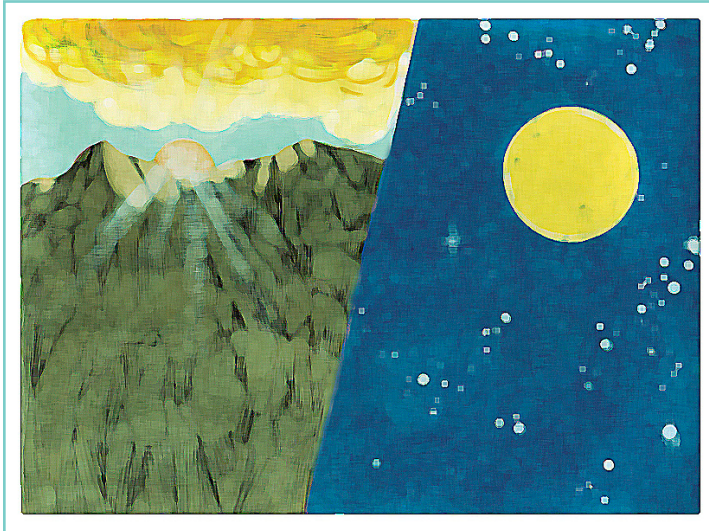


Lesson 1: Creation

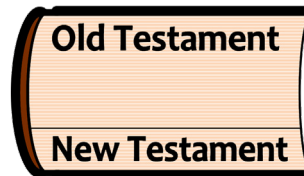


Introduction

In the first chapter of the Bible, we hear how God created the heavens and the earth by the power of his Word. As the crown of his creation, God made humankind in his own image. He gave humans a garden in which to live and work as his stewards.

Read: Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?



Where in the Bible?

Genesis is the first book in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament: Pentateuch

The first five books of the Bible are known as the **Pentateuch** (pronounced *PENT-ah-tewk*) — meaning “the five scrolls.” These books are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.



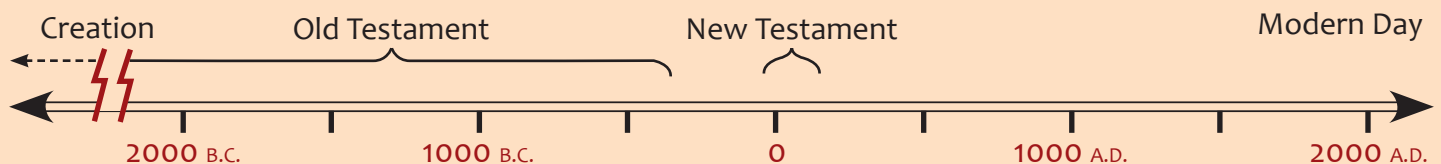
Biblical Time Period: Creation

The Bible begins with the story of creation. These chapters describe the very beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and made every living creature to be his own. The creation stories also speak of how sin entered the world in humanity's fall from grace in the Garden of Eden.

These archetypal stories illustrate God's relationship to the things he has made. We hear not only about God's work in the natural world, but also about God's relationship with us as human beings.

When in Time?

The Bible says: “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1). Many people argue about exactly *when* God created all things. However, the Bible does not give us an exact date. What we do know is that, in the beginning, God alone was there, long before history was ever written and before anything else existed. The world around us reflects the imprint of God's creative hand.



[God's] invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made (Romans 1:20).

Discuss: Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

1. What are the first four words of the Bible?
According to the Bible, everything that exists in our universe was *created* — except for whom?

2. The Bible says that before creation everything was “without form” and “void” (v. 1:2). What do these words mean?

3. What was the first thing God created? What did he *do* to bring his creation into being?

4. Can you list what God made on each day of creation?

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

What happened on the seventh day?

4. Read Romans 1:20. How do all the wonders of nature reveal that there is a God? What are things that could not exist by accident, but had to have been designed by a Designer?

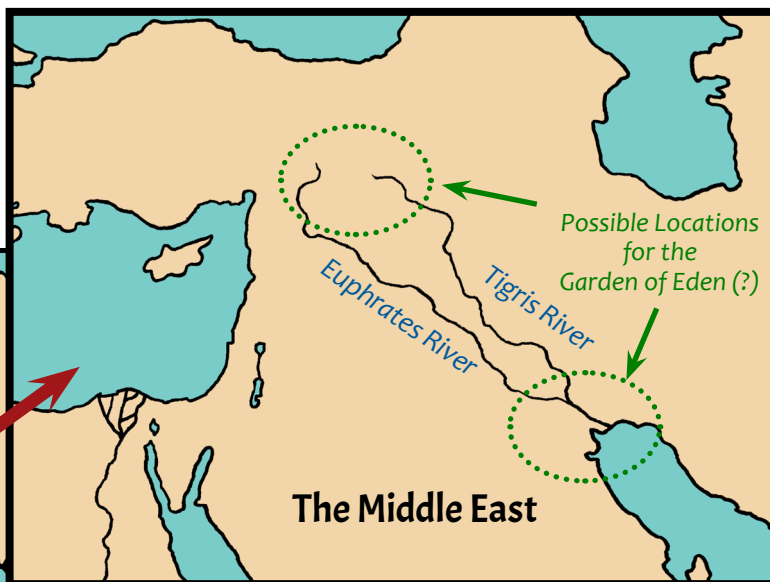
5. The words “And God saw that it was good” are repeated over and over in Genesis 1. In other words, “God doesn’t create junk!” What does this say about you? How is this true even in times of failure and loss?

6. Read Isaiah 45:5-8, 12. What is the main point that God repeats in these verses? As his created people, why is it important to remember that it was God who made us and that we belong to him?

7. In Isaiah 45:4-5, God says, “I name/equip you, though you do not know me” Does God exist *because* we believe in him? Or does God exist whether we believe in him or not? Explain.

Where in the World?

In the beginning, God created the whole world and everything in it. Most of the events described in the Bible take place within the area of the rectangle below, now referred to as the Middle East.



Scripture makes reference to four rivers around the Garden of Eden, only two of which exist today — the Tigris and Euphrates rivers — which flow near each other at their headwaters and where they empty into the Persian Gulf.