

Rediscovering the story of the Old Testament

Session 1: The Grand Narrative - Lesson 2

The Good Earth: Heaven and Earth Joined at the Garden

Infinite God (3-6)

Genesis 1:1-2 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water.*

To display His _____, God created a well-planned _____ universe befitting a prodigal God,

- from the vast expanses of _____ with galaxies of stars and planets
- quantum particles
- life forms in which each _____ is more complex and intricate than any object yet made by human hands

God's very nature is _____ and intricate.

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Genesis 1:1 in Hebrew: *Bereshit bara Elohim ...*)

- Elohim could be translated as _____,
- the verb, bara, is _____.

In the second verse we read about the _____ of God.

- **Deuteronomy 6:5** “*The LORD our God, the LORD is one*”
- **Matthew 28:19** *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

Somehow, there is _____ God, but there are _____ persons. The shorthand way we refer to this complexity is the _____, a combination of the prefix Tri (for three) and the root word unity.

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Temple Dedication (7-9)

- In Genesis 1, the phrases, “And God said, “... there was

_____ and there was

_____, the _____ day ...” appears six

times for each of the first six days.

- In recent years there has been debate about

_____ each day was:

six 24-hour days, six ages or other options.

- In our age, we tend to think of creation in

_____ terms, but we should try to look at

this creation as the people would have understood it in

the times of _____.

- In the ancient near-east cultures of

_____ years ago,

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- creating something meant not to physically create something but rather to assign a _____ to it.
- Genesis 1 would appear to look like the _____ of a _____ in which God's joyful, celebrating, worshiping community of image-bearers would dwell.

The image-bearers (10-14)

Genesis 1:26-27 *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish ... birds ... livestock ... every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.*

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Genesis 1:28,31. *And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good”*

Psalms 19:1-4 *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

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God had created living _____ that were intended to _____ and _____ to be His vice-regents, to fill and take care of the earth .

The character of these image-bearing creatures is rooted in the very _____ of God: creative, intelligent, aesthetic, moral, relational, spiritual, able to transcend their circumstances, able to love, and the list goes on.

At the end of six days, the _____ was complete: all of creation was now dedicated to the _____ for which God had intended them to be.

All the details of this universe were designed to _____ the _____ of the God so that His image-bearing creatures could look at His magnificent temple and recognize His _____ everywhere they looked

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Seventh Day (15-19)

Genesis 2:1-3, 15 *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation... The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

Matthew 11:28 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

The seventh day is given _____ the phrase, “there was evening and there was morning.” The _____ of God’s _____ was complete.

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The seventh day was designed to be that never-ending time

when God and his image-bearers would now

_____ the _____ he had made. The
creating, the ordering, the dedication was complete.

The universe, God's temple was now a _____,

ready to _____ in, be _____ in, to
be used for the purposes he had intended from the beginning.

In Deuteronomy we see that *to rest* does not mean to

_____ work, but to _____ the work
intended from the beginning. The question is, "What is that
work intended to be?

In Genesis 2, the center of activity is the

_____ where God would dwell with his image-
bearers.

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The Garden was designed to _____ food, not for

God who did not need it, but for his _____.

The Garden is the place that God designed for his image-

bearers to act as _____,

serving God by taking care of the garden .

The entire universe could be considered a _____

_____ where God could dwell, but the

_____ of Eden was its center

The garden contained food for the image-bearers to eat and

was the place where God would _____ with

them.

The garden was also the place where there were two unique

_____ : The Tree of Life and The Tree of

Knowledge.