

“Word on Wednesday Bible Study”

“The Book of Beginnings”

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Humanity’s Blueprint

Date of Authorship: 1425 B.C. (after the Exodus, during the 40 years in the wilderness)

A SURVEY OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS

The theme of Genesis is “Beginnings.” In other words, Genesis is a book about origins. For example, we learn about the origin of nature, man, woman, sin, family, worship, language...etc.

If one endeavors to discover how life came about all they have to do is read Genesis. Genesis traces the events of human history. It captures the fall of man as well as God’s redemptive purposes for His creation.

This syllabus will highlight selected texts from the book of Genesis through an apologetic lens. Here are some pertinent information before we begin our journey in studying the book of Genesis from an apologetic perspective.

Author: God
Writer: Moses

The following outline was derived from “The Survey of the Old Testament” by Paul Benware. We will use the outline as a framework for our Genesis study.

BASIC OUTLINE OF GENESIS

- I. God’s Dealings with Mankind in General (chaps. 1-11)
 - A. The Creation (1-2)
 - B. The Fall of Man (3-5)
 - C. The Flood (6-9)
 - D. The Nations (10-11)

THE CREATION (Chapters 1-2)

The first chapter of Genesis reminds the reader that God created everything:

- 1. The heavens (verse 1).

12. God created the **fifth** day (vs. 23).
13. God created livestock and wild animals.
14. God made man in his image and gave him dominion over all of the creatures on the ground (vs. 26).
15. God created man and all creatures that will dwell on the dry land on the sixth day (vs. 31).

Apologetic Question:

What is the significance of the Hebrew word for God (Elohim) in verse 26?

Apologetic Question:

Did you know that there is a schism within the Christian family about the date of the earth? The disagreement is between two camps. The first is the old earth creationist and the second are called new earth creationist.

The former group argue that the earth is millions of years old while the latter argue that the earth is thousands of years old. The old earth view proponents translate the Hebrew word **Yom** as ages instead of a literal 24 hour period as embraced by young earth apologists.

This disagreement has been the catalyst of many skirmishes within God's family. In some extreme cases, siblings no longer speak to one another because of their doctrinal conclusion in regards to the age of the earth.

This topic should not divide us. If God wanted us to know the actual date of the earth, he would have been more explicit in the Scriptures.

The most important principle for us to learn is that God created. The date is a secondary issue. We should not allow non-major doctrinal issues to divide us as a Christian family. We should all adopt the following mantra: in the essentials unity, in the minor things liberty, in all things charity.

Chapter 2 (continuation of chapter 1)

On the seventh day, God ended His work/rested (vv. 1-3). This imagery of God resting is to be interpreted anthropomorphically. God cannot cease to be who He is. He is fully actual and has no potentiality. In short, this passage can be translated as God completed what He wanted to do in regards to creation.

Chapter 2 provides additional information as it relates to day six. What happened to the animals and human beings after creation? This chapter provides answers to the aforementioned questions.

Chapter 2 unpacks the story of man (vv. 1-25). It also details the relationship between man and creation. This chapter details the following:

- ❖ The Sabbath (vv. 1-3) cross reference Hebrew chapter 4. Hebrews highlights a sabbath rest for the people of God.

- ❖ Adam's stewardship over the vegetation (vv. 4-6)
Adam was an overseer/keeper over God's creation. It was his job to maintain and take care of God's creation.
In what ways, are believers required to take care of the things that belongs to God?

- ❖ The creation of Adam (7-9)
God created us in his image (Gen. 1:26).

- ❖ The garden of Eden (vv. 10-17)
The place of ideal beauty.

- ❖ The creation of Eve (vv. 18-25)
The mother of the world.

- ❖ The creation of marriage (vv. 18-25)
Marriage is an institution established by God based on covenants.

What is God's blueprint for marriage and singleness?
