

The first week of History

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Foundational truths for understanding the world

Multiple layers of meanings

Reveals the character and plan of our invisible Creator

Creation itself reveals truths, but like TV with picture but no sound

The Bible is like TV with sound but no picture

Need to look at God's Creation and Word together

Best with the guidance of the Spirit of the God who created it all

The first week of History

Composed by a God of order and intent

Day	Event	Verses	Key words
1	Creates dark chaotic Cosmos, provides Light for life	1:1-5	water, one day, light, night, separated
2	Forms atmosphere, provides air and fresh water for life	1:6-8a	water, expanse, separated
3	Forms dry land, and plants (with seed) for food	1:8b-13	water, one place, day
4	Populates the Cosmos: Sun, planets, stars	1:14-18	lights, days, night, to govern, to separate
5	Populates the sea and sky	1:19-23	blessed, every living creature, day
6	Populates the land with animals and humans	1:24-31a	blessed, every living creature
7	Completes His work, providing care and rest	1:31b-2:3	blessed, all His work, all their hosts, day

Multiple layers of meaning

Day	Literal History	God's Character	Growing Believers	Salvation History
1	Creates dark Cosmos, provides Light for life	Power	Transfer from darkness to Kingdom of Light	World formed, day of Adam and Enoch
2	Forms atmosphere: air and fresh water for life	Patience	Growing in freedom	World reformed by water, divided at Babel
3	Forms dry land, plants (with seed) for food	Provision	Finding stability, being equipped	Israel formed, promise of land and seed
4	Populates the Cosmos: Sun, planets, stars	Purpose	Realising role	Israel divided and reformed; Messiah
5	Populates the sea and sky	Passion	Growing in passion	Church formed, fishers versus Imperial eagle
6	Populates the land with animals and humans	Portraying	Growing in portraying God to His world	Church divided and reformed; Beast
7	Completes His work, providing care and rest	Perfecting	Glory: God completes what He begins	Millennial reign of Jesus Christ on Earth

The first day: space and time

Genesis 1:1-5

God existed before anything was made

God is all-powerful and relational: perfect love known by the eternal family (the Father, Holy Spirit and Son)

God creates the cosmos, and then begins to prepare it

God creates a world that is initially dark and unstable:

an ocean world with no light, no land

But God is active in the fearful darkness, His Spirit present

Then God sent His Light into the world and provided order, progress of time, and hope as things follow a purposeful plan

1st Creation station might involve an introductory agenda, plan

The second day: air and water

Genesis 1:6-8a

God powerfully created on the first day

But He chose not to create everything at once

Instead, God works step by step, laying a foundation first

God had provided His Light as the means to begin life

But life also needs fresh air and space to grow

So God created the atmosphere, with clouds above, water below
forming cycles for forming fresh water, moving nutrients

2nd Creation station might involve looking at river, clouds, cycle

The third day: land and seed

Genesis 1:8b-13

The world was still unstable, with no dry land

So God caused land to rise out of the water

And on this land God formed all manner of plants with seeds

This plant life was the start of life on Earth

This plant life forms the bottom of the food chain for all other life

God provided the means for stable and fruitful life

God provides, and that provision contains promise

3rd Creation station might involve wetland plants, seeds, fruit

The fourth day: stars and planets

Genesis 1:14-18

We now come to the centre of the week: the first days are over, the last days are about to begin

God had now completed forming various domains: the cosmos (space and time), the sea and sky, and dry land

Now God began the work of populating these domains, making the host of each one

God began by filling the heavens with lights (celestial bodies), each with a set purpose such as signs of the progress of time

These lights are not gods, but rather servants of the Creator

4th Creation station might involve focus on Sun, seasons

The fifth day: fish and birds

Genesis 1:19-23

Now the last days (latter days, end times) begin, and these days are all marked by blessings upon blessings

Having populated the cosmos with the stars and planets,
God next began to populate the sea and the sky
God blessed all this life, desiring that it be fruitful and multiply

In this day of Creation we read not of purpose but of passion, with words like living, great, fly, fruitful, multiply, abundant, teem, fill
God creates with great variety and abundance

5th Creation station might be at a water hole, focus on fish or birds

The sixth day: animals and humans

Genesis 1:24-31a

God next populated the land with animals and humans

All manner of animals were formed, and on this day God also formed Humanity from the soil and blessed Humanity

Humanity was formed in the image of God: simultaneously singular (all part of Adam) and plural (with different roles),

with capacity for creativity and moral choice – able to greatly transform the world for good or for bad. With great power comes

great responsibility. God's desire is for people to know God and care as God cares, loving each other as one's self, being humble

wise, merciful, just – nurturing soil from which made, valuing plants
6th Creation station might involve a community garden or farmlet

The seventh day: care and rest

Genesis 1:31b-2:3

The formation of humanity was not the climax of Creation

The climax is the seventh day, where God rests from the work and appreciates all that has been created and made

This day is not for the withholding of care, but for realising that God cares for everyone and everything and has their well-being heart

The seventh day tells us that God will complete what was begun

The seventh day challenges us to be appreciative and caring just like God

A Creation station might be a concluding, caring, healthy picnic