



Old Testament History

Week 1: Intro & Creation

Elements of a Story's Plot

- Introduction
- Conflict
- Rising Action
- Climax
- Denouement

Creation

Fall

Redemptive History

Jesus' Second Advent

New Heavens & New Earth

Which elements are covered by the OT?

Where are we?

Where do you think the early Israelites thought they were?

Context of the Creation Narrative

- Who was the original audience of the creation narrative?
- What religious culture dominated their world?
- What historical event had just happened (or was in the process of happening)?
- What historical event(s) was about to happen?
- How would the creation narrative impact the Israelites entering Canaan?

Enuma Elish

- It begins with two entities: Apsu and Tiamat.
- As the waters of Apsu and Tiamat intermingle, a new generation of gods is produced.
- The children disturbed the sleep of their parents. Apsu wanted to kill them. But, Tiamat objected.
- The god of wisdom (Ea) learned of Apsu's desire to kill him and his siblings, killed his father in a preemptive strike, and placed his throne on Apsu's corpse.
- Tiamat was enraged by the murder of her husband and sought vengeance with the help of a demonic horde led by Kingu.
- Ea realized that he was no match for his mother. So, he challenged the divine assembly, seeking a champion.

Enuma Elish

- Ea's son, Marduk, stepped forward and agreed to fight his grandmother on the condition that, once he defeated her, he would be made king of the gods and king of the universe.
- A fierce battle ensued. And, Marduk killed Tiamat.
- Marduk cut Tiamat's carcass in half and used the pieces to create the firmament and the foundation of the earth.
- He then created the sun, moon, and stars.
- But, the gods complained to Marduk, saying that they would have to engage in unceasing toil. In response, he fashioned mankind out of the blood of Tiamat's second husband and commander of her army, Kingu.
- The gods were grateful. And so, they showed their gratitude by building a shrine to Marduk in the city of Babylon. It was called the *gate of god*.
- The story ends with the gods praising Marduk.

Genesis vs Pagan Myth

- The gods themselves had to be created. Even Marduk, the head of the Babylonian pantheon, does not exist at the beginning of the creation myth.
- The gods are clearly limited. They develop plans. But, those plans may be thwarted by another god.
- The gods are amoral. Some gods are nicer than other gods. But, they are not really good or righteous or holy.
- The gods are capricious.

Genesis vs Pagan Myth

- Humans were created to free the gods from tedious, menial work. The gods care nothing about them.
- The creation narrative in Genesis does not contain any political or national content. There is not a single hint of Israel, Jerusalem, or the Temple. It is no more Jewish than it is Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, or Egyptian.
- Genesis represents a clean break with pagan mythology.

Genesis 1:1-2

*In the beginning, **God created** the heavens and the earth. The earth was without **form and void**, and **darkness** was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was **hovering** over the face of the waters.*

Deuteronomy 32:10-12

*He found him in a desert land, and in the howling **waste** of the **wilderness**; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that **flutters** over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, the LORD alone guided him, no foreign god was with him.*

The Six Days

- Days 1-3 address formlessness
 - Day 1: Light, separating from darkness
 - Day 2: An expanse, separating waters above and below
 - Day 3: Dry land and vegetation, separating dry land from water
- Days 4-6 address emptiness
 - Day 4: Sun, moon, and stars
 - Day 5: Fish and birds
 - Day 6: Land animals and mankind

Genesis 1:14-17

*And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be **for signs and for seasons, and for days and years**, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens **to give light upon the earth.**” And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the **greater light** to rule the day and the **lesser light** to rule the night—and **the stars**. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth*

Genesis 1:27

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

- The first emphasizes divine creation: God is who made man.
- The second emphasizes the fact that we are God's image bearers.
- The third emphasizes the diversity, specifically in the two sexes. This is an important biblical principle in gender relations: Men and women are equal in the sense that we all equally bear God's image.

Genesis 1:31; 2:1

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good...

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

Genesis 1 vs 2

- What “name” is used for the Creator in chapter 1? Chapter 2?
- Is there any particular part of creation that is emphasized in chapter 1? How about chapter 2?

Genesis 1

- ...was written primarily to a people group who were immersed in pagan mythology.
- ...establishes that there is in fact a God who “created the world and everything in it”.
- ...is written in a way that speaks against the various pagan creation myths.
- ...sets mankind as the pinnacle of creation rather than relegating us to slaves of the gods.
- ...introduces us to the Spirit of God and hints at the plural nature of the Godhead.