

# BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

## BACKGROUND OF GENESIS

### 1. Author: Who wrote it?

#### ➤ MOSES

- The author of the Pentateuch (“Law of Moses”; “the book of Moses”)
- Reject the JEPD theory

### 2. Date: When was it written?

#### ➤ 1400’s B.C.; shortly after the Exodus; during the wilderness wanderings

- same time as the rest of the Pentateuch

### 3. Purpose: Why was it written?

#### ➤ TWO PURPOSES

A. Didactic: provide the necessary background up to the point of the Exodus;

B. *Polemical*: against the pagan myths (gods and goddesses) of Israel’s culture; especially the relationship of God and the creation

# Leviathan/Rahab/Dragon Motif

## Usage

1. Used to describe God's creative activity in the prehistoric past (defeats dragon, rules the sea)
2. Used to describes Yahweh's victory over Pharaoh and Egypt (crossing the sea)
3. Used to portray God's final victory over His enemies (enemy, Satan) in the future

## Interpretation

- Not literal; the biblical poets did not believe in pagan mythology or the existence of pagan gods
- Not borrowed *theology*, but borrowed *imagery*; using well-known imagery for a purpose