

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

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)

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Literary Structure

- Structure and symmetry are too developed and obvious to be coincidental—it must be intentional and purposed by the writer
- This chapter stands outside the main historical outline of Genesis (unique in form; “this is the history of...”)
- The existence of “evening and morning” before the creation of the sun and stars is unintelligible in a historical sense; points us to another purpose for the use of this phrase
- The description of “waters above the expanse” is more likely figurative than literal

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- Eight acts of creation given in six days (instead of eight days) may suggest a theological reason for the six days
- The culmination of creation on the seventh day—a day of rest; why is this day included?
- The seemingly different order of creation given in chpt. 2 may suggest a reason other than historical for the order given in chpt. 1