



Week 11: Understanding the Old Testament: CREATION

MV: *"Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day." (Gen 1:3-5)*

The Bible tells a story, a true story, of God's working throughout history, and it's a story that's yet to be completed.

It is the story of...**GOD!**

We are a part of that story and we need to place ourselves **in context** of that unfolding story.

God is crafting a world that glorifies Him.

ASK: Who is God?

Genesis 1:1 introduces the main character

The author doesn't go into theology or philosophy, just that God IS

- Where did He come from?
- What was He doing before creation?
- Why is He creating in the first place?

The Author teaches us about God by simply telling us what He did...**HE CREATED!**

THIS IS GOD'S WORLD

It starts with Him alone

God is the only person in Gen; 1. He's the only character. He alone is eternal. Nothing and no one can be compared to Him.

"creatio ex nihilo"...creation out of nothing

God created simply by speaking! Think of it. No wonder Angels cried, "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

Read Genesis 1 & 2. It belongs to Him, all of it. No one or nothing had a place until God had placed it.

We are NOT the center of the universe. We ARE God's highest creation, but not its center. We were graciously placed in creation but ownership and authority belong to God. We are mere stewards.

In the Image of God

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Gen 1:26)

We are utterly unlike God because He made us.

But God specifically created us to be like Him. WE are set in the world to represent Him.

ASK: How are we like God?

- Physical?
- Ability to reason;
- Ability to make moral decisions;
- Personalities;
- Capacity for relationships;
- Dominion over creation

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." (Col 1:15)

"And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...(Heb 1:3)

"O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! ... When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; 4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! 6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, ... O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!" (Psa 8:1, 3-6, 9)

We were made to humbly and graciously mediate His rule on earth.

Personal God

In Genesis 1, God is called "Elohim". That's more His title.

In Genesis 2, it's "Yahweh Elohim". That's more His name.

God himself refers to himself with the personal name when dealing with the people, like in covenants

Genesis 2 is an intimate account of Gen 1. Gen 1 gives an overview. Gen 2 tells the story of the creation of humanity.

"Bending down, formed out of the dust, breathed into him the breath of life

God speaks to Adam directly in Gen. 2

Humanity was made to communicate with God.

The first time "not good" is used is in Genesis 2. It's all about relationship

Life in the Garden

There was a garden; then there were people placed into it. Then the people worked it.

The Fall made the labor frustrating and painful.
It was to be a caring relationship with the world.

Creation was placed under the feet to care for & protect it, not exploit and destroy it.

God could have named all the animals but He gave that for Adam to do.

God's rule over the earth was exercised in conjunction with His chief creation—man

The paradise lost will be regained and surpassed when Jesus returns.