

# 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)

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## NON-HISTORICAL VIEW

### Use of the Creation Week

#### 1. Displays Order & Perfection

- One of many uses of “seven”
- The number of perfection and orderly arrangement

#### 2. Relationship to the Sabbath

- Means of relating God’s work and rest to man’s work week and day of rest
- Why else is a seventh day of rest included in the account (Exodus 20:11)—it establishes a pattern for man
- The 7<sup>th</sup> day cannot be conceived as 24 hours

#### 3. Gives us Proper Perspective

- Creation is compressed into a mere week to show its meaning in relation to human history—the real story