

Series: Humanity – “Who Do Think You Are?”

**GENESIS ONE:** *I am created in God's image. God the Father knows and declares who and what I am.*

## INTRODUCTION – Two Creation Accounts

*Genesis 1 – All about the created world & Man's place in it*

*Genesis 2-3 – Man as he is in himself: the actual history of the first of our race*

*Not Mythology but Sacramental History*

## I. DIVINE ORDER AND STRUCTURE IN GOD'S CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

## II. GOD'S PROVISION FOR HIS CREATURES

“God said” The world was not an eternal entity, nor is what we observe the result of time + chance. Divine, perfect intelligence thoughtfully and intentionally called matter into existence.

“It was good.” The world that God has made is good. It has:

- ☉ Beauty
- ☉ Order
- ☉ Accomplishes the purposes that God made for it
- ☉ It supplies all that is needed to sustain life
- ☉ It is not the domain of wicked gods or their agents
- ☉ There is nothing intrinsically “ungodly” or “evil” in the material stuff of the universe

## III. MAN AS THE HIGHEST OF HIS CREATED ACTIVITIES

*- You are glorious!*

## IV. MAN AS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

- *Created for relationship*
- *Created with a moral will*
- *Created with a potential for eternal life*
- *Created to know, to choose, and to act*
- *Created to participate in God's creative acts (partner with God)*

## V. MAN AS GOD'S VICEROY

- *Created for dominion*
  - *Inanimate things*
  - *Plants*
  - *Animals*
  - *Man*

## VI. MAN AS CREATURE

- *Limited*
- *Not intrinsically flawed*

## VII. CREATED TO SUSTAIN LIFE

- *Commanded and Commissioned:*

<sup>28</sup> "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."  
(Genesis 1)

- *Equipped to do that: Created Male & Female*

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Gen 1)

- *Second Century Voices:*

"We couldn't be sexual beings and be created in God's Image. How could God have a body?"

- *Modern Voices:*

"We aren't anything but sexual beings. Who is "god" that he could create us?"

- *Chauvinism*
- *Feminism*
- *Homosexualism*
- *Transgendered Confusion*
- *????*

## VIII. Moses' point: God made the heavens and the earth so we could fulfill His gracious Will.

*"Child, I love you. I made you. I can tell you who you are....."*

**KNOW YE THE LORD IS GOD INDEED;  
WITHOUT OUR AID HE DID US MAKE;  
WE ARE HIS FOLK, HE DOTHS US FEED,  
AND FOR HIS SHEEP HE DOTHS US TAKE.**

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## WHAT MOSES WROTE TO HIS PEOPLE

### THE CONTENT OF GENESIS:

- Chapter 1 - The Origin of the World
- Chapter 2-11 - The Origins of the Nations
- Chapter 12-50 - The Origins of Israel

### THE STRUCTURE OF GENESIS:

(Each lettered section begins with the words *trliwt hlae* = "this is the [family] history of...")

- |    |               |  |  |
|----|---------------|--|--|
|    | 1.1 - 2.3     |  | The Prologue                           |
| A. | 2.4 - 4.26    |  | The History of the Heavens & the Earth |
| B. | 5.1 - 6.      |  | The History of Adam                    |
| C. | 6.9 -9.29     |  | The History of Noah                    |
| D. | 10.1 - 11.9   |  | The History of Noah's Sons             |
| E. | 11.10 - 11.26 |  | The History of Shem                    |
| F. | 11.27 - 25.11 |  | The History of Terah                   |
| G. | 25.12 - 25.1  |  | The History of Ishmael                 |
| H. | 25.19 - 35.29 |  | The History of Isaac                   |
| I. | 36.1 - 37.1   |  | The History of Esau                    |
| J. | 37.2 - 50.26  |  | The History of Jacob                   |

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROLOGUE (Genesis 1.1 - 2.3)

#### Six Units of:

- A. And God said ...
- B. And there was ...
- C. And God saw ...
- D. And God said, "It is good."
- E. There was evening and morning...

#### Balance and Harmony:

- |                    |                               |                          |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| DAY 1 <i>Light</i> | DAY 4 <i>Luminaries</i>       |                          |
| DAY 2 <i>Sky</i>   | DAY 5 <i>Birds &amp; Fish</i> |                          |
| DAY 3 <i>Land</i>  | DAY 6 <i>Animals</i>          |                          |
|                    | <i>Seas</i>                   | <i>Man</i>               |
|                    | <i>Plants</i>                 | (Plants given for food)  |
|                    |                               | DAY 7 <i>The Sabbath</i> |

## An Alternative Story from the World around You: Does it offer any help in telling you who you are?

### WHAT THE "CONCENSUS OF 'SCIENCE'" MAY BE TELLING US:

1. The universe is approximately 14.6 billion years old
2. The processes currently observable in the universe can be projected backward to a single moment where both space and time "began"
3. The vast, vast majority of space is not "life engendering" but extremely hostile to life.
4. The number of places in the universe where carbon based life (essentially the only kind of life believed to be possible) could possibly develop is astonishingly small.
5. The earth is some 4.7 billions years old, but the first forms of life appeared on it about 3.7 billion years ago.
6. Life forms of the appropriate kind appeared on earth at the earliest possible moment – and these seem to have prepared the way for the next generation of more complex forms. (E.g., the age of bacteria/algae transformed a CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere into one with free O<sub>2</sub> which more complex life forms need).
7. Each of these "advances" in life forms appears to have happened quite suddenly at discrete periods. The model is like uneven stair steps, *not* a gradual upward slope.
8. There were hominids of numerous kinds and varieties (two legged, man-ape-like creatures who walked upright) on earth as much as 7 million years ago, but DNA evidence shows none of these were our ancestors. Our ancestors (true humans) seem to have appeared less than 100,000 years ago.
9. DNA evidence traces modern people back to a single source around 50,000 years ago.

### WHAT 'SCIENCE' IS DEBATING AMONG ITSELF:

10. Is the apparent "hostility" to life in most of the universe part of a larger system or principle that would lead naturalistically to life in our infinitesimal corner of the universe?
11. Even the "simplest" organisms are extremely complex in their chemical structures (DNA, RNA, etc.). Are there any current examples of intelligence being formed from randomness?
12. Even "simple organisms" can thrive only because a number of intelligent features all conjoin at the same instant. Take any of these away and the whole organism fails. Is there some greater "principle" that allows this conjunction to happen preferentially? Such a principle would be counter-intuitive to the assumption of random process.
13. Can forensic DNA evidence actually place our first "truly human" ancestors on the planet a mere 70,000 to 50,000 years ago? Do the first indications of "self-conscious" humanity (jewelry/fashion/art) 40,000 years ago correspond somehow with this dating?

### WHAT THE MATHEMATICS SAY:

14. The odds that the universe would, from random occurrences, produce a life-sustaining planet like ours, in the precise sequence of events needed to allow the occurrence of life are more than 1 in trillions of trillions of trillions ( $1/10^{36}$ )
15. Even *if* the answers to 10-12 above *were* shown to be "yes," the age of the earth needed so we might plausibly expect the production of life from random processes (process + Chance + time) would be *thousands* of billions ( $10^{12}$ ) years old. (But see #5 above).