

- C) In the midst of the garden of Eden, God plants two very important trees. The first is the tree of life, the second is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:9).

- D) The man is told he can eat of any tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:16-17). God warns that eating from the restricted tree will result in death.

- E) The man (Adam, 2:20) names all the animals, but cannot find a suitable "helpmate" for himself. Seeing this, God provides for Adam's needs. He puts Adam to sleep, and creates a woman from the flesh of the man (2:21-22).

- F) From the very beginning, the man and woman were made for one another, designed and created for their suitability for one another (2:20-25).

- G) The relationship between a man and woman is the foundation for marriage, planned from the beginning (2:24). This relationship is expressed in the shameless "one flesh" of sexual union in marriage (2:24-25), ordained by God and a reminder of the created order and interdependence which man and woman share.

The Six Days Of Creation

Days 1-3 ←	→ Days 4-6
<i>"Forming/Preparation"</i> Genesis 1:3-13	<i>"Filling/Completion"</i> Genesis 1:14-31
Day One ← Light (1:3-5)	→ Day Four Luminaries (1:14-19)
Day Two ← Firmament/Heavens (1:6-8)	→ Day Five Fish/Birds (1:20-23)
Day Three ← Land/Vegetation (1:9-13)	→ Day Six Animals/Mankind (1:24-31)

Where Did We Come From?

Long Beach Alliance Church • March 12th, 2008 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN
IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE
CREATED HIM; MALE AND FEMALE
HE CREATED THEM.
~GENESIS 1:27 (NASB)**

1) And Then God Spoke...

- A) Genesis 1:1 serves as a capstone verse for the entire creation account. It is the macroscopic (WIDE) view of the entire story. There are two additional telescopic (MAGNIFIED) views still to come.

- B) The first magnified view of creation is presented in Genesis 1:2-2:3. This section presents creation as occurring in six days, with a seventh day for rest.

- C) There is a "progressive reversal" of the state of the earth reported in Genesis 1:2, "formless and void" (תהו ובוהו - tohu wabohu). The state of "unformed and unfilled" is "formed and filled" through the six creative days*.

* There is a general stylized pattern to each day of the creation story. Generally, there is an announcement (and God said...), then a divine command (let there be...), then a report (there was/God made/and it was so...), then a divine evaluation (God saw that it was good, note day 2 (no mention of goodness) and day 6 (it was very good) as notable diversions), then a time reference (there was evening and morning, day X). The pattern lends itself to an extremely orderly and peaceful creative process, in stark contrast to other Ancient Near East (ANE) literature. The overwhelming feeling of Genesis 1-2 is that of an awe inspiring and powerful God who is THE creator (this material collected from various sources, esp. Dr. Fred Mabie's 'Genesis' lecture notes).

2) Days 1-3, The Formative Days Of Creation

- A) On day one, God creates light and separates it from darkness (Genesis 1:3-4). Note that God creates light before He creates a "container" for the light (cf. Revelation 21:23)!

- B) There is an ordering of the universe which is particularly in view on the first three days (moving from unformed to formed). Part of that ordering is the regulation of days as normal "evening and morning" (Hebrew day, cf. Exodus 20:11, 31:17 for Jewish understanding).

- C) On day two, God creates the "firmament" or "heavens" (Genesis 1:6-8). There is an ordering of the waters into the space above the firmament and below the firmament, thus creating the earliest atmosphere on earth.

- D) On day three, God creates the land and oceans, as well as plant life (1:9-13). Most importantly, this is an ordering of the creation for producing food.

3) Days 4-6, The Filling Days Of Creation

- A) On day four, God creates the stars, sun and moon (1:14-19). These are to delineate the day, night, seasons and calendar. These are the "completion" of what was previously "prepared" from day one.

- B) On day five, the occupants of the sea (note the "sea

monsters") and the birds of the air are to "swarm with swarms" of living creatures (1:20-23). This is the "filling" of day two.

- C) On day six, God creates all the creatures which occupy dry land (1:24-31), the filling of day three. Most notably, mankind is created in the image of God (male and female).

- D) Note that every animal and mankind were originally vegetarians in the creation (1:29-30). All of the creation is surveyed by God and labeled "very good" (1:31).

- E) Finally, God rests on the seventh day (2:2 -- **יָשָׁבַת** - yishbot, to cease or rest, related to shabbath, for Sabbath rest). God did this as an additional point of "ordering" for both days, weeks, years, etc. in Jewish life (2:1-3).

4) A Garden, Two Trees, And A Couple Of Naked People

- A) In a final magnified view of creation, some of the particulars of day six are explored which are critical to the creation story for mankind (2:7-25).

- B) Mankind's creation is explored further as being from the "dust from the ground" and animated by God's "breath of life" (2:7). Mankind is given a home in a garden within an area known as Eden (2:8).