

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

Message of Genesis One

1. **Yahweh created the universe**

- The heavens and earth and all their hosts exist by His will, power, and wisdom
- Emphasis on His command

2. **Polemic—unlike other “gods”**

- *Nature of God*: self-existent, separate from the creation, sovereign over all
- *Nature of creation*: inanimate material under the control of God
- *Nature of man*: pinnacle of creation, made in the image of God

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Understanding Genesis One

1. Simple Historical Narrative

- Statement of the events as they actually occurred in history
 - Six, 24 hour days
 - Chronological sequence of events
- Structure and symmetry exist because this is the way it occurred—no other purpose
- Demands a correspondence to scientific explanation

2. Purposeful Elevated Prose

- The literary structure signals the reader that this account is to be understood as something other than simple historical narrative (i.e. a theological purpose rather than an historical retelling)