

## 1.2.1 Genesis 1-11

### The Old Testament

- Law books (Genesis – Deuteronomy)
- History books (Joshua – Esther)
- Poetry & Wisdom books (Job – Song of Songs)
- Prophecy books (Isaiah – Malachi)

### The Law books (Pentateuch or Torah)

- Origins
- Basis of Jewish Law
- Foundational to the big story of the whole Bible

### Genesis

- Creation – Sin – Promise – birth of Israel – pilgrimage in Canaan – refuge in Egypt
- Adam – Noah – Abraham – Isaac – Jacob – Joseph
- 'This is the account of...', 'These are the generations of...' (2:4, 5:2, 6:9; 10:1; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 37:2)
- Covers lot of ground in the big story

### Creation

'Brand God' – Creation is all about God

'You're a moron!' or 'You're not a real Christian!'

### *Creation from nothing*

Genesis 1:1 'The heavens and the earth' – i.e. everything!

An uncreated God

Absolute authority as creator and sustainer of the universe

God has called the universe into being out of nothing, and hence at every moment it 'hangs' suspended, as it were, over the abyss of non-existence. If God were to withdraw his upholding Word, then all being, spiritual and material, would instantly tumble back into nothing and cease to exist.<sup>1</sup>

Ownership and moral authority: 'It's my life?'

### *Created in God's image*

'And God saw that it was good', 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31.

The high point of creation: 1:26-27.

Rule, responsibility and babysitting

Our relationships have their origin in God. Our relationship with God, the world and each other is based on God's Word. Our relationship with God himself is one of worship; glorifying him.

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<sup>1</sup> Bruce Milne, *Know the Truth*, (Leicester: IVP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edn. 1998), 92

1:28, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it'

Purpose: image-bearers as men and women.

### **Creation by God's Word**

'And God said...'

The voice that formed the earth and gave life, is the voice that commands obedience. The covenant of creation. People, place, rule and blessing.

### **Sin**

The Word in the garden, 2:16-17. Trees – food, work, delight... relationship based on God's Word

The LORD in the garden, 2:4 – God's covenant name, YHWH.

The outrageous claim of the other voice, 3:1-6.

The world is turned upside down! God → People → Animals becomes Animals → People → God

Blame culture. Relationships broken down. We just accept this as part of life.

Hiding from God. Sin a barrier between people and God.

Sin. We delude ourselves with a false belief that flatters us. We are actually undoing our existence by rejecting God's Word.

Blessing turned to curse, 3:14-19. Multiplication turns to pain, dominion to conflict, and the battle of the sexes begins. Banished from the garden and the Tree of Life.

Original sin and the Mafia

The promise of a serpent crusher, 3:15. What should have happened and why it didn't.

### **Cain and Abel**

Worship issue – about relationship with God.

4:7, 'Sin is crouching at your door, it desires to have you...' The first murder.

Downward spiral, deeper into rebellion, and further away from God, 6:5-7.

### **Noah**

The flood - terrible judgment and toddler toys!

But Noah found favour, 6:8. God's grace. Noah's faith in God's Word.

God's Word to Noah, a covenant, 9:8-16

### **Babel**

Organised and civil rebellion, 11:4

A name for ourselves, and quietly leave God out. Play down our sin and big up our achievements.

Scattering is a curse – they get that right, 11:8. People, place, rule and blessing?