



This Sunday we began a new series in Genesis 1-11 by looking at the creation story. Before we got into the passage, we considered some of the questions it raises through 3 key relationships:

- **Genesis 1 and other ancient origin stories:** There are many similarities with other narratives about how the world began (eg. the Enuma Elish of Babylon). We saw that Genesis 1 was written, probably by Moses, both in light of those stories and *against* them (telling of *one* God who made *intentionally*).
- **Genesis 1 and modern science:** Both the theory of evolution and the right interpretation of Genesis 1 are more ambiguous than is sometimes claimed. Science and Scripture are not enemies. Genesis 1 is not a scientific account and it doesn't answer every question, but Scripture must be our authority.
- **Genesis 1 and the rest of the Bible:** If Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible, then Genesis is the backstory for a wilderness people. They needed to know that their God was God alone and would fight for them. The rest of the Bible teaches that we are to worship God because he is creator.

### 1 – Worship the creator God who speaks

God creates simply by speaking! His word is powerful. The fact that he speaks show us not just that he is powerful but that he is *personal*, speaking to himself (1v26) and to his creation (1v22, 28). He is a Trinity. He is a God we can know.

### 2 – Worship the creator God who orders

There is great design in this account in the rhythm of the days, the patterns across them and the progression within them. We humans, made in God's image (both a humbling and a dignifying concept), are the pinnacle of God's creative work, made

to rule his earth under his kingship. But just as the account is filled with order, so it is filled with beauty and creativity. Our God has not created a black and white world. He has made things "according to their kinds".

### 3 – Worship the creator God who blesses

God comments upon his creation. We are left in no doubt that the world God has made is good. Three times he blessed his creation: fish and birds (v22), humans (v28) (NB. a command follows each blessing – the Lord equips as he instructs), and the seventh day (2v3). Upon finishing his creating work, God ceases.

We see many clues here of what is to come. John echoes Genesis 1 in John 1 as we learn that the second member of the Trinity, the Word incarnate, *is* the creator God. In Colossians 1v15 we see that Jesus is the "image of the invisible God" and that it was all created for him. Romans 8v29 tells us that it is into *his* image that we are being conformed. He is the one who speaks and enacts the Father's words. He added his finished saving work upon the cross to his finished creating work. He is creating and ordering a new creation in which we will receive blessing and rest as we worship our creator, saviour and lord for all eternity!

Here are a few questions you might want to use with your group...

1. How do you feel about Genesis 1? Do you love it? Try to avoid it? Feel that you understand it? Feel confused about bits of it?
2. Which apologetic questions about the meaning of Genesis 1 most resonate with you? Was there anything you found helpful in the sermon? What else might you add and/or want to explore?
3. What do you think are the key themes that the writer seems to be drawing out of this account of who made the world and how it was made?
4. What does the rest of the Bible do with the creation account? Where else in Scripture might we go to see creation themes explored? How does it indicate we should understand and respond to it (with heads, hearts and hands)?
5. How are we to understand this account in light of the New Testament and the coming and work of Jesus?
6. What impact might Genesis 1 have on your Monday morning, on the big decision you are facing, on the struggle you can't seem to escape?