

**Series: Genesis: Beginnings, Betrayal and Blessings**

**Title: The Song of Creation**

Text: Genesis 1 and 2a

## **Genesis: Beginnings, Betrayal and Blessings**

### **The Song of Creation**

#### **Introduction / Timing**

- Written Date – 1400 BC
- Covering dates x- 1473 BC

#### **Introduction / Authorship - JEPD or Moses**

#### **JEPD**

#### **Computer agrees: Genesis had only one author**

- **J - J** (standing for what the documentary hypothesizes would term Jahwist) supposedly lived about 900–850 BC
- **E - E** (standing for Elohist) supposedly lived about 750–700 BC in the northern kingdom (Israel), and wrote those passages where *'Elohim* is used as the word for God.
- **D - D** supposedly wrote most of **D**euteronomy, probably the book found in the temple in Jerusalem in 621 BC
- **P - P** supposedly represents a **P**riest (or priests) who lived during the exile in Babylon
- The following quote **comes from *Omni* magazine of August 1982:**
  - 'After feeding the 20,000 Hebrew words of Genesis into a computer at Technion University in Israel, researchers found many sentences that ended in verbs and numerous words of six characters or more. Because these idiosyncratic patterns appear again and again, says project director Yehuda Radday, it seems likely that a sole author was responsible. Their exhaustive computer analysis conducted in Israel suggested an 82 percent probability that the book has just one author.'

## MOSES

- The author is obviously an eyewitness of the Exodus from Egypt, familiar with the geography, flora and fauna of the region;
- The Pentateuch claims in many places that Moses was the writer
- Many times in the rest of the Old Testament, Moses is said to have been the writer,
- In the New Testament, Jesus frequently spoke of Moses' writings or the Law of Moses,
- Other New Testament speakers/writers said the same thing,
- According to biblical chronology, Moses was born in 1593 B.C.E., in Egypt. He was the son of Amram, the grandson of Kohath, and the great-grandson of Levi. His mother Jochebed was Kohath's sister.
- *"Moses was 120 years old at his death. His eyes had not grown dim, and his strength had not departed."* Deuteronomy 34:7
- Since Moses was 120 years old when he died it seems he died about 1473 B.C.E.

### Scope and Purpose

- **From before the beginning – God blesses**
- **Chapters 1- 11 – God and the World**
  - The Good Creation – 1-2
  - The Garden of Choice - 3
  - The Grip of the Curse – 4-6
  - The Grief of the Flood - 6-9
  - The Gagging of the Culture – 10-11
- **Chapter 12:1-3 – The Blessing for ALL ages**
  - Land, Nation, Name, all Families
- *"Go from your country,  
And from your relatives  
And from your father's house,  
To the land which I will show you;  
<sup>2</sup>And I will make you into a great nation,  
And I will bless you,  
And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing;  
<sup>3</sup>And I will bless those who bless you,  
And the one who curses you I will curse.  
**And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."***

- **Chapters 12-50 – Abraham and his family**
  - Abraham – 12-25a
  - Isaac and Jacob – 25b-36
  - Jacob’s sons (Joseph) – 37-50

### **Three messages on this passage**

- 1. The Song**
- 2. The Heart**
- 3. The Truth**

### **Today’s message**

#### **The Song of Creation**

##### **Genesis 1:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

- An over-arching phrase to be detailed?
- Formless and void
- Darkness was over it all
- The Spirit Hovered

##### **Genesis 1:3-5 - Day One**

*<sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light “day,” and the darkness He called “night.” And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*

##### **Genesis 1:6-8 - Day Two**

*<sup>6</sup>Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ...And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.*

##### **Genesis 1:9-13 - Day Three**

*<sup>9</sup>Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. ....and God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, a third day-*

## **Genesis 1:14-19 – Day Four**

*<sup>14</sup> Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and they shall serve as signs and for seasons, and for days and years;..... and God saw that it was good*

*<sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.*

## **Genesis 1:20-25 - Day Five**

*<sup>20</sup> Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, ... and God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying*

*” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.*

## **Genesis 1:26-31 - Day Six**

*<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; ...<sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them...”*

*<sup>31</sup> And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.*

*And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

## **The Song of Creation**

- **Moses**
  - Exodus – Deut. – the story of Moses and the People
  - Deut. 32 – the Song of Moses
  
- **Deborah**
  - Judges 4 – the story of Deborah the Judge
  - Judges 5 – the song of Deborah about that same event
  
- **Mary**
  - Luke 1 – Mary has a visit and declaration by Gabriel the Angel
  - The she sings a song of the account
  
- **Jesus – The Songs of revelation**
  - Rev. 5 – who is worthy?

- Rev. 7 – Salvation comes from the Lamb
- Revelation 15:3-4 – heaven sings the song of Moses and the Lamb

### **Listen to the repetition within the text.**

- **and God said” and “ It was good” – 7 times**
- And God said.....
- And God blessed
- And God looked
- And saw that it was good
- The point - Let there be...And it was and it was blessed and it was good
- And the evening and the morning – the cycle is complete

Our Hymns – the chorus is repeated after each verse

- repetition it is the HOOK!
- Modern choruses – verse chorus verse chorus. The verse takes you down a road and the chorus is the hook! The exclamation. The point

Great discussion has been put forth on whether it is a poem, prose, prologue or a praise song.

- There are forms that look like poetry but are not completely poetry
- There are many forms of prose but it is more than that
- It is clearly a prologue of all that is to come but it is more than prologue
- It has similarities to the songs of Psalms but it is more than a song

### **“Overture”**.

One commentator suggested the word

I think there is something to this.

- And overture has many of the elements of the songs that lay ahead as only a taste of what is to come.
- It is a thread that all that follows hangs from
- It is an introduction to the body of work that is coming
  - John Williams’s film music
    - Composed the scores for jaws, star wars, raiders of the lost ark, superman, ET, Home Alone, Jurassic Park, Harry Potter and som many more
    - The melody, harmony rules, tonality, parameters, and the relations between them all

### **Other views on beginnings**

## Modern Mythology/ Theory

- Never out of nothing – cannot be a supreme cause
  - There can be no ex nihilo – out of nothing
- Naturalism and humanism – atheistic evolutionism
  - This is all there is
  - You live for matter and wealth- accumulation, then you die
  - It only wants to deal with the PHYSICAL aspects of existence
- This is why all focus is on ecological conservation and social justice at its best
- This is also why the focus is on accumulation and advancement at all costs at its worst.
- This is all there is!

## Ancient mythology

- Never created out of nothing
  - Gods out of ooze, fight others, blood rains races
  - There may be giants, turtles, mountains that rise up into a being
- They say this world is not real... escape this world
  - This world isn't important at all
  - We are to escape and separate from worldly troubles
  - Meditate to achieve a state of separation and no attachment
  - They only want to deal with the SPIRITUAL aspects of being
- This why they rarely deal with ecological conservation or social justice
  - Never wanted to deal with social justice..... this world doesn't matter
  - Mosaic avoidance of pleasure – spirituality...denial of self
  - India, Indonesia, many places on this earth that fall into this ancient mythological mindset call you to accept your station or your caste or your suffering.
- Salvation is escaping earth to heaven

## Biblical Narrative

- Begun by God
  - Out of nothing
  - It is both PHYSICAL and SPIRITUAL
- This world and all its inhabitants are important
  - We try to fix what is wrong
  - Social Justice is important to care for the physical and spiritual dynamics
    - Slavery must be changed
- God's design is important
  - This world is good and pleasant
  - Not against physical things; not afraid of pleasure

- Salvation is not escaping earth to heaven
  - Salvation is bringing heaven to earth
- Created body and soul and will restore both
  - We are not materialistic – we do not live for wealth, food sex... not bad... but it isn't the goal

### **Why did God create the world?**

#### **8 times “And God said...” and 7 times “It was good”**

- God never creates without speaking
- He speaks into existence
- Never creates without speaking
- God's word is an agent – it is a power unto itself

#### **Spirit of God is hovering over the waters**

- Hebrew only used for Mother birds over her young
- Spirit is very personal and not personal
- Void and formless is not is goal –
  - the Spirit hovers over to bring meaning and fullness

#### **“Let us make man in our image” 1:26 –**

- Who is he talking to?
- Isa 40:14 – who gave Him counsel?
  - The Father's word can create is because the father's word is a person – the Son
  - The trinity
  - Polytheists believe many gods battling
  - Monotheists – alone until creation of other

### **The Song of Creation is a Song of Community**

- The Father's Voice
- The Spirit Hovering
- The Word, the Wisdom, and Light is the Son
  - God is a community and has always been in relationship
    - A circle of love
    - Augustine – “unless you have a triune God – love is not the first and ultimate reality”
    - Let's expand the circle... the community beings that can be part of the community.

## Genesis 1 is a Song

### Psalm 19:1-6 – a song of David

<sup>1</sup>*The heavens tell of the glory of God;  
And their expanse declares the work of His hands.*

<sup>2</sup>*Day to day pours forth speech,  
And night to night reveals knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup>*There is no speech, nor are there words;  
Their voice is not heard.*

<sup>4</sup>*Their line has gone out into all the earth,  
And their words to the end of the world.*

*In them He has placed a tent for the sun,  
<sup>5</sup>Which is like a groom coming out of his chamber;  
It rejoices like a strong person to run his course.*

<sup>6</sup>*Its rising is from one end of the heavens,  
And its circuit to the other end of them;  
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

### Speech is always going out

- God created all things to declare His glory
- And they reveal that all is good
  - Calling it good was not a statement of inspection
    - Meat inspection – choice select prime? Is this passing inspection
  - He is enjoying the moment and the thing
    - That was good!

### Purpose of all creation is the song for community

#### Nature

- It sings to our souls - We listen to nature
  - Waves, brook waterfall, the wind through the trees, the fragrance of a flower feel and the electricity of a forest floor
  - I believe that the vegetation and trees were created on the third day – before the sun, moon, and stars because they are integral to God's stage that has been set before us.
    - Made for sustenance
    - Made for beauty
    - Made for protection
    - Made for health and wellbeing
    - Made with the golden mean and the fingerprint of God throughout it

- The forest floors have mitochondria networks to even sustain the fallen trees with life.

### The Luminaries

- The luminaries are set into place
  - As signs to whom – to us
  - As seasons – to what – to the earth

All of the Celestial Cosmos join in the choir in singing - Our Maker made us good

### All Creatures

- The birds, the fish, and animals of every kind and according to their kind were made before us to dwell with us on that stage of creation to join I the choir

All creatures great and small sing out – “Our Maker made us good!”

- CS Lewis – it calls us but we cannot go in.
  - Why? We want to go our own way
    - When we hear nature sing... we are internally blessed and disturbed...
    - George Whitfield – preacher
      - Animals growl, birds screech – why?
        - They know we have a quarrel with their master
      - The song sings ...our maker loves us, delights in us , enjoys us
  - We all need to know that our Maker sings of our goodness and our beauty... yet we cannot sing it..... We create a barrier

### Side note:

- The very song of Creation that calls to us to join in community and know that God’s desire is for our good and to bless is being robbed by the world and the enemy to move us away from true community.
  - **Form and without void** – The Naturalist and Atheist
  - **The Expanse** – Spiritualists who call to the universe to send its energy
  - **The Astrologers** – The stars and your horoscope will give you the answers
  - **The earth** – Crystals and minerals are your key
  - **Naturalists – Mother earth** / Wicca - the power in the earth, the plant, the trees
  - **The Spiritists** – The animal energy can be accessed with your spirit guide
  - **Angels** – Let us to suggest that the Angels had part in the creation and can give you and me power

**They all are steering you away from the true song** : Communion with God  
**Romans 1 says** - *For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

The Overture points to the theme of the entire story

In the Beginning

- The contrast of what was and what can be again

**In The Beginning:** Where else have we seen “In the beginning.”

### **John 1:1-5**

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.*

- He Who made matter... became matter
- On the cross the opposite happened from creation
  - He spoke and nothing happened
    - The father turned from home The Spirit left Him There was not community in that moment
  - The Maker was unmade ... so we could be remade
  - He was broken down ...that we might be repaired
  - That which is without form and void ... can have purpose and fulfillment
- How do you deal with the void in your world?
  - There is healing
  - There is order
  - There is rejoicing
  - There is goodness
- How do you handle walking in the darkness?
- How is it that you do not feel connected?
- How I do you deal with feeling worthless and never good enough?

**The Song of Creation calls out to you**

- **We were made good**
- **There is a path to recovery and restoration**

### **Romans 8:19-23**

*<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*

All Nature is a choir and the song it is singing is... Our maker made us good

### **Come be restored to Communion with God**

#### **Come be restored in Christ Jesus**

- Well done good and faithful....enter into my rest

Nature is pointing us to the Maker but is inviting us to sing...  
join the choir -