

“Is Genesis History” by Thomas Purifoy Jr.

The First Seven Days Chapter 2 (2nd half)

Review: We previously discussed that God created everything, including time, for man. Have you thought of this?

God’s original creation was very good.

Gen. 1:28-2:4 – “God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

What is God telling man and woman to do? What does this scripture tell us about the creatures of the earth? “Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – give every green plant for food.” And it was so.”

What has God given man for food? What has God given the creatures for food?

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.”

What does this tell us about the world then? What does this tell us about the world to come?

“By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.” Although the word “Sabbath” is not used here, the Hebrew verb translated “rested” is the origin of the noun “Sabbath”. What does this tell man regarding the days of the week and the seventh day? Why?

Non-Literal Interpretations of Genesis

Some interpret the days of creation and the events of the first chapters of the Bible in a variety of ways:

1. Literary Framework
2. God’s Workdays
3. Functional Cosmic Temple

“From the building of the tabernacle to the life of Moses, David, and Jesus, God put patterns everywhere He revealed Himself.” “For these patterns to have theological meaning, they had to be historically real.” In many contemporary interpretations of the first chapters of Genesis, the pattern of creation is separated as a lesson of theology and thus remove it from real history. By de-historicizing various sections of Genesis, a problem will arise? What is it?

Three Problems with Modern Interpreters

1. They do not replace history with another history, they simply say it isn’t history. No other part of the Bible is questioned in this way, only Genesis 1 and 2. Scientists are left to fill the void of history with theories of billion-year timelines. Does this fit the pattern of God?
2. They do not provide a clear consensus as to where theological-only history ends and where real history begins. Which begs the question, why would God be so detailed throughout the Bible and miss on creation?
3. They nullify the inspired authors and witnesses in the Bible.

Isaiah 45:6-7 – “I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.” What does God tell us He creates in this scripture?

Isaiah 65:17 – “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.” What is God telling us about Himself and the future?

Deut. 4:32 – Moses wrote: “Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth;...” What is Moses telling us about God?

Psalms 89:5 – “The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,” What are these wonders and why does it say “your wonders”?

Psalms 89:11-12 – “The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it. You created the north and the south;” What does this scripture mean?

Psalms 139:13 – “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Is God still creating?

Mark 13:18-19 – Jesus said regarding the end of the age: “**Pray that this will not take place in winter, because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now – and never to be equaled again.**” Jesus tells us that God created the world in the beginning. Can we trust the words of Jesus?

Col. 1:16 – Paul wrote: “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.” What is Paul telling us?

Rev. 10:5-6 – John wrote: “Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay!” What is this angel saying?

Fact: “The use of the Hebrew word ‘day’ (yom) modified by the cardinal numbers ‘one’, ‘two’, ‘three’, ‘four’, ‘five’, and ‘six’, alongside the nouns ‘morning’ and ‘evening’ are all specific time indicators referring to a normal week.” Why?