

Lesson 1

Background and Summary

The first three chapters of Genesis are some of the most beautiful, poetic, and profound passages in the Bible.

The Bible is the only ancient work that describes the origin of the universe as the work of a creator God who is pre-existent to, and outside of, the material world. Genesis also gives the ‘how’ of creation: God speaks it into existence. Both of these are profound insights that are unique to Scripture.

Secondly, the origin of man and his relationship to the creator and creation are clearly defined: man is made in the image of God and is God’s representative in the creation; therefore man is given dominion over it. In addition, if man is God’s image, he must have reason and free will, which is illustrated by the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

This is a long lesson. You may want to spend two weeks on it.

Selected Reading: Psalm 8

Lesson 1 (pp. 14-19)

The Creation

Facts to Know

Creation	God made everything “out of nothing”
Ex nihilo	Latin for ‘out of nothing’
Garden of Eden	Where God placed man to enjoy life
Mesopotamia	‘Land between the rivers’ (Tigris and Euphrates Rivers)
Iraq	Modern day Mesopotamia
Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil	Tree in middle of Garden of Eden, God said not to eat of it
Euphrates	One of the four branches of the river flowing out of Eden
Imago Dei	Latin for ‘the image of God’

Memory Verse

Genesis 1:26-28

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over all the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it.

1. What is an image? How is man like God?
When you look in a mirror you see an image (a representation) of yourself. Man is the image of God in creation. Man is like God in that he has 1) dominion and 2) reason.
2. What is dominion? Who has ultimate dominion over the earth? Who did God choose to rule the earth and all of the animals in it for Him?
Dominion means power or rule. God has ultimate dominion because He created the earth. Man, meaning humans, male and female, is to rule the earth in God’s place, promoting His will. p. 15
3. What command did God give to the man and woman after creating and blessing them? What does this command mean?
God said, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” This command means to have children and fill the earth with people in order to rule it and bring it under the power of man, who is God’s representative on earth.

4

Vocabulary and Expressions

1. **ex nihilo** (ex nee il loh): Latin, out of nothing
2. **imago Dei** (ee mah goh day ee): Latin, image of God
3. **dominion**: power; rule, from the Latin *Dominus*, Lord or master
4. **fowl**: bird
5. **replenish**: restock; fill
6. **subdue**: control; tame

The Garden of Eden

Genesis 1-2

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Adam's responsibility in the Garden of Eden? Did he have to grow his own food?
God told Adam to "dress" (tend) and keep the garden. The plants and trees provided food freely, without cultivation or weeds. pp. 15, 16
2. Give the names of the two special trees in the middle of the garden.
The Tree of Life; the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. p. 16
3. What was the difference between the two trees?
Adam and Eve could eat of the Tree of Life, for it provided food for eternal life. God told Adam and Eve to not eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, for if they did they would die. p. 16
4. Why did God bring all of the animals to Adam?
God brought the animals to Adam so he could name them and to see if any of them could be a companion for him. p. 19
5. How did God make woman?
God put man into a deep sleep, and then He took one of Adam's ribs and made Woman. p. 19
6. What did Adam say when God brought him the woman?
"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man."
7. Find on 1) globe or world map, and 2) Unit I Map A ☐ Mesopotamia (Iraq)
☐ Euphrates River ☐ Tigris River

5

Activities

- Pp. 14-15 Identify the picture that represents each day of the Creation.
- Pp. 16-17 Describe the Garden of Eden. Identify what might be the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- Pp. 18-19 Look at the picture of the Garden of Eden. Name the animals you see. What do you notice about the relationship between the animals?
The animals are peaceful. The lion and tiger do not attack the deer or the sheep. Adam may be naming the animals.

Memory Verse Review: # 1-7 in appendix. Give the first word or two of a verse and see how many students can complete it.