

THE MESSENGER



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

Editor's Note: For the next few weeks articles in the bulletin will involve studies in the early chapters of Genesis. These studies are in anticipation of the adult class during V.B.S. in July 2012.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS FROM GENESIS ONE

By Dempsey Collins

1. Genesis 1 is not an explanation of God, it is a declaration of God. God's existence is understood (Romans 1:20).
2. "In the beginning" refers to the physical creation. (2:1 – A six day process) God has no beginning (Gen. 1:33; Isa. 40:28).
3. GOD (Elohim - 2,250 times in Old Testament, 32 times in vv. 1-31)
 - Compound unity 1:26; 3:22
 - Cp. Deut. 6:4 – Elohim is Echad (one) with Gen. 2:24 – one flesh
4. "Created" – Bara (The word is used three times in 1:27). "It is rare in the Old Testament and always used of an act of God. It does not necessarily mean out of nothing (ex nihilo) but this is clearly implied" (O.T. Allis, God spoke by Moses) cp. Heb. 11:3; Ps. 33:6
5. The initial creation included three main spheres of activity: Heavens, earth, water.
6. Genesis 1 follows a simple pattern of forming and filling:
 - First 3 days God forms: Heavens, earth, water, expansion in midst of waters, separation of land and water (vv. 1-10)
 - Days 4-6 God fills: vegetation (part of 3rd day), stars, planets, water creatures, animals, man.
7. Each day of creation typically follows a pattern of seven facts in slightly varying order: announcement, command, separation, result, naming, evaluation, chronological framework.

Day One

vv. 1, 2 – Announcement
v. 3 – Command
v. 3 – Result
v. 4 – Evaluation
v. 4 – Separation
v. 5 – Naming
v. 5 – Chronological framework

Day Two

v. 6 - Announcement
v. 6 - Command
v. 7 - Result
vv. 6, 7 - Separation
v. 8 - Naming
v. 8 – Chronological framework

Day Three

v. 9 – Announcement
v. 9 – Command
v. 9 – Result
v. 10 – Naming
v. 10 – Evaluation
(Repeat of process)
v. 11 – Announcement
v. 11 – Command
vv. 11, 12 – Result
v. 12 – Evaluation
vv. 11, 12 – Naming
vv. 11, 12 – Separation
v. 13 – Chronological framework

Day Four

v. 14 - Announcement
v. 14 - Command
v. 14, 15 - Separation
v. 15 - Result
v. 16 - Naming
v. 18 - Evaluation
v. 19 – Chronological framework

8. There is a logical order to creation – Man’s habitation, water, air (expanse), land, plants, stars, planets, fish, birds, animals, man.
9. There is fixity of the kinds: each living thing reproduces after its own kind, yet it possesses natural variation so it can adapt to its environment (1:11, 21, 24ff)
10. Genesis 1:1 immediately denies atheism and pantheism.
11. Events of Genesis 1 and 2 are literal events.
12. The days of Genesis 1 are literal days.
13. Man was made in God’s image (Genesis 1:26).

Genesis 1:1-25 is preparatory

Genesis 1:26, 27 – The creation of man in the image of God.

1:26ff – Being in the divine likeness we are accountable creatures. We cannot truly understand or appreciate the terribleness of sin and our desperate need for redemption until we see our true nature and what we once were.

The primary purpose of Genesis 1 and 2 is not to explain the creation of the world, but to show the events leading up to man’s creation and his lofty status before sin.

Chapters 3 and 4 – Man’s fall

Chapter 5 – Setting aside a family in each generation

Chapters 6 and 9 – Man’s depravity

Chapter 12 – Promises to Abraham – Deut. 7:7,8

NOTES & NEWS:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16