

• LESSON 2 (January 11) •

The Beginning of Creation

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Gen 1:1-2)

We called Lesson 1 “The Beginning of God’s Revelation to Mankind.” Note that we did *not* call Lesson 1 “The Beginning of God.”

- ❖ Why?

- ❖ Take a moment to read Psalm 90:2. How do these words attributed to Moses enhance our understanding of what we are reading in Genesis 1?

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. (Gen 1:3)

Remember what we noted in our last lesson from John 1:1:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Reflect also on the introduction of The Letter to the Hebrews:

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. (Heb 1:1-3)

- ❖ What then should we make of this phrase that is repeated throughout Genesis 1: “God said”?

In accordance with God’s words, what happened on each day of Genesis 1?

- ❖ Day 1:

- ❖ Day 2:

- ❖ Day 3:

❖ Day 4:

❖ Day 5:

❖ Day 6:

❖ Day 7:

We are told multiple times that “God saw” the result of what he was doing and “it was good.”

- ❖ Is there anything we can learn from this repeated phrase?
- ❖ What can we learn about God from his creative work in Genesis 1?

Take the time to meditate on what we are being told in Genesis 1:26-31.

- ❖ What was unique about God’s creation of man?
- ❖ What directions did God give man? What do these directions mean?

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Gen 2:1-3)

- ❖ Take a moment to read God’s command to Israel in Exodus 20:8-11. How does this command relate to what we are being told in Genesis 2?
- ❖ Finally, reference is made to Genesis 2, the Sabbath, and other Old Testament Scriptures in Hebrews 4:1-10. What do we, as Christians, need to grasp? What is the ultimate significance for us, even today?