

Overview of Gen 1-3, God the Creator

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1. General Creation. 2. Focus on humankind. 3. Human Sin

4 Main themes in Genesis: (Wenham, Genesis, WBC Vol.1)

1. God is without peer or competitor; there is no struggle to establish His power. God's word is supreme- He speaks and it is done. This reveals His almighty power (omnipotence).
2. God is both creator and law/order giver. He sets boundaries, purpose, roles.
3. The world reflects its creator- 'and it was so' (under His control)- 'and God saw it was good' (perfection of creation and its conformity to the divine will and character) (see Psalm19:1)
4. Humankind's true nature set out. Apex of creation- only humans are created in the image of God- can have fellowship with God- they are God's representatives- should have rest. Creed 'I believe in..'

Affirmations: (R. Youngblood, The Book of Genesis.)

1. God created everything
2. God existed before the world and is different/separated from it.
3. Detail of creation-- God's careful plan- only one source of creation.
4. Everything God made was good.
5. Humankind crown of creation; image of God; stewards of earth.
6. God made humankind = male and female-- monogamous marriage.
7. Sex life; procreation- God's good gift.
8. Humans should have rest/recreation.

Genesis and modern science:

1. Gen 1 underpinning of modern science

- a) order, meaning, purpose in nature- experimentation possible.
- b) world not governed by capricious forces - 'god's'.

2. Problem of 'days'

- a) literally 24-hour days
- b) period of time (2 Pet. 3:8)
- c) pattern in Gen 1 account- stressing the pattern and order in creation
- d) evening and morning 3 days before the creation of the Sun and Moon day 3.

Interpreting Genesis – Literary form and structure.

Reflection/Response. How does all of creation, including humankind reflect something of God's glory? How do we praise God as we and others learn more about His creation?

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