

Bi121 Old Testament

Lesson Bi121-1 The Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

In today's lesson you will learn that God is the source of everything and especially of everything that is good. It is because of God's actions that you experience life. This story tells us that all things came into being by the Word of God. God spoke them into being.

Before anything was, God was. He has existed from eternity past and will exist into eternity future. From everlasting to everlasting, He is God. The creation story in the first book of the Bible helps us understand the three distinct persons of the Godhead, the Trinity—three, yet one. God is spirit. At its very beginning the Bible says the Spirit of God was present. The Apostle John explained it this way, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made" (John 1:1-3). So the Word, Jesus, was the architect of creation.

The story of creation is told as if observed from the earth, not from heaven. It focuses on God's actions and His evaluation of the creation. Since no person was present at the creation, we accept the Spirit's inspiration of Moses, the writer of Genesis, as an accurate account.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was lifeless, empty, and dark. Then the Spirit of God moved across the vast emptiness. The first thing God said was, "Let there be light." Suddenly light shone around the entire sphere of the earth! He looked at the light, and said, "That is good." He then divided the light from the darkness. He looked at the light and said, "I will call you day." Turning to the darkness, He said, "And I will call you night." So on the first day, God spoke into being the day and the night.

On the second day, God looked at the waters and said, "Be divided!" Immediately, the waters started to separate. Some went up into the air and the rest stayed down on the surface of the earth. God looked at the waters that were above, and he looked at the waters that were beneath. Then He looked at the space that was in between the two and said, "I'll call you sky."

On the third day, God focused on the waters that were below the sky. He said, "Be gathered together into seas, rivers and lakes. Let dry land appear." At His word, land rose up from the waters. Rivers flowed off the land, separating the hills and causing valleys. Lakes and seas were everywhere. God looked at the dry land and He looked at the seas and said, "This is good."

Then He commanded the land, "Bring forth vegetation! Let there be grasses, vegetables, herbs, and trees. All of them will have seeds, so that life may continue on." Immediately plants started growing across the entire earth. There were grasses, flowers, and vegetables. There were trees of many different kinds. Some would become tall, while other would remain close to the ground. The trees produced different kinds of fruit. All this vegetation grew from that day forward, and they all had seeds so life could continue. So in the third day, God made the dry land, plants, and trees.

On the fourth day, God looked into the heavens and spoke the word, “Let there be lights—a greater light to rule over the day, and a lesser light to dominate the night. They will divide the day and the night, and be for signs and seasons, days and years.” Immediately the sun appeared in the sky, giving light and warmth to the earth. The moon and stars filled the night with splendor and brilliance. God looked at the sun, the moon, and the stars and said, “That is good.”

On the fifth day, God looked at the sky and the oceans, lakes, and streams that were below it. He said, “Bring forth life! Let there be birds in the skies, and fish and sea creatures in the water.” Immediately sea creatures started moving in the seas, lakes, and rivers. Some were large and others were very small, fish of all different sizes, shapes, and colors. Birds appeared in the skies. Some flew high up in the air, while others stayed close to the ground. They had different shapes, colors, and sounds. God looked at the sea creatures and birds. He said, “That is good.” He blessed them and told them to multiply and fill the seas and skies.

On the sixth day, God said to the earth, “Bring forth living creatures. Let there be wild animals and others that can be tamed.” Immediately, animals started walking across the earth. Some were huge, and others were very small. God looked at them and said, “That is good.” Then God said, “Let us make people to be our children. We will make them to be like us. They will rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the animals that move across the land.” So God made a man and a woman and blessed them and told them to multiply and fill the earth with people. He told them to rule over all he had made. He then gave them fruit, grains, vegetables, and green plants to eat. When God looked at all He had made He said, “It is all very, very good!”

On the seventh day, God rested from all that He had done. He blessed the seventh day and made it special. This is how God created the heavens and the earth and brought forth life.

This story is important because it reminds us that God is the Creator of all things. He created the earth first. His Word brought light and order and life into what had been lifeless darkness and chaos. Finally, He made mankind. He created us after His own likeness and image, so that we could experience relationship as children with our heavenly Father. He did all this out of His great love.

The main truth this story teaches is that God created a perfect place for His children to live, so they would look to Him as the source for all they needed or desired.

Let's review this lesson—

1. What act of God created this world and all it contains?
 - a. [Pause for 8 seconds] If you said "God spoke and the world came into being," you are correct.
2. Why was the seventh day of creation special?
 - a. [Pause for 8 seconds] If you said, "On the seventh day, God rested from all that He had done," you are correct.
3. How did God feel about the completed creation?
 - a. [Pause for 8 seconds] If you said, “God said, ‘It is all very, very good!’” you are correct.

Your assignment for this lesson is to listen to the story at least three times. As you hear the story each time, imagine how it happened; see the events in your mind. Then tell the story in your own words as you remember it. It may help you to remember the creation order if you see that the creation days one and four are about light and darkness. Days two and five are about the division of waters and what was created in them, and days three and six are about the earth and what was created on it. On the seventh day God rested. Listen to the story until you can retell it and are sure you are repeating the circumstances and actions correctly. You should spend at least 45 minutes in learning the story. You may need to have someone check that you are telling the story correctly. Ask your friend the same review questions you answered when you first heard this story.

Finally, go tell the story to someone who has never heard this story before. That person may feel like his life is full of darkness and chaos. Share the good news that God wants to bring light and peace into that person's heart.