

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

God, Man & the Cosmos
(Genesis 1:1 – 2:3)

Part One: Genesis

- Genesis 1-11: Primeval History
 - The Kingdom Modeled
 - The Kingdom Lost
- Genesis 12-50: Patriarchal History
 - The Kingdom Promised

Creation of the Cosmos

➤ *Why start with creation?*

1. It gives meaning to everything else; God's plan of redemption must be seen in light of His original purpose
2. It gives a correct view of the nature of God, man, and the creation

Creation of the Cosmos

➤ *Ancient Near East Cosmogonies*

1. *Nature of God*: many gods who were born or created; in a cosmic struggle
2. *Nature of the Creation*: animate forces, nature deities
3. *Nature of Man*: an afterthought; only use is to relieve the gods of work and provide them with food

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Forming

Day 1: Light from darkness

Day 2: Expanse from the waters

Day 3: (two actions)

- land from water
- vegetation

Filling

Day 4: Lights to govern the day and night

Day 5: Birds and sea creatures

Day 6: (two actions)

- animals
- man

Day 7: God Rested

Creation of the Cosmos

1. God is the author of creation

- He is before, above, and separate from His creation
- All things exist by His will and power
- He is pleased with His perfect creation

Creation of the Cosmos

2. Earth is the focus of creation

- geocentric perspective – focus is on forming an inhabitable earth
- Earth will be the special domain of God's kingdom
- “earth/land” emphasis anticipates the coming covenant

Creation of the Cosmos

3. Man is the pinnacle of creation

- Unique among creatures as made in the image of God
- Given dominion over the rest of creation

Creation of the Cosmos

4. ‘Rest’ is the goal of creation

- this “day” is given no temporal framework
- God's purpose is for man to join Him in this rest and enjoyment