



The Two Accounts of
CREATION

HOW DID THE WORLD BEGIN?



FOUNDATIONS - MODULE 15A



"The creation story in Genesis can be a contentious topic, because we are looking for answers, but God is telling us a story of Himself and about creation.

Genesis 1-3 sets the stage for all that follows in the Bible - it may not give all the details of creation that you may wish to know, but the opening chapters of Genesis form the foundation of everything else that God chose to reveal in the Bible - our theology, our understanding of God.

The Bible begins with God - the transcendent, eternal, infinite, omnipotent, omnipresent God created in order to reveal Himself and His goodness to His creatures. Christ is supreme over all creation - visible and invisible - created through Him and for Him. The Bible uses the Holy Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. Therefore, to understand how Genesis is a spiritual story of creation, not just a historical book of facts, you must continue with a mindset of faith.

In this Module you will learn what the Book of Genesis teaches us about our Creator (Genesis 1), and His personal desire to have a relationship with us (Genesis 2)."

Rick Carroll

Key Topics




01
WHAT GOD REVEALED TO MOSES



02
IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD



03
YAHWEH'S RELATIONSHIP WITH US

The background of the image is a composite of two celestial scenes. On the right side, the Earth is shown from space, with a clear view of the blue oceans, white clouds, and brownish-green landmasses. The curve of the planet is visible against the dark background of space. On the left side, there is a vibrant nebula or galaxy, featuring a mix of orange, red, and white colors with intricate patterns of light and dust. The overall composition is a blend of the familiar (Earth) and the vast, mysterious (the universe).

*By faith we understand that the
entire universe was formed at
God's command that what we
now see did not come from
anything that can be seen.*

HEBREWS 11:3 (NLT)

01

What God Revealed To Moses

Genesis is not a written history

- The Creation Story was revealed by God to Moses, 2500 years after creation
- It was passed down verbally, from generation to generation
- Even with written manuscripts the details of what happened in 480 BC are vague

The Pentecostal Assemblies of God Statement on Creation

God created and sustains the heavens and the earth, which display God's glory. Formed in the image of God, both male and female, humankind is entrusted with the care of God's creation as faithful stewards. As a result of human rebellion, sin and death entered the world, distorting the image of God and all of God's good creation.

Angels were created as supernatural beings to worship and serve God. Along with Satan, some angels chose to rebel and oppose the purposes of God. Christ gives believers victory over Satan and these demons.

Key points in the PAOC Statement on Creation


- It emphasizes the importance of caring for God's creation
- There is no mention of the length of time
- It does not address how many humans were created

What we know about creation is what God feels we need to know.



Reflection #1

When you have previously read Genesis, did you read it as a science text book, a history text book, or God's revealed story of creation that he wanted you to understand?



*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created and is
supreme over all creation, for through him God
created everything in the heavenly realms and on
earth. He made the things we can see and the
things we can't see — such as thrones, kingdoms,
rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.
Everything was created through him and for
him. He existed before anything else, and he
holds all creation together.*

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17 (NLT)

02

In The Beginning Was The Word

There are all kinds of viewpoints on how the world came to be:

- What is really created in 6 literal days (24-hours each day)?
- What is really by intelligent design, or theistic evolution?
- Did God set evolution in place, or did it happen by chance (big bang theory)?

When you START WITH GOD, you'll realize that the world was created on purpose, and not randomly.

- Genesis 1:1a - "In the beginning God..."
- John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word..."

When you continue with a MINDSET OF FAITH, you'll see how Genesis is a spiritual story of creation, not a historical book of facts.

- Genesis teaches us about God - it's His story.
- Genesis teaches us about His relationship with us.
- Genesis teaches us about His purpose for us.
- It's not meant to teach us the laws of nature
- It explains spiritual truths, since it was Spirit-inspired
- We have to trust God with the details that we don't fully understand.

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

God created something out of nothing

- God spoke – God created ex nihilo (from or out of nothing).
- God spoke, and by an assertion of His will all things came into existence – God did not take pre-existing matter or substance and reshape or reconfigure it into the present universe.
- His creative activity is not like that of humans – all of our inventions and discoveries are based on pre-existing matter.
- Humanity, Satan, any of us can adapt, alter, improve, or modify. We cannot create something from nothing.

By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen. Hebrews 11:3 (NLT)

God brought order out of chaos

- One of the major lessons of Genesis 1 is that God created an order to what was formless, and we are to trust that he established the laws of nature.

The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Genesis 1:2 (NLT)

- The phrase “hovering over” gives the image of an eagle hovering over its young.
- The Message translation says, “the Spirit of God brooded like a bird over the watery abyss” which brings to mind a hen brooding in the hatching process.

God separated opposites

- Light from darkness (Genesis 1:4)
- Heavens from the earth (Genesis 1:6)
- Dry land and seas (Genesis 1:10)
- Day from night (Genesis 1:14)
- Male and female (Genesis 1:27)

God only created good

- Light was good (Genesis 1:4)
- Separation of dry land and sea was good (Genesis 1:10)
- Land producing all sorts of vegetation was good (Genesis 1:12)
- Great lights to govern day and night were good (Genesis 1:17-18)
- Creatures in water and birds in the sky were good (Genesis 1:21)
- All sorts of animals, wild animals, livestock, and small animals were good (Genesis 1:25)
- Human beings - male and female - created in His image were very good (Genesis 1:31)

God blessed His creation

“Then God blessed the fish and birds, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.” Genesis 1:22, 28 (NLT)

- This blessing is repeated many times in Genesis:
 - Adam (Genesis 1:28) - be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth & govern it.
 - Noah (Genesis 9:1) - be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth
 - Abraham (Genesis 12:2 and 22:17) - be a great nation, multiplying his descendants
 - Isaac (Genesis 26:4) - through his descendants all nations will be blessed and multiply
 - Jacob (Genesis 32:12) - multiply his descendants

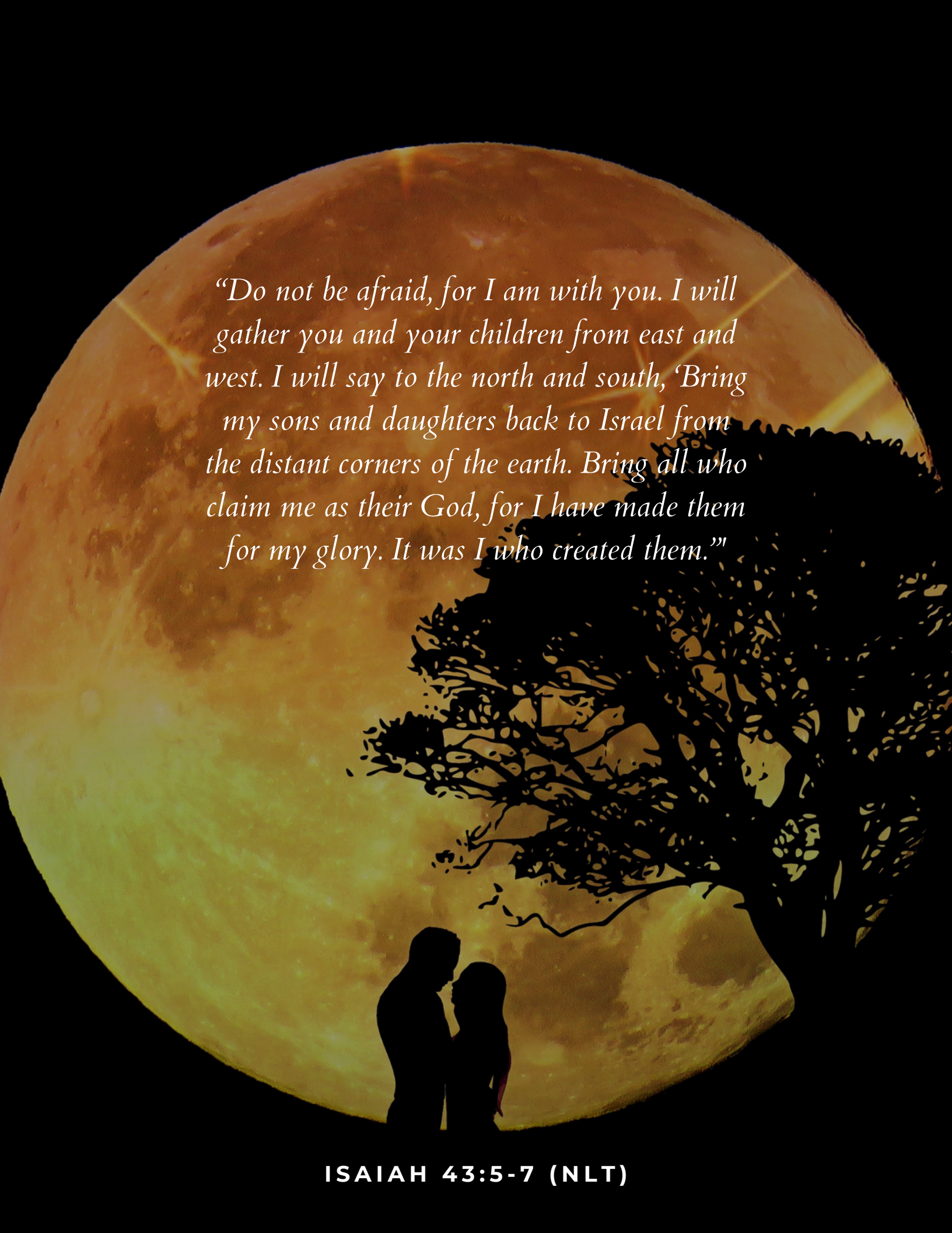
God created human beings in His own image

- God is Spirit, so as His image bearers we are spiritual beings
 - Jesus rose to life and was recognizable to His friends in His risen and perfected form
 - While the bodies we have are dying, both our spirit and our resurrected body are in His image
- God walked with Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8)
 - God will walk with His people again in the New Earth (Revelation 21:3)



Reflection #2

What is one thing that you had never noticed before as you studied Genesis chapter 1? How will that impact your relationship with God going forward?

A large, glowing yellow sun or moon dominates the background, set against a dark sky. In the foreground, the silhouette of a tree is visible on the right side, and a couple is standing together, looking at each other. The overall mood is romantic and serene.

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west. I will say to the north and south, ‘Bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the distant corners of the earth. Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.’”

ISAIAH 43:5-7 (NLT)

03

Yahweh's Relationship With Us

In the Book of Genesis we read 2 accounts of the creation story:

- **Chapter 1 - we learn about the the nature of God**
 - God the Creator - Elohim
 - A wide angle narrative of the first days of creation
- **Chapter 2 - we learn about a relational God**
 - Yahweh The Lord - Yahweh-Elohim (Lord God of the Covenant)
 - A zoomed-in account of Day 6 & 7 of creation

God is not distant from His creation - He desires to dwell among His people.

- The LORD God (Yehovah Elohim) cares deeply about us, and longs to be in relationship with us.
- Though the word “covenant” is not used in Genesis 2, God refers to it in the book of Hosea:

"But like Adam, you broke my covenant and betrayed my trust." Hosea 6:7 (NLT)

Genesis 2 begins with the discussion of the Sabbath

- God made the seventh day holy, and by Him showing us the model, for us to imitate, it is set apart for His worship.
- The Sabbath was given for us to commune with him.
- It's a day of rest found only in God.
- The ultimate realization of the Sabbath rest is eschatological in nature, as it refers to the final rest prepared for us in heaven.

On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation. Genesis 2:2-3 (NLT)

God created purpose for us.

- Our purpose is answered in Genesis:

"The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it."
Genesis 2:15 (NLT)

- An expectation is created for Adam to work the ground - both physically and spiritually:

When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the Lord God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. Genesis 2:4b-5 (NLT)

- Adam's role in the Garden of Eden was not just as a gardener, but a guardian of the sacred space - which has Levitical (priesthood) connotations:

- The Hebrew words *āḇaḏ* (translated to work/to till) and *šāmar* (translated to keep it) are used subsequently in Numbers 3:7-8, 8:26; 18:5-6 to describe the duties of Levitical priests to minister and to guard the tabernacle.

- Like Adam, our role is that of being "His holy priests" caring for the world that God created for us:

And so dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Romans 12:1 (NLT)

- We are to glorify Him

"Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them." Isaiah 43:7 (NLT)

- We are to declare His praise

"...the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise." Isaiah 43:21 (ESV)

God created boundaries for us

- Much freedom has been given to humans since the beginning of time, but that freedom was not intended for us to live in the world as we pleased.
- Adam's role came with a warning:

But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

Genesis 2:16-17 (NLT)

- God wanted humans to trust Him on His command.
- The name "Genesis" has enormous significance:
 - The original sin was to hold the power of what is good and evil, trying to become equal with God, instead of caring for God's creation, and learning to discern right from wrong.

God created relationship for us

- God created a perfect partner for Adam, to care for and steward the resources of the world.

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.' Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Genesis 2:21-24 (NLT)

- The Apostle Paul taught us that this holy union, where two become one, is the same as Christ and His church are one (Ephesians 5:31).
- The relational, covenant-keeping God knows our needs intimately.



Reflection #3

Did you realize before that there were 2 creation accounts in the Bible? What did you learn about God's nature in Genesis 2 that you didn't see in Genesis 1?



Bible Reading Plan

At PORTICO we believe that it's necessary to read your Bible daily to grow in your spiritual journey of faith. That's why we've designed a Bible Reading Plan with Scripture verses for each day, to help you learn more about God.

[PORTICO.CC/DAILYDEVO](https://portico.cc/dailydevo)



In the beginning
the Word already
existed..."

JOHN 1:1 (NLT)

*In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth. The
earth was formless and empty,
and darkness covered the deep
waters. And the Spirit of God
was hovering over the surface
of the waters.*

GENESIS 1:2 (NLT)

*For ever since the world was created,
people have seen the earth and sky.
Through everything God made, they
can clearly see his invisible qualities
— his eternal power and divine
nature. So they have no excuse for
not knowing God.*

ROMANS 1:20 (NLT)

*The Lord merely spoke,
and the heavens were
created. He breathed the
word, and all the stars
were born.*

PSALMS 33:6 (NLT)

*So God created human beings in his own
image. In the image of God he created
them; male and female he created them.
Then God blessed them and said, 'Be
fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and
govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea,
the birds in the sky, and all the animals
that scurry along the ground.'*

GENESIS 1:27-28 (NLT)