

Chapter 3

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

The Story so Far

The Bible is God's book. God is the author of the Bible, but He used human beings to write it. Every word in the Bible comes from God. The Bible has one story – Jesus and His Kingdom. God's Kingdom = God's people, living in God's place, under God's rule and blessing. In the beginning God created the universe and everything in it. God is the Creator and ruling King of this world.

Objectives

- To explain the pattern of creation and rule in Genesis 1
- To show that human beings are God's chief rulers
- To understand that rest and blessing are God's purposes for creation

Connections

- God is imprinting His image of rule on the world through human beings
- Plotline of the Bible story: Blessing and rest – judgement and work – blessing and rest

Summary

**God forms His world and then fills it.
God makes rulers under His rule.
When He completes His creation God sees that it is very good.**

Creation, Rule and Rest

Genesis 1:1-2:4 is a summary of the creation of the world. The purpose is not just to explain *how* God creates, but also *why* God creates everything.

The pattern of creation (Genesis 1:3-27)



The first six days

Day 1 – 3 God the Creator forms His world

Day 4 – 6 God the Creator fills His world

In days 1-3 God *forms* His world (Genesis 1:3-13)

Day 1

God creates light and separates it from darkness.

God creates the sky by separating the waters.

Day 3

God creates the land and separates it from the sea.

Then God creates self-producing vegetation on the land. God creates creators! Every living thing that God creates on the earth is made so that it can reproduce itself.

In days 4-6 God *fills* His world (Genesis 1:14-27)

Day 4

God fills the sky with the sun, moon and stars.

“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens. Who created all of these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and strength not one of them is missing” (Isaiah 40:25-26).

Day 5

God fills the air with birds and the sea with fish.

Day 6

God fills the land with animals.

The pinnacle of creation (Genesis 1:26-27)

The word “pinnacle” means “highest point” and usually refers to the peak of a mountain. Genesis chapter one highlights that human beings were made last in the six days of creation. They are the high point of all that God makes. In the Hebrew language in which the Old Testament was written there is no word for “very”. The Hebrew language makes its point, or emphasises something, by repeating it three times. Note the word “created” is repeated three times when God speaks of making human beings. This part of the Bible wants us to see that human beings are the pinnacle of all that God makes.

The pattern of rule (Genesis 1:14-19, 26-28)

There is a pattern of rule throughout Genesis 1.

God rules

God is the King of His creation. He speaks and it is so. He separates, He names things, He gathers, He commands action, He sets in place, and He blesses. God is the ruling King of all that He makes.

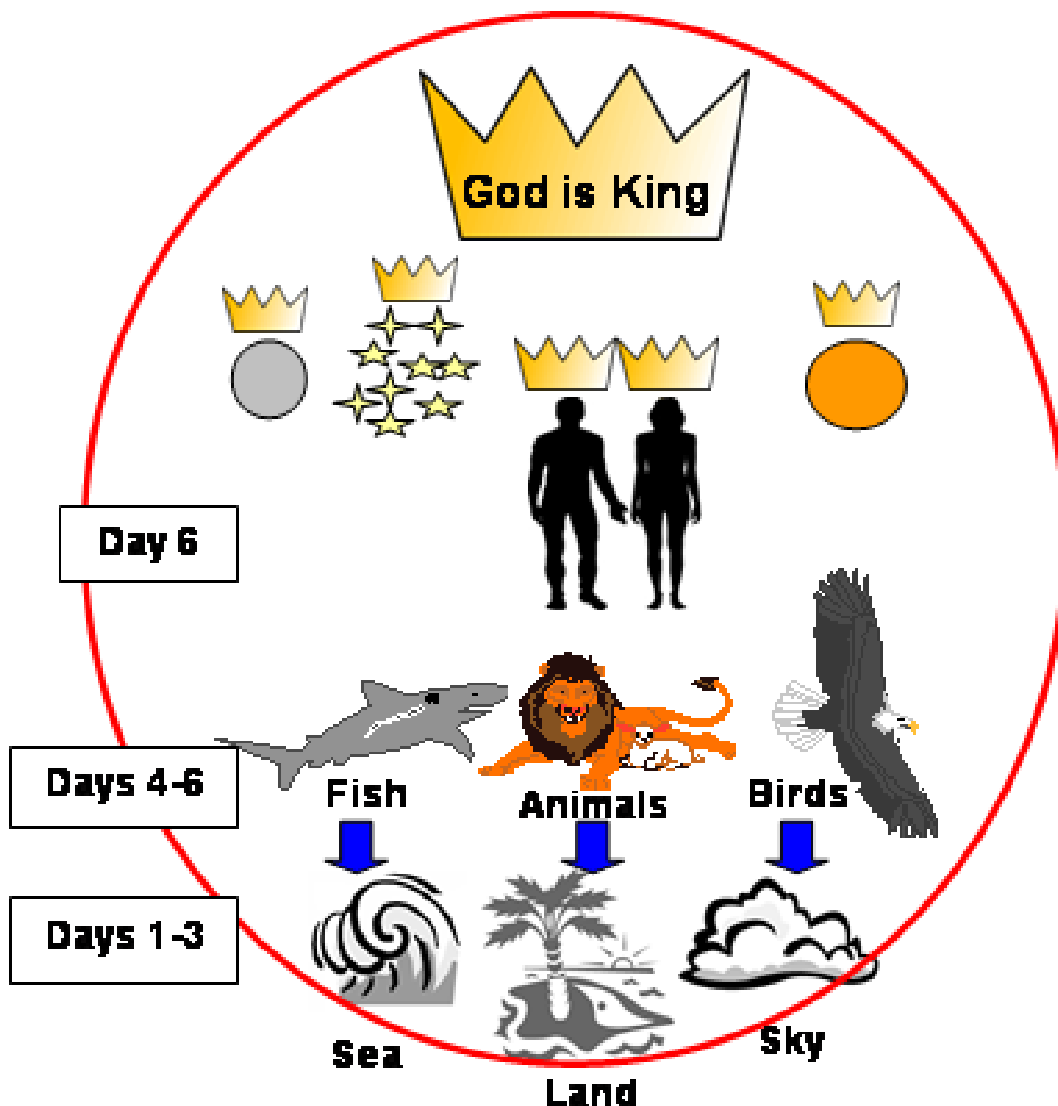
Sun, moon and stars rule

The sun is called the “*greater light*” and rules the day. The moon is called the “*lesser light*” and, along with the stars, rules the night. God makes rulers in His creation.

Human beings rule

God creates human beings to rule over all that He has made – the fish, the birds, and the animals. We see further evidence of man ruling in Genesis 2:20 where he names the animals; which is exactly what God did in chapter one when He created light, sky and land.

God makes human beings to be His rulers on earth.



The result of creation

(Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)

Six times God sees what He has created from nothing and says it is good. In the beginning God's creation is good, useful, pleasing. For a perfect God to say something is good means that there is nothing wrong with the world. Today we know that the world in which we live is not perfect. It is not good like it was in the beginning. So what has gone wrong? We'll find out as we keep reading the Bible.

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God makes rulers under His rule.
When He completes His creation God sees that it is very
good.**

The purpose of creation (Genesis 1:25, 28; 2:1-4)

Why did God create? What was His purpose behind this world? The answer is blessing and rest. God creates so He can bless, and He creates so He can rest. Like an artist that finishes his work and then rests to reflect and enjoy what he has made, so God finishes His work of creation and rests to enjoy what He has made. God creates in order to bless and rest. We see this because God blesses the seventh day. He did not bless any of the other days. He also sets it apart from the other six days. God did not start work again on day eight. Day seven was what creation was made for – blessing and rest, and this was to continue forever.

The Bible begins with blessing and rest, and ends with blessing and rest. But in between there is judgement and work. We are going to see that this blessing and rest is ruined by the disobedience of human beings, but will be restored by another man who lives in obedience to God's rule.



Think it through & discuss

1. What is the pattern of creation?
2. Name the rulers that God makes in His creation.
3. Read Psalm 8. Why are human beings significant in God's creation?
4. What is the purpose of creation?