

## **The Story of The Bible Genesis 1-6a**

Questions:

1. Have you ever read the Bible just for the narrative? Why or why not?
2. Listening to the narrative we have gotten through so far has it helped in your understanding of the Bible at all yet?
3. What do you think about when considering Yahweh's incomparability?
4. What do you think about the Biblical writers describing Yahweh as conquering Chaos in creation?
5. Are there any connections to Jesus' death on the cross that you can see being foretold in the narrative we have gone through so far?

### **God has always been and will always be**

Before there was anything, there was God. He is infinite. He is uncreated. He has no beginning, and He has no end. It is impossible for us to fully understand God. He is not subject to time because He created time itself. All we must know is there is none like Him, none who compares to Him, and none who even come close.

### **Creation**

It was God who created the heavens and the earth. Through His Word alone, everything that was made came into existence in just six days. He would create something new each day; over these six days, He would create everything. He would create the planets, the stars, the sun, and the moon. The seas, land, and vegetation. The heavenly host, the animals of the earth, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea. He would create day, night, and the seasons; His Word set time itself into motion.

### **God's Earthly Family**

God didn't create us for no reason. He wanted a family to do life with. To love and be loved. He wanted a family working with Him and representing Him on the earth. He created us as His imagers and shared many of His attributes. He made man and woman to rule and reign with Him on the earth, His human representation. He didn't need to do this; He doesn't need us, but He wanted to because He wants us.

Genesis 1:26–28 ESV

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

### **God's Heavenly Family**

God has not only an earthly family but a heavenly family. We usually call them angels, but in Hebrew, they are most often called the "sons of God" and the "Host of Heaven." These sons of God, God's heavenly family, watched, cheered, and sang to the Creator. God one day asked a man named Job:

Job 38:4–7 ESV

<sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup> On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

## **God Has Power Over Chaos**

After six days, God looked at everything He had created and called it very good. The next day, God did no work but rested from His Creation. Everything was at peace. If you look around at the world we live in now, it seems like Chaos is around every corner, but this is not how God created the world. In fact, God brought Creation forth to show us He was in control of Chaos.

Before God was finished with Creation:

Genesis 1:2 ESV

<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

These words “without form, void, darkness, and deep” are Hebrew terms denoting Chaos. Yet we see the Spirit of God hovering over these chaotic waters. He is unaffected and without worry.

On day 5, we are told that God created the “gedolim taninim” in Hebrew. Literally translated as “great sea monsters.”

Genesis 1:21 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> So God created the great (gedolim) sea creatures (taninim) and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

The Psalmist Asaph gives us some more information:

Psalm 74:12–17 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. <sup>13</sup> You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters (taninim) on the waters. <sup>14</sup> You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness. <sup>15</sup> You split open springs and brooks; you dried up ever-flowing streams. <sup>16</sup> Yours is the day, yours also the night; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun. <sup>17</sup> You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter.

In those six days, God will take what is Chaotic and make it good. He will separate the light from the darkness and call the light good. He will separate the heavens above from the water below. He will bring up ground from the seas, habitable land for those He is about to create. He will create vegetation of every kind. He will make time and seasons that run the world He started. He will make the birds in the sky and swarms of living creatures in the water.

The Chaos we find in the world around us is not His doing. It is ours, but before this story is over, God will defeat Chaos once and for all.

## The Garden

God planted a garden in a place called Eden; it was paradise. Good food, fresh water, gold, precious stones, everything man could need, and most importantly, God was there. This is where heaven literally invaded Earth. God dwelled with His Creation, and they dwelled with Him.

## God's Name Is Yahweh

Here, we are told God's name for the first time. "God" (Hebrew - Elohim) is not a name. It is what He is; he is by nature Spirit. His name is Yahweh.

Some Bibles will spell this out, but most Bibles will use "LORD" in "small caps." Whenever you see this in your Bible in Hebrew, it is Yahweh. Genesis 2:4.

Yahweh means "HE IS who HE IS." It is a statement that there is none like Him. None who can compare, none who can even come close. The most significant thing on earth is smaller than the smallest thing in heaven. And the most significant thing in heaven is smaller than the smallest portion of Yahweh.

God formed man, Hebrew - adam, in the Garden from the dirt. God knew that man should not be alone, so He put the man to sleep and formed a woman, Hebrew - ishah, out of his side.

Genesis 2:18 LEB

<sup>18</sup> Then Yahweh God said, "*it is not good that the man is alone. I will make for him a helper as his counterpart.*"

The idea is that these two would become like one, two pieces of a complete puzzle.

The two lived with God in the Garden without sin. Their only rule was they could not eat of a single tree, a tree in the middle of the Garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

## The First Rebellion

We are not told how long life was this way; we are only introduced to a serpent. This serpent speaks to the woman.

Genesis 3:1 ESV

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Now, as everyone knows, serpents don't talk. Something is going on here. Also interesting is the woman doesn't find this weird. It appears normal for the man and the woman to interact with spiritual beings in this Garden. This serpent seduces the man and woman into breaking God's one command saying:

Genesis 3:5 ESV

<sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The serpents seduction was to be like God, to attain something they did not have. It was not enough for them to be God's imagers; they wanted more. The woman ate from the tree and gave some to her husband. Immediately, their eyes were open, but it was not what they thought would happen. Sin had entered the world, with it, pain, hardship, corruption, sickness, and death. The man and woman attempted to clothe their naked bodies after experiencing shame for the first time. Shame they had brought into the world until they heard a sound. Yahweh was walking in the Garden, looking for them. Scared, they hid themselves from the Presence of Yahweh, but He called out to them, "Where are you?"

The man replied:

Genesis 3:10 ESV

<sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

God listens to the man blame the woman and God himself for his troubles:

Genesis 3:12 ESV

<sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”

The woman passes off the blame to the serpent. Upon hearing their story (of course, He already knew what happened), Yahweh curses this spirit to the earth, “on your belly, you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.”

He then gives us the first hint at the end of this story still yet unfolding:

Genesis 3:15 ESV

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

A battle will take place between an offspring of this woman and this serpent. The serpent will strike His heel, but the woman’s offspring will deliver a death blow to the serpent’s head. After explaining the consequences of the man and woman’s sin, blood is shed for the first time to cover the shame of mankind. God makes a garment of skins and clothes them.

The man names his wife Havvah (We get Eve from translating “Havvah” into Greek “Heva” then into Latin “Eva” then into English “Eve”). Havvah means life because she is the mother of all humanity.

Finally, because of man’s sin, God removes the man and his wife from paradise, and they leave eastward out of the Garden. God sets up Cherubim - throne guardians, to prevent anyone from entering the Garden again.

## **Adam and Eve’s Children**

The man, we will call him Adam, and his wife, Eve, have children. We aren’t told how many, but they give birth to a male child named Cain and his brother Abel somewhere along the line. They grow up and continue representing God and maintaining a relationship with Him. One day, Abel, a shepherd, and Cain, a farmer, bring Yahweh an offering. Abel brings the very best portions, while Cain brings the ordinary. Yahweh prefers Abel’s offering because it was a great sacrifice but assures Cain he will still be accepted; he is still family. Yahweh warns Cain not to give in to his evil desires.

However, Cain doesn’t listen. One day, he calls his brother, and while they are in the field, Cain kills his brother. Yahweh comes to Cain and asks him,

Genesis 4:10 ESV

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.

Cain is exiled even further from the presence of God. Cain continues east to a land called Nod, which, in Hebrew, means “wandering.” A fitting name. Cain would build a city and start a family. The ways of man are getting darker and more chaotic every day. Man would undo everything Yahweh did by bringing Creation back to Chaos.

Many years go by, and no one is left to represent the Lord but one man named Noah. Noah was the great great great great great great (that’s 7 ‘greats’) grandson of Adam. He was from the only family who, throughout their generations, served God. One of Noah’s ancestors, a man named Enoch, was so close to God that God took him to heaven without tasting death.

Genesis 5:22–24 ESV

<sup>22</sup> Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. <sup>24</sup> Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

## **The Days of Noah and the Second Rebellion**

In the days of Noah, wickedness was at an all-time high; things even got a little weird.

Genesis 6:1–8 ESV

<sup>1</sup> When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” <sup>4</sup> The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. <sup>5</sup> The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. <sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” <sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

With man so corrupt and evil, some of the sons of God, the same ones who shouted for joy in Creation, began to look upon women with lust. They assumed human form and had relations with these women. These women bore to them children called Nephilim, giants; half angel, half man.

Because of these transgressions, these sons of God were cast into hades in chains of gloomy darkness to await their final judgment.

2 Peter 2:4–5 ESV

<sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; <sup>5</sup> if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Jude 6–7 ESV

<sup>6</sup> And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— <sup>7</sup> just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

(Yes, this is in the Bible and supported by New Testament authors.)

## **The Flood**

God had had enough; he would start over with Noah. So, God had Noah build a boat. After it was completed, God assembled animals of every kind and brought them to Noah. Noah and his family entered their boat and sealed the door.

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights, and the earth gave up its water. Noah, his family, and all the animals in his care stayed on that boat for 371 days while Creation reset itself. For those 371 days, Creation returned to that Chaos from [Genesis 1:2](#)

Genesis 1:2 ESV

<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

God was with Noah and his family. They started their new life after they set down on the ground, but things were a little different this time.