

**CREATION:
GENESIS AS
FOUNDATION—
PART 2**

**Lesson 9 for
May 30,
2020**

Genesis lays the foundation of the wholeness of the Scriptures.

For example, the Bible tells about the events in the End Time because the Creator is still sovereign over His Creation.

Let's study the basic concepts in the first chapters of Genesis and how they have an impact on the rest of the Bible and in history.

 **Genesis and paganism:**

 **Creation in other cultures**

 **Creation and idols**

 **Genesis and Earth:**

 **Flat Earth?**

 **Young Earth?**

 **Genesis and the Bible:**

 **Creation in the rest of the Bible**



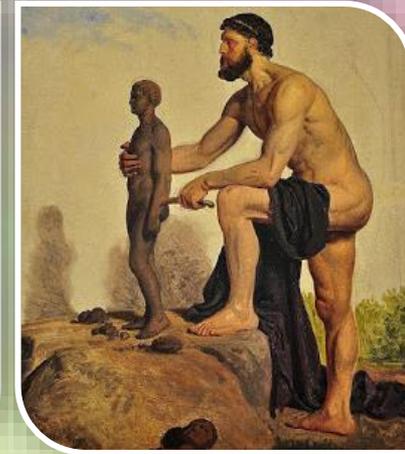
CREATION IN OTHER CULTURES

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27)

Genesis 1-2 is not the only account of creation of mankind. There are other accounts like the *Atra-Hasis* epic, which tells the Akkadian concept of creation. Egyptians and Greeks also had their own creation stories.

All of them have some common elements with Genesis (for example, the use of clay), but also great differences.

In non-Biblical stories, mankind was created as a selfish act, or because of competition between gods. This is an idolatrous perversion of the truth.



Only Genesis introduces the creation of mankind as a result of the love of an omnipotent God, with no selfishness at all.

CREATION AND IDOLS

"Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also." (Genesis 1:16)

Why are the Sun and the Moon not mentioned by name?

In many cultures, the Sun and the Moon were gods who took part in the creation of Earth and mankind. For example, Egyptians believed the Sun (Ra) created all forms of life. Therefore, those celestial bodies were worshipped by almost all the cultures in ancient times.



Genesis makes it clear: God created them for a specific function, they were just lights with no life at all.

There are not several gods in Creation that we should worship. There's no chance and there are no whims. Everything was created with a purpose (Isaiah 45:5, 18). Only God, our Creator, is worthy of our worship.



FLAT EARTH?

**"He shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble."
(Job 9:6)**

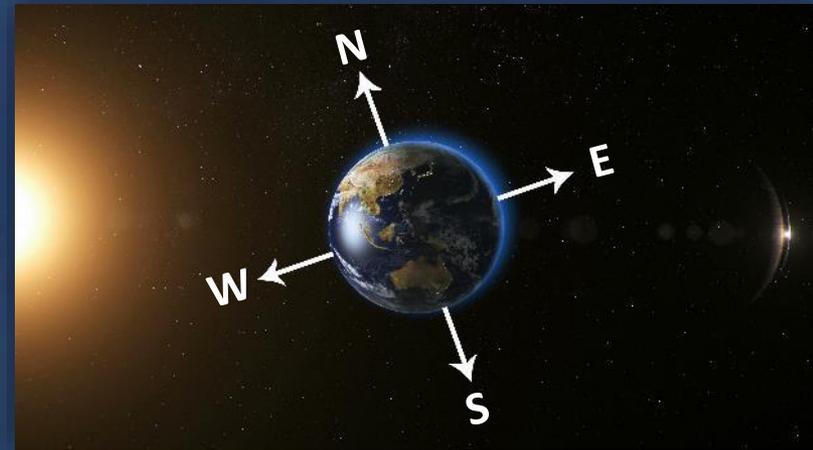
Some people believe that Earth is flat because of reading some passages like the one in Job literally. As if it was sustained by pillars and limited by four literal angles (see Revelation 7:1).



However, the book of Job also explains that Earth is hanging on nothing (Job 26:7). We must take into account that many of these expressions are using poetic speech.



Although we know Earth is round and not flat (Pr. 8:27; Is. 40:22), we still use the four cardinal points.



We also say that the Sun rises and sets, although we know that the Earth is the one moving around the Sun. We're not using a scientific register when using those expressions. Likewise, there are descriptions in the Bible that use a common registry instead of a scientific one.

YOUNG EARTH?

"Adam, Seth, Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth." (1 Chronicles 1:1-4)



There are several genealogy records in the Bible that cover the period between Adam and Abraham: Genesis 5 and 11, 1 Chronicles 1:1-27 and Luke 3:23-38.

Both names and ages are given, so we can calculate how much time passed between Adam and Abraham.

“‘A’ lived ‘X’ years, and begot ‘B’. After he begot ‘B’, ‘A’ lived ‘Y’ years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of ‘A’ were ‘Z’ years; and he died.” (see Genesis 5:6-8).



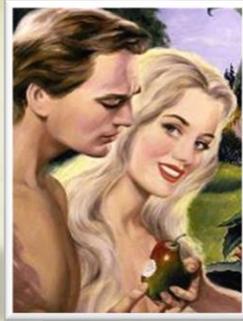
If we add those years, we can find out when Abraham lived.

According to Jewish traditions, Creation took place at 3760 BC. Therefore, Gregorian year 2020 is Hebrew year 5780. This is not a 100% reliable date, but we can have a rough idea of how old Earth is.



CREATION IN THE REST OF THE BIBLE

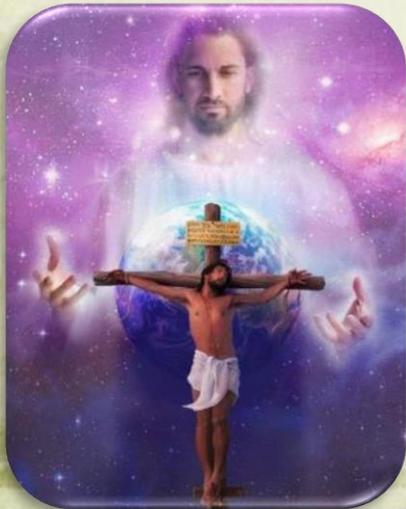
"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)



God's creating power is mentioned frequently in the Old Testament. For example, the book of Isaiah contains more than 10 references to God as Creator.

(Is. 42:5; 43:1, 7, 15, 21; 45:8; 54:16, 56:7; 57:16; 65:17, 18).

The first 11 chapters of Genesis are referenced many times by Jesus and the Apostles in the New Testament (Mt. 19:4-5; Mr. 10:6-9; Lk. 11:50-51; Jn. 1:1-3; Acts 14:15; Ro. 1:20; 2Co. 4:6; Eph. 3:9; 1Tm. 2:12-15; Jm. 3:9; Jud. 11, 14; Rev. 2:7; 3:14; 22:2-3).



There are also mentions to Creation as the foundation of doctrines as important as sin or redemption (Romans 5:12-19).

The Bible would lose its cohesion and reliability without the foundation of Genesis.



“We are dependent on the Bible for a knowledge of the early history of our world, of the creation of man, and of his fall. Remove the Word of God, and what can we expect but to be left to fables and conjectures and to that enfeebling of the intellect which is the sure result of entertaining error.

We need the authentic history of the origin of the earth, of the fall of Lucifer, and of the introduction of sin into the world. Without the Bible, we should be bewildered by false theories. The mind would be subjected to the tyranny of superstition and falsehood. But, having in our possession an authentic history of the beginning of the world, we need not hamper ourselves with human conjectures and unreliable theories.”