

Genesis 1:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Analysis

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the mor... This verse is part of the creation account that establishes God's sovereign power and purposeful design. The structured pattern of the seven days reveals divine order, intentionality, and progressive development from formless void to a world prepared for human habitation.

The recurring phrases "And God said," "and it was so," "And God saw that it was good" create a liturgical rhythm emphasizing:

1. creation by divine decree
2. immediate fulfillment of God's word,
3. divine evaluation of creation's goodness.

This pattern refutes both polytheistic chaos-and-conflict creation myths and modern materialistic chance-based origins.

Each stage builds toward the climax of human creation in God's image. The theological themes include divine transcendence and immanence, purposeful design, creation's inherent goodness, and humanity's unique role as God's image-bearers and stewards. The creation account provides the foundation for understanding work and rest (Sabbath), male and female relationships (marriage), human dominion (stewardship), and moral accountability to the Creator. These

opening chapters establish the worldview framework for all subsequent biblical revelation.

Historical Context

Genesis 1 stands in stark contrast to ancient Near Eastern creation accounts like the Babylonian Enuma Elish, Egyptian creation myths, and Ugaritic texts. While these portrayed creation resulting from conflicts between deities or sexual generation of gods, Genesis presents a sovereign monotheistic God who creates effortlessly by divine decree. This would have been revolutionary to ancient readers accustomed to polytheistic cosmogonies.

The Hebrew text's literary structure (seven days, recurring formulas) suggests careful composition as theological proclamation rather than primitive mythology. Archaeological discoveries of creation tablets from Mesopotamia (2000-1500 BCE) reveal that Genesis addresses similar questions but provides radically different answers about the nature of God, humanity, and the cosmos. The absence of theogony (origin of gods) and theomachy (conflict between gods) distinguishes Genesis from its ancient Near Eastern context.

For Israelites emerging from Egyptian bondage or later facing Babylonian captivity, this truth that Yahweh created everything would have been profoundly liberating and countercultural. The gods of Egypt and Babylon were mere creations, not creators. Genesis 1 establishes that Israel's God alone is supreme, rendering pagan deities powerless and their worship futile.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?
2. How can we apply the principles from this passage to contemporary challenges in family, work, or church?
3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּרָא	אֱלֹהִים	אֶת	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה	יְהוָה	טוֹב
saw	And God	H853	H3605	every thing that	he had made	H2009	good
H7200	H430			H834	H6213		H2896
וְהִנֵּה	מְאֹד	יְהוָה	עַרְבַּ	יְהוָה	בַּקֶּר	יּוֹם	
and behold it was very	H3966	H1961	And the evening	H1961	and the morning	day	
			H6153		H1242	H3117	
הַשִּׁשִּׁי:							
were the sixth							
H8345							

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 4:4 (Good): For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

Psalms 104:24 (Creation): O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

Psalms 104:31 (Parallel theme): The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works.

Exodus 20:11 (Creation): For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Lamentations 3:38 (Good): Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?

Job 38:7 (References God): When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Genesis 1:23 (Parallel theme): And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Genesis 2:2 (Creation): And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Genesis 1:5 (References God): And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Genesis 1:8 (References God): And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.