

➤ An Overall Look (Gen. 1:1-2)

- Observations:
 - Only God was in the beginning
 - Only God made everything (no matter what process or timing, it comes from God).
 - And God is quite involved and anticipates (hovers) over his creation.
- What we know about God from these simple verse.
 - The meaning of the universe is found in God (not ourselves, science, or mother nature, etc).
 - The dramatic beginning (the word Genesis) tells us God and only God made everything. *Heavens and the earth* is a merism to tell us that God made everything from A to Z.
 - And he is not only all powerful, but he is an artist. We forget that creation means creative.
 - Creation implies God is wise, imaginative, strategic, rational and makes choices for good.
 - The earth was formless, empty and dark water with God by His Spirit was hovering (*flutter*) over the water. Like a bird that hovers over its prey, God was about to do something—create.
- We must not miss the intent of Genesis 1 by distractions of dates and the details of how. The point is it all comes from God orderly and good and he has placed us into creation with a high calling.
- John's gospel begins relating Jesus to the beginning of creation in John 1:1-5

➤ The Six Days of Creation (Genesis 1:3-31)

- Creation story is told in a Hebrew poetry form using typical repetitions.
 - And God said, “Let there be . . . and there was; *or* And it was so.
 - God saw that the . . . was good
 - And God called ...
 - and there was evening, and there was morning—the ____ day.
- The Background: Days 1-3
 - Day 1 Creation of Light (1:3-5)
 - God creates light and separates light calling it day from darkness calling it night.
 - The luminaries which give us our 24 hr day are not created until day 4. So these days are an unknown periods. The pulsating rhythm (*day & night*) reminds us God is in charge.
 - Day 2 Creation of the Sky (1:6-8)
 - God separates the waters above from the waters below creating the sky (expanse).
 - Day 3 Creation of land, seas and vegetation (9-13)
 - God gathers the waters into place forming land and seas, commanding the land to produce vegetation
- The Details: Days 4-6
 - Day 4 Creation of the Luminaries (sun, moon and stars (1:14-19)
 - God creates lights in the sky to separate day from night and mark seasons, days and years.
 - The greater light is called the sun to govern the day and the lesser light, the moon is to govern the night and the stars are created.

- Day 5 Creation of sea creatures and birds (1:20-23)
 - God creates creatures in the seas and skies and blesses them to be fruitful and multiply
- Creation of land animals and humanity (1:24-31)
 - God creates land animals and humanity. God blesses humanity to be fruitful and multiply and subdue the earth. God sees all he has made is “very good.”

➤ **The Pinnacle of Creation—Humanity (1:26-28)**

- Observations
 - The Poetic rhythm breaks for emphasis and drama.
 - The wording and process changes, *Then God said, Let Us*. A holy huddle takes place within the plurality of God (*Elohim*) (a sneak preview of the Trinity).
 - Mankind (*Adam*) is made *male and female*.
 - Both are made in God’s *image and likeness* (repeated for emphasis).
 - Humans are like God
 - Dominion: rule, responsible, administrate, represent.
 - This is similar to Jesus’ words: You are the Salt of the Earth, the Light of the World.

- The Implications of being in the Image of God—
 - We are like God in character & nature.
 - So (limiting ourselves to Genesis 1), we are creative, rational, and making choices for him.
 - We are the face of God to creation. We are responsible
 - We are not God, nor will we be (see temptation in Gen 3).
 - We are dependent on our relationship with God to be our full selves.
 - Our search for identity, significance and purpose are found in Him and the role he’s given us.
 - The emptiness of our time is directly from humans trying to have purpose without God.
 - Jesus, in the incarnation, become the perfect Man—the Full Image of God.

- How do we step into the painting? By believing, obeying, loving and doing for Him.
 - God, the Painter is still involved. Creation & life is a living painting.
 - Jesus came (the incarnation) and became the consummate, second Adam to both represent the Father. Jesus invites us to follow him.
 - We are His Image Bearers, bringing his character, life and plan to the world—Salt and Light, now redeemed by the cross.
 - We are to reflect God everywhere: marriage and family, school, workplace and play.
 - He’s waiting for us to step into the painting.
 - Prayer and loving others with the Good News is the basic way for me to be His Image.
 - Say Yes to his big and small leadings to be the face and voice of God.