

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR GROUP

READ GENESIS 1:1-2:4

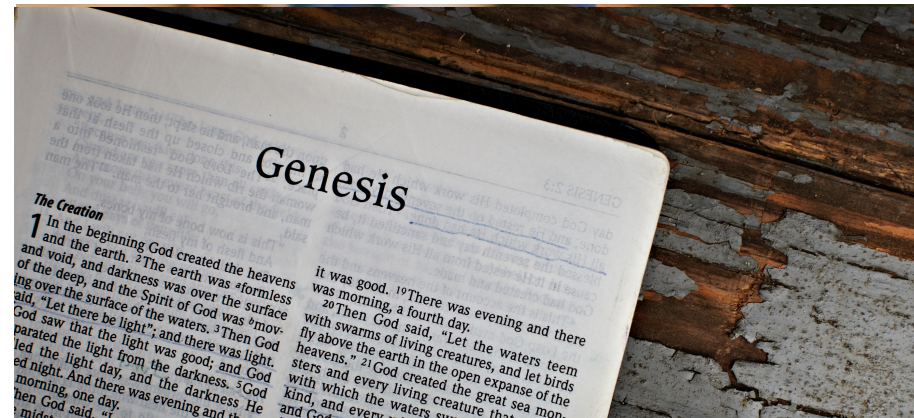
1. The Biblical Account of Creation had several rivals in the ancient near east. The Babylonian account speaks of two gods who brought all the other gods into being, and how one god slew another god and divided her body into the heavens and the earth, and all the other god's became the earth, the moon and the stars. The Canaanite story features Baal (the creator god) subduing a rebellion by Yom (the goddess of the sea), resulting in the creation of the heaven and earth. The Egyptians stories feature a primordial ooze from which the gods arise and either by a lewd sexual act or a cough accidentally create the world. The major gods are Ra and Thoth, the sun and the moon. How does the Biblical Creation account challenge all of these myths?
2. The Modern Creation Myth is that the universe is merely a cosmic accident. How does the Biblical account challenge the modern myth?
3. The earth was without form and empty. What does God do to form it? What does God do to fill it? What does God's careful fashioning of the planet indicate about his love for us?
4. What does it mean to you that the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the deep? What does this imply about the Spirit's work in the new creation (i.e. those who are in Christ)?
5. One of the major movements in the creation story is from darkness to light. God's first command is "Let there be light." He then separates light from darkness, and each day moves from evening (darkness) to morning (light). What are some ways God continues to bring light out of darkness? How does God bring light out of darkness in your own life?
6. Another major movement in the creation story is from chaos to order. The earth begins in darkness with untamed seas, it ends in a lush garden where men and women can live and thrive under God's gracious rule. What are some ways God continues to bring order out of chaos? How does God bring order out of chaos in your life? How does sin reintroduce chaos back into creation and our lives?
7. Which of the truths we have discussed about creation is most meaningful to you? Why? Take the time to thank God for everything that creation reveals about his continuing work in new creation and ask him to enable you to live in light of these truths in the coming week.

COPYRIGHT 2016 Paul Kemp and Fellowship Bible Church, all rights reserved. Feel free to make copies for distribution in personal and/or small group Bible Study.



360 DISCUSSION GUIDE 06.12.16

THE STORY BEGINS | GENESIS 1:1-2:4



When we think of the gospel, we usually think of the plan of salvation, or perhaps the first four books of the New Testament or possibly the entire New Testament. The gospel, however, reaches into eternity past and begins to take shape with the dawn of time. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at the "Gospel According to Genesis." The gospel begins where our story begins.

The first four stanzas of the "Gospel-Centered Confession of Faith" we explored last week, describe how the gospel begins to take shape in the early chapters of Genesis.

We believe in the One True God,
who brought all things into being by the power of His word
and in whom we live, move and have our being.

We believe God created us in His image for Himself
to live and thrive under His gracious rule
as faithful stewards of all that he has made

We believe we have rejected God's rule
and sought to establish our own;
and we now live as broken people in a fallen world
subject to the righteous judgment of a Holy God.

We believe from the moment we rejected God,
he began to pursue us,
promising to redeem us
and restore His rule over a fallen creation