

Darkened Chaos to Blessed Fullness:
God Creates the Heavens and the Earth
Genesis 1.1-2.3

This morning we begin our study of the book of Genesis, a story of creation, rebellion, and redemption. This morning, the curtain rises with the story of the beginning of all things. The stage is the earth, but the spotlight is on God. Here we see his power, and his heart.

The True Story of Creation

- Introduction and Setting (1.1-2)
- The Six Days of Creation (1.3-31)
- The Seventh Day: Completion and Blessing (2.1-3)

What the Creation Story Tells Us About God

- He is a *redeeming* God: He can TRANSFORM our lives.
- He is a *powerful* God: We can TRUST Him completely.
- He is God above all gods: We should OBEY Him always.



Digging Deeper

1. Genesis 1.1 begins with three famous words: אֵלֹהִים בָּרָא בְרֵאשִׁית (bĕrĕ'šît bārā' 'ēlōhîm; *In the beginning, God, created*). These words provide the 'curtain-raising' on God's revelation of how everything came to be. *In the beginning* gives the time: This is the beginning of our universe as we know it. (Question: How is this beginning different from the 'beginning' in John 1.1?) The word for 'create' (bārā') always describes an action of God, and means to make something new and perfect, what God did in the six days to follow. *Elohim* highlights God's majesty and power.
2. Genesis 1.2 begins with two negative statements: *The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep*. The Hebrews words translated 'formless and void' describe something *bad*. Did God originally create the earth this way? (See Isa. 45.18!) These two Hebrew words are used together in two other places (Isa. 34.11; Jer. 4.23); what caused a 'formless and void' condition in both cases? 'Darkness' and 'deep' (water) are also associated with evil and judgment in the Bible. How *might* the fall of Satan (Isa. 14.12; Ezek. 28.11-19) relate to this condition of the earth?
3. There are many views about the 'days' of creation, from literal 24-hour periods to millions of years! What is your view? Is it based on Scripture, or theories of modern science? How is the word "day" normally used in the Old Testament? You can find articles online defending both views. How do they differ?
4. The six days of creation change what is *formless and void* into something *good* (see 1.31!). On what days of creation did God give 'form' to the earth? On what days did He 'fill' it?
5. This 'opening scene' of the Bible is all about God: He is the subject more than thirty times – He did it all! What do we learn about Him in these verses? What attributes do you see in His actions? What aspects of His character or *heart* can you see in His creative works?