



Origins: Studies in Genesis - Introduction

Date: Sunday 6th January 2019

Speakers: Andrew & Rosie McNeil

Key Verses: Genesis 1 – 2, John 1:1 – 4, Colossians 1:16

Talk Summary

- The purpose the opening chapters of Genesis was not to provide a comprehensive scientific description of the origins of the universe. Rather it was intended to shape our worldview and it helps us see our place in God's world.
- In Genesis, the world is woven together at the hands of a kind creator God. The world doesn't begin brutal, it begins good. God made mankind in his image for relationship rather than slavery.
- This is God's story, and we get a glimpse into God's nature. He's powerful and present. We see in this chapter the God the Father, the Son (described as the Word of God) and we see the Spirit of God hovering over the waters.
- Creation reveals God's goodness and it reflects His order and His intelligence. We hear repeatedly the declaration that "it was good".
- What we see is that mankind is the only type of living creature made in the image of God, in His likeness, with His breath in them. He created mankind - male and female - and He blessed them to be a blessing, with a mission to exercise His rule over creation.
- What we see is that God makes male and female. Equal but different. We don't resolve our need for community

just by being with people like us.

- This is an important principle of community.
- Adam and Eve. They are different but complimentary and because of Adam and Eve coming together the result is “human life”. This relationship is an expression of God's creativity and it is the relationship He blesses. With the blessing came the call to be fruitful and multiply and rule over the earth.
- Mankind’s “dominion” over the earth is designed to parallel God's rule over mankind. So God tasks His people to be like Him in order to bring His order to the planet. We are to represent God's own concern for creation and for His kids, extending God’s “shalom”.

Questions for application (choose 2-3)

- Every person has intrinsic value as made in the image of God. How should that impact how we relate to others, colleagues, neighbours and those in need?
- “Our identity, as those who bear God's image, includes the assignment to ensure the world is directed toward a God-honouring and beneficial goal”. What practical steps can we do to make the happen?
- If you are in any position of authority, it’s not to be self-serving but to create an environment where others can thrive as God has made them to. What qualities should characterise our leadership as Christ followers?
- How have you experienced the work of the Holy Spirit bringing God’s order to something that was previously “disordered”. (thoughts, attitudes, habits responses or feelings?)
- What steps do you currently take to steward the gift of God’s creation? What would be a next step?
- "It's not good to be alone". When do we feel most alone and what situations cause us to back off from others (work life pressure, failure, when we are offended or upset?).
- What else does this passage reveal about the nature of God?

Further resources for reflection and study.

Christian articles or videos available free online:

[Creation, evolution, Christian lay people](#). Tim Keller

[Interpreting the creation narratives](#) Tim Mackie

[bethinking.org](#) - [The creation evolution debate](#)

[Video lecture](#) 7 days that divide the world - John C Lennox

Books:

7 days that divide the world - John C Lennox

David Berlinski: The devil’s delusion. Atheism and its scientific pretensions (written in response to the God delusion).

A Jewish article / perspective on Genesis:

The former Chief Rabbis of the orthodox Jewish community. [Rabbi Sacks](#): Where did we come from?