

Genesis 1:1

Genesis 1-2 speaks about the origin of the world. When we read these passages not from a scientific perspective but from a theological perspective, not as proofs but as messages, we discover the reasons and purposes for which God has allowed us these words.

Genesis was given to the Israelites who were led out of Egypt through Moses around 1400 BC. At that time, Israelites were familiar with various creation myths prevalent in the ancient Near Eastern world. To such Israelites, God gave not false ancient Near Eastern myths but the true creation story, which is what we read as Genesis today.

What was God speaking to Israel 3400 years ago through the creation story? This message teaches us important truths applicable to us living in the modern world.

Firstly, God the Creator alone is the only God.

The ancient Near Eastern world where the Israelites lived in the 15th century BC was a world of myths. Most nations in the ancient Near East had pantheons of gods, and within those pantheons were numerous gods. The Sumerians, who are known to have birthed the first civilization, had sky gods and earth gods; the Egyptians had sun gods like Ra, and in Ur, the homeland of Abraham, there was Nanna, the moon god.

However, to Israel, God made a completely new declaration through today's text. In a world believing in many gods, Yahweh, the Lord God, declared Himself as the unique Creator, and the heavens, earth, seas, sun, moon, and stars are not gods but the marvelous creations of God. This manner of declaration in Genesis is called "demythologization." It leads Israel, accustomed to ancient myths, away from mythology into the realm of new truth. Thus, the creation story in Genesis speaks about God the Creator.

Secondly, God the Creator is the ruler of the world.

God created this world in a way that pleased Him. There is a recurring phrase in Genesis 1: "And God saw that it was good." This indicates that this world was created in a manner pleasing to the eyes of God, and God's perspective became the standard for creation when this world was created.

The reason the events of good and evil in Genesis 3 became sin is because in Genesis 2:16-17, God commanded not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God's word became the standard of right and wrong. The Creator of the world also established the correct principles and ways for the creatures to live. This shows that creatures must live according to the way established by God and further indicates that God the Creator is the ruler of this world.

Thirdly, God the Creator has a special love for humanity.

The creation story in Genesis speaks about God's astonishing love for humanity among all the creatures of the created world. The commonality in ancient Near Eastern myths is that humanity was created to relieve the toil of the gods. However, Genesis speaks of a completely different creation of humanity.

Before humanity was created, the world was not in a state of emptiness and chaos but was a beautifully ordered world created with the heavens, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, and various plants and animals. The reason for creating it that way was for the humans God would create on the last day with His own hands.

Furthermore, God declared rest on the next day after creating humanity. Humans rested with God on the day after they were created. This was a message of grace entirely different from the ancient myths that said humans existed to toil. It shows God's special love for humanity.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1)

**Bible
Reading**

4/22(Mon)	4/23(Tue)	4/24(Wed)	4/25(Thur)	4/26(Fri)	4/27(Sat)	4/28(Sun)
1 Kings 1	1 Kings 2-3	1 Kings 4-6	1 Kings 7-8	1 Kings 9-10	1 Kings 11-12	1 Kings 13-14

QT

Quiet Time Passage

4/22(Mon)	4/23(Tue)	4/24(Wed)	4/25(Thur)	4/26(Fri)	4/27(Sat)	4/28(Sun)
1 Kings 8:41-53	1 Kings 8:54-66	1 Kings 9:1-9	1 Kings 9:10-28	1 Kings 10:1-13	1 Kings 10:14-29	1 Kings 11:1-13

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Please share what you have newly realized or received grace from today's reading.
2. Please share what the fact that God is the Creator means to you.
3. Please share what standards contrary to today's word of God exist in the world today.
4. Please share how you should respond and live in light of the special love of the Creator revealed in the process of creation.