

# HOW GOD STILL WORKS

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Genesis 1:1-5 (p. 2)

January 6, 2019

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep,  
and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.  
And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.  
God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.  
God called the light "day" and the darkness he called "night."  
And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.*  
Genesis 1:1-5

## **Answers from a good creation**

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth . . . .  
And God saw all he had made, and it was very good.*  
Genesis 1:1-31

1) God against the idols

2) The "order of creation"

3) How God works in his creation

## **Creating order out of chaos**

*Now the earth was formless and empty . . . .* Genesis 1:2

## Speaking something out of nothing

*And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:3*

## Separating and filling

*God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. Genesis 1:4*

## Resources for further study of Genesis 1-3

The CRCNA's "Our World Belongs to God" has a wonderful statement of creation at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/contemporary-testimony/our-world-belongs-god>

The Belgic Confession, especially Articles 12-14, at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession>

Richardson's "A Theology of Sexuality in the Beginning" at [http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted\\_hildebrandt/OTeSources/01-Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Davidson\\_SexGen1\\_AUSS.pdf](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted_hildebrandt/OTeSources/01-Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Davidson_SexGen1_AUSS.pdf)

John MacArthur's sermons on Genesis at <https://www.gty.org/library/resources/sermons-library/scripture/1?book=1&chapter=0>

Commentators I like include John Sailhammer (*Expositor's Bible Commentary* and *Genesis Unbound*); Bruce Waltke (*Genesis*, Zondervan, 2001); H.C. Leupold (*Exposition of Genesis*, Baker, 1959); Allen P. Ross (*Creation and Blessing*, Baker, 1988).

Study Bibles I like include Zondervan's *NIV*, Nelson's *New King James Version*, and Crossway's *ESV*.

Francis Schaeffer's *The God Who Is There, He Is There and He Is Not Silent*, and *Genesis in Space and Time*.

J. Logon Duncan's sermons on Genesis at <https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/by-scripture/genesis>

The *monergism.com* site has some very helpful introductory articles on its Genesis pages. I used John Sailhammer's exegetical summary article at [faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted\\_Hildebrandt/OTeSources/01-Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Sailhamer\\_Gen1\\_TJ.pdf](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted_Hildebrandt/OTeSources/01-Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Sailhamer_Gen1_TJ.pdf)

Alexander Maclaren's "Sermons on Genesis" at [http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible\\_book/genesis\\_maclaren.html](http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible_book/genesis_maclaren.html)

## **Inductive Bible Study**

### **Genesis 1:1 – 2:3**

*For you have been born again . . .  
through the living and enduring word of God.*  
1 Peter 1:23

This week, I invite you to observe, interpret and apply Genesis 1:1-2:3, the first scene in God's two-scene introduction, the creation story from above. It will be helpful to have a notebook at hand for your observations. I'm praying that interpretation and application sneak into your week!

Monday: Read Genesis 1:1-2:3. Pray for God's leading this week. Remember to approach this text as God's inspired word and special gift to you and to his church.

Tuesday: Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 in two differing translations. What are the key differences between the translations? Make note of the words and themes that will require a deeper look.

Wednesday: Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 and ask the six observation questions. Yes, it is harder to ask these questions of a poetic passage, but the effort will be worth it!

Thursday: Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 and identify five grammatical-historical questions for this text. Where does this story fit in God's creation-fall-redemption-recreation story?

Friday: Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 and develop five interpretive questions of this text. What resources will help you answer these questions? Where else in Scripture does God address these questions?

Saturday: Read 1:1-2:3 and Hebrews 11:1-3. How can you apply the author of Hebrews' interpretation of this text? How does Scripture take you from creation to faith?