race and the impact of his sin and fall on all mankind, and the belief that One descended from Adam, free from sin, would suffer to release humanity from the consequences of the fall and become the Author of eternal salvation for those who trust in Him. Additionally, a fifth truth is the institution of one day in seven as a day of holy rest unto God.

Bible History Old Testament
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**the heaven and the earth**—the universe [cosmos]. This first verse is a general introduction to this inspired volume, declaring the great and important truth that all things had a \_\_\_\_\_; that nothing throughout the wide extent of nature existed from eternity, originated by chance, or from the skill of any inferior agent; but that the whole universe was produced by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (**Genesis 1:2; Acts 17:24; Romans 11:36**).

Jamieson, Fausett-Brown. A Commentary: Critical, Experimental, and Practical on the Old and New Testaments.
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**The Spirit of God moved**—literally, continued brooding over it, as a fowl does, when hatching eggs. The immediate agency of the Spirit, by working on the dead and discordant elements, combined, arranged, and ripened them into a state adapted for being the scene of a new creation. The account of this new creation properly begins at the end of this second verse; and the details of the process are described in the natural way an onlooker would have done, who beheld the changes that successively took place.

Jamieson Fausett-Brown. A Commentary: Critical, Experimental, and Practical on the Old and New Testaments.
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**This text announces the deepest mystery: God wills and will have a faithful relation with earth. The text invites the listening community to celebrate that reality.**

As God's speech creates, "the world is evoked by this summoning God who will have his way. "Creation by such shows God's authority." (Ephesians 1:9-10)

It is by God's speech that the relation with his creation is determined. God "calls the worlds into being. (Roman 4:17; II Pet. 3:5)

The Commitment of God  
The Communication of God  
The Communion of God

The way of God with his world is the way of language. God speaks something new that never was before.

## B. SEPARATION (Genesis 1:3-8)

<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

<sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

<sup>5</sup> God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

<sup>6</sup> Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

<sup>7</sup> God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

<sup>8</sup> God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

As we read through this passage in Genesis, we learn more about God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Besides the loving care that is exhibited in God's work of creation, we see an orderly process taking place.

Several patterns you will find in Genesis 1 are tremendously revealing of who God is and what He is like.

God speaks with power and authority, commanding that the creative process take place, and quickly, i.e., "Let there be light, and there was light" (**Genesis 1:3**); "Let" there be an expanse (**Genesis 1:6**); "Let" the waters ...be gathered...and it was so" (**Genesis 1:7**).

Often our text says, "And God \_\_\_\_\_," as in, "He separated the light from the darkness" (**Genesis 1:4**). The Hebrew word here means "to make a distinction between." Light is distinguished from dark, earth from sea, day from night—as God sets up a stable pattern for His universe.

The Teacher's Commentary.

### C. PROPAGATION (Genesis 1:9-13)

<sup>9</sup> Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

<sup>10</sup> God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came." And that is what happened.

<sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>13</sup> And evening passed, and morning came, marking the third day.

The third day of creation: the land is divided from the sea; plants and all types of vegetation are created.

**Let the waters under the heavens be gathered into one place:** The idea is that before this, the earth was covered with water. Now the waters are gathered together into one place, and dry land appears (**Genesis 1:9**).

God periodically admired his \_\_\_\_\_ as He progressed to complete the creation project—"God saw that it was good" (**Genesis 1:10**).

Those who propose these days of creation were not literal days, but successive ages of slow, evolutionary development have a real problem here. It is hard to explain how plants and all vegetation could grow and thrive eons before the sun and the moon (**Genesis 1:11-12**). No modern evolutionist would argue plant life is older than the sun or the moon, but this is what the Genesis record tells us.

**Let the land sprout with vegetation:** All this happened before the creation of the Sun (the fourth day of creation, (Genesis 1:14-19)). This means the plants must have had sufficient nourishment because of the light God had created before the sun and the moon (in Genesis 1:3). Many wonder how the sun, moon, and stars were created on the fourth day when light (including day and night) was created on the first day. Some have suggested the problem is solved by saying these heavenly bodies were created on the first day, but were not specifically visible, or not finally \_\_\_\_\_, until the fourth. But Revelation tells us of a coming day when we won’t need the sun, moon, and stars any longer (**Revelation 21:23**). There’s no reason why God couldn’t have started creation in the same way He will end it.

**And it was so:** This is the beginning of life on planet earth, directly created by God, not slowly evolving over millions of years.

**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT (Genesis 1:1-13)**

1. How did the author describe the earth at the beginning of creation? (1:1-2)

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2. What important events did the author describe in these verses? (1:1-2:3)

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3. What did God do on the first day of creation? (1:3-5)

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4. What did God create on the second day of creation? (1:6-8)

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5. What did God do on the third day of creation? (1:9-13)

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