



LESSON 1 ~ Introduction & Creation of the Building Blocks

Genesis 1:1-13

INTRODUCTION

Let's say you're writing a history of your family. What stories would you want to include? Why?

Moses is going to write a history of the name of Israel. What stories do you think he would include? Why?

Why should we study Genesis?

What happens if you get things screwed up here?

“The first chapter is written in the simplest language; yet it contains matters of the utmost importance and very difficult to understand.” Martin Luther

Before we take a look at the details, let's get a big picture view of things...

Genesis

Hebrew:

Greek:

What things does Genesis point out the origin of? Name some of the “beginnings” it records:

As you look at these beginnings, what common theme runs through them? Is Genesis just another interpretation of the history of the ancient world or something more?

Genesis does this in a unique way... **Toledoths** (“This is the account of...”)

■ There are ten *toledoths* in Scripture.

- 2:4
- 5:1
- 6:9
- 10:1
- 11:10
- 11:27
- 25:12
- 25:19
- 36:1
- 37:2



Note: The purpose of the toledoth is not _____, but the...

Which one is not named after a person?

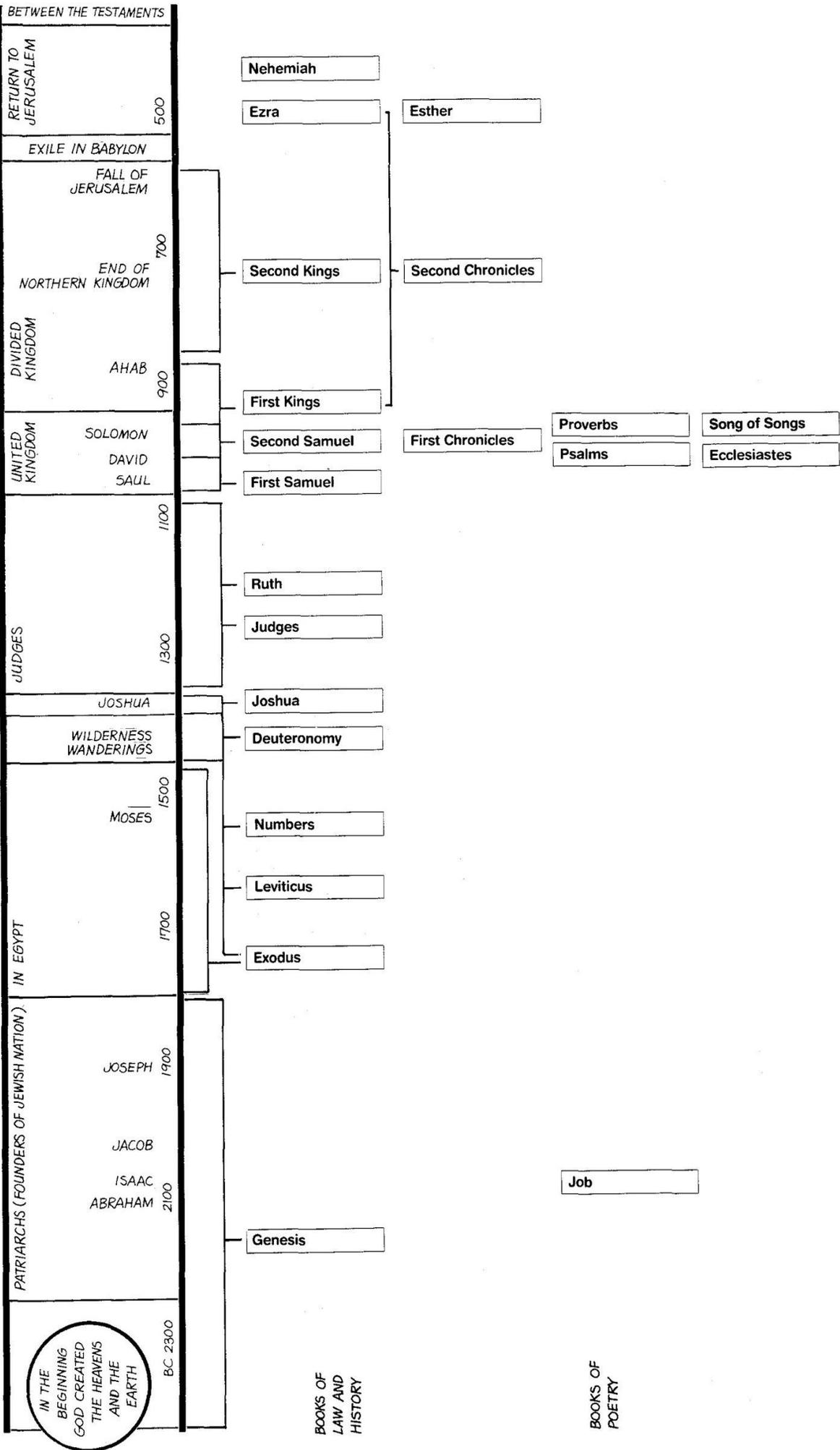
If the first one doesn't start until 2:4, what is the purpose of the first chapter?

Author: Not specifically mentioned, but Moses because of the...

- John 5.46
- When did Moses live? (see chart on pg.3)
- How did he know this stuff? (2 Timothy 3.16)
- What presuppositions does Moses have as he writes?

When Old Testament Events Happened

APPROXIMATE TIMES WHEN EVENTS IN EACH BIBLE BOOK HAPPENED



The Books of Prophecy tell about events during the Divided Kingdom, Exile and Return to Jerusalem.

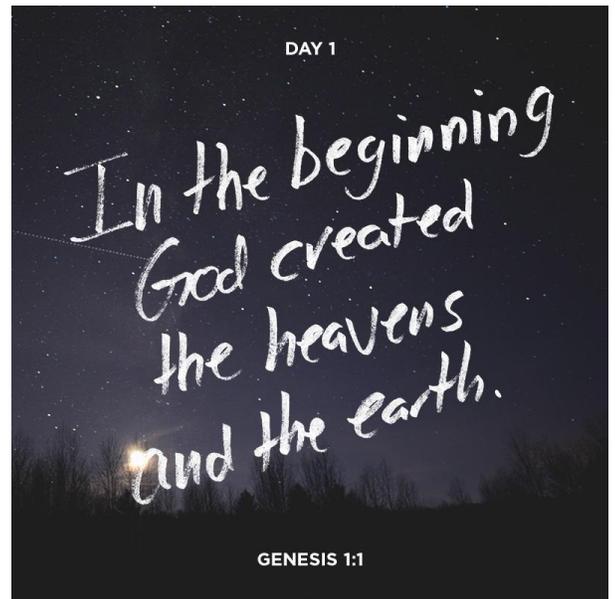
Let's start reading!

Genesis 1:1-2

- In the beginning

- God created
 - Hebrew: *barah*

 - Cannot imply creation out of nothing. Why not? Gen 1:27; Gen 2



- Even though the word "created" doesn't specifically imply a creation out of nothing, how does verse 1 teach that?

What was the earth like after God's initial creative act? What does each imply?

-
-
-
-

Note: your Bible may have a footnote "became", the word does not have that strict of a meaning.

Who does Scripture say was present "in the beginning."

- John 1:1

- John 8:58

- Proverbs 8:27

We confess in the Apostles' Creed (and similarly in the Nicene Creed) "I believe in God the Father Almighty, **maker of heaven and earth**. Is the creed wrong? Explain.

Day 1 (1:3-5)

What did else did God create on the first day?

How could there be light if the sun and stars were not created until day 4?

God says that everything he created was good (seven times in this first chapter of Genesis). What does this mean?

“It was good.” What does this show about God? How is this part of his nature important for us?

“Day” - How long were these days? How do you know?

- Exodus 20.11; 31.12ff

Read Psalm 90:4 & 2 Peter 3:8 - How would you answer someone who uses these verses to say that the days could have been thousands of years long?

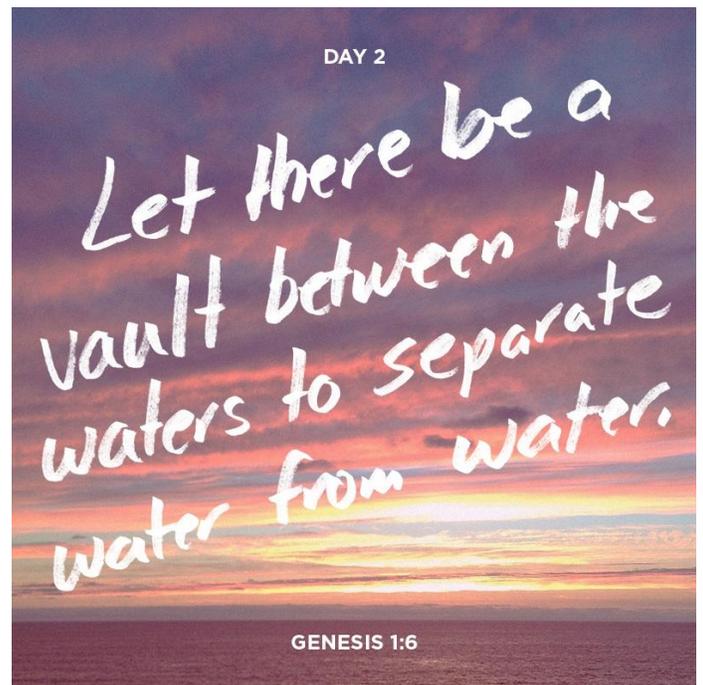
With what instrument did God create the universe? (Psalm 33:9)

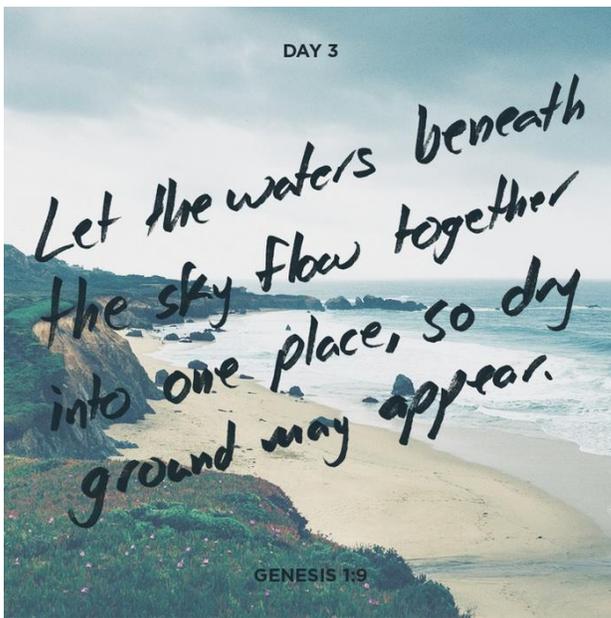
What does that tell us about the power of God's words and Word?

Day 2 (1:6-8)

What was the focus of God's creative work on Day 2?

How does the expanse serve us?





Day 3 (1:9-13)

What did God speak into existence on Day 3?

Look at Psalm 104:7-9. What geological implications are there resulting from God's command here?

What unique power did God endow the first living things he created?

We say that God created his first creation with the appearance of age. What difference is that fact going to make when we attempt to date elements of God's creation today? (e.g. - the Grand Canyon)

CONCLUSION

How has this first lesson helped you better understand the First Article of the Creed?

How does the opening verses of Genesis help you answer those age-old questions? Are the answers satisfying? Why or why not?