



FUEL: Genesis 1:1-25

"Let's start at the very beginning. A very good place to start. When you read you begin with A-B-C. When you sing you begin with do-re-mi" sang Julie Andrews in the Sound of Music. The same is true when it comes to reading with the Bible.

In first chapters of Genesis we are taught about the creation of the universe. But it is important to remember that Genesis wasn't written to be an answer book, a story book or a science textbook. That's not to say it doesn't give us answers to some of our questions, or contains stories, or has some important things to teach scientists.

Moses wrote these words to teach people truths about God, mankind, and God's purpose for mankind so that they would know how to live as God's people under His rule and enjoy the blessing He gives.

The important question to ask as you look at Genesis 1 is not 'how?' but 'who?'

READ GENESIS 1:1-2:3

GETTING THE FACTS

What does God teach us about Himself and the world in the opening verse?

In verse 2 the earth is formless and empty. **Complete the table to see how God solves this problem:**

The earth was...	
...formless	...empty
Day 1:	Day 4:
Day 2:	Day 5:
Day 3:	Day 6:
Day 7: The heavens and earth were completed and God rested	

Colour in the following phrases and note how many times each phrase occurs:

'And God said' _____ 'And God saw that it was good' _____
 'Let there be' 'let the' 'let us' _____ 'First day' 'second day' etc _____
 'And it was so' 'there was light' _____ 'According to its kind' _____

There is a clear pattern to this account of the creation of the world. **What do you think Moses is trying to teach us by writing it this way? How does it describe God's act of creation?**

What does Genesis 1 teach us about God's word?

In what ways do you think God saw His creation as being good? (verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)

In the Ancient World there were loads of different gods. There was the sun god, moon god, sea monsters and so on. The original readers of Genesis, the Israelites would have come across these gods during their time as slaves in Egypt and during the wilderness years. **What does Genesis 1 says to those Israelites who might have been tempted to follow after these other gods?**

In 2 Corinthians Paul uses creation as an illustration of what happens when a person becomes a Christian. **How is a person becoming a Christian like what happened when the world was created?** (compare 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 with Genesis 1:2ff)

GETTING PERSONAL

Inside St Paul's Cathedral is the tomb of its designer, Sir Christopher Wren. On the outside of the tomb are these words in Latin: "Reader, if you seek his monument, look around". The cathedral proclaims the greatness of its architect. **As we look around at the world God has created, what should our response be?** (see Revelation 4:11)

The New Testament tells us that Jesus is God. He was there at the creation of the world. In fact, the Bible says that the world was made through Him and for Him [John 1:1-5; Colossians 1:15-17]. It is not simply enough to acknowledge God is the creator. We also need to acknowledge that this world belongs to Jesus.

Why do dogs not give birth to cats? Why do fish live in the sea? Why in December is it winter in England but summer in Australia? Why is it light during the day and dark during the night? **How does Genesis 1 help us to answer these questions? What does that mean for us?**

How would you use Genesis 1 to answer these commonly held views?

a) Life is a random chain of events _____

b) We are part of an evolutionary process _____

c) The world began with a big bang _____

d) There is more than one god _____

e) The stars govern a person's destiny _____

Genesis 1v1-2v3

^{1:1}IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and [there] was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day", and the darkness he called "night". And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the expanse "sky". And there was evening, and there was morning – the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry ground "land", and the gathered waters he called "seas". And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that make fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees making fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning – the third day.

^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. ²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. ⁴THIS IS THE ACCOUNT OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH WHEN THEY WERE CREATED.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made two great lights – the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening, and there was morning – the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." ²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³And there was evening, and there was morning – the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶And God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." ²⁹And God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – I give every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.