

Genesis 1 - 2:16: Fact, Fiction or Fulcrum

“Creation”

Genesis 1:1-3:1

I. Israel’s need in the wilderness.

A. Original meaning

1. Intent for original audience

First Generation

Second Generation

B. Concerns of Moses:

	First Generation	Second Generation
Primeval Times 1:1 – 11:19	God’s action in primeval history established and guided Moses’ plans to leave Egypt for Canaan.	God’s actions in primeval history guide and inspire us <u>to possess</u> Canaan.
Early Patriarchal Times 11:10 – 37:1	God’s actions toward Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob also guides Moses’ plans to leave Egypt for Canaan.	God’s actions toward Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob guide and <u>assure us of possession</u> of Canaan.
Joseph’s Time 37:2 – 50:26	God’s actions toward Joseph and his brothers establish and guide Moses’ plans to leave Egypt for Canaan.	God’s actions toward Joseph and his brothers guide and <u>assure us of possession</u> of Canaan.

C. Mosaic Authorship

1. New Testament → Moses prominent as Lawgiver

2. Additional sources used by Moses is likely.

a. TOLEDOT formulas

1. “These are the generations”

b. Eleven formulas are noted.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

3. Moses was the recipient of Revelation and a witness to redemptive acts.

a. Key texts:

4. Biblical tradition affirm Mosaic authority.

a. Key texts:

b. E. J. Young

5. Minor additions and revisions are likely.

a. Key texts:

D. Other primeval creation and flood accounts:

1. ENUMA ELISH
2. ANTE- DILUVIAN Kings
3. GILGAMESH
4. EPIC OF ATRAHASIS

II. General analysis of: Genesis 1:1-2:3

A. Literal six 24 hour days??

1. Major Evangelical Themes:

Literal six 24 hour days	Epochal	Hymnic – Poetic
Young Earth 9,000 to 10,000 years old	Six ages Old Earth	Dis-chronologized Old Earth Genesis 1 is a hymn not a chronology – historical

2. Critical Views → More on this later in the course.

B. Importance of verse 1 - “In the beginning God created....”

1. It refutes atheism, because the universe was created by God.
2. It refutes pantheism, for God is transcendent to that which He created.
3. It refutes polytheism, for one God created all things.
4. It refutes materialism, for matter had a beginning.
5. It refutes dualism, because God was alone when He created.
6. It refutes humanism, because God, not man, is the ultimate reality.
7. It refutes evolutionism, because God created all things.
8. Three assertions: Beginning, God, Created

C. Note how pagan gods are overthrown with each day’s creation account.

Day 1 - Gods of light and darkness

Day 2 - Gods of sky and sea

Day 3 - Earth gods and gods of vegetation

Day 4 - Sun, moon and star gods

Days 5-6 - All associations of divinity with the animal kingdom are dismissed.

Finally, human beings are emptied of any intrinsic divinity while at the same time all human beings, from the greatest to the least, and not just pharaohs, kings and heroes, are granted a divine “likeness”.

D. Importance of verse 1 in regard to ex nihilo.

E. Importance of verse 6:

1. “And God called...” –

F. Literary genre of Genesis 1:1-2:3

1. A Hymn?
2. Myth –
3. Historical?
 - a. Yes – with some dischronolization.
 1. Note Genesis 10 and 11.

G. New Testament writers and Genesis.

1. New Testament quotes or allusions to Genesis 1-11. There are _____ occurrences. Note the following:
 - a. From Douglas F. Kelly, *Creation and Change*, pg. 40:

1. Every New Testament writer refers to the early chapters of Genesis (Genesis 1-11).
2. Jesus Christ referred to each of the first seven chapters of Genesis.
3. All New Testament books except Galatians, Philippians, I and II Thessalonians, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and II and III John have references to Genesis 1-11.
4. Every chapter of Genesis 1-11 except chapter 8 is referred to somewhere in the New Testament.
5. Every New Testament writer apparently accepted these early chapters of Genesis as being historically accurate.

III. Creation of Man

A. Genesis 1:26-28

1. Identification of “us” (Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7)

2. Theological

a. Key texts:

B. Meaning of “Image”

1. The statue in the round.

a. Walter Brueggeman

b. Image functions to E_____ not to D_____.

2. “Likeness”

a. Moral creatures.

b. Personality

c. Humans created in God’s image not exclusive to the Bible

C. Why is there a repetition of the creation account?

1. Genesis 1 and Genesis 2.

2. Not contradictory

a. Illustration.

1. The newspaper

2. The artist’s canvas.