

Questions Week 1 and 2

OLD TESTAMENT GENESIS 1:1-

Does 7 days mean literally 24 hour periods? How can there be morning and evening without a sun? (Gen 1) What does it mean for God to "rest"? (Gen 2) What was the mist that watered the earth? (Gen 2)

What did days and nights look like before the sun? Why does God speak in the first person plural (Us)? Did the fruit in the garden really have power? Gen 3

What does it mean that "Then men began to call on the name of the Lord"? Did man not worship proper before Seth? Gen 4:26 How could God show regret and "be sorry" for something he had done? Gen 6:6

Gen 3:22 God calls the tree (tree of Life), in v5 tree of good and evil, where there two different trees and was there a possibility of eternal life for we mortals?

Cain's wife? Why was God so gracious to Cain in protecting his life after he had killed his brother, is there something in the writing that I am missing?

Please talk about the relationship of Genesis 1:1-2 to the rest of the creation account. It says that God created the heavens and the earth, and yet the earth was formed on the third day; however, it also refers to waters, but in verse 6 they already exist and He separates them. Are verses 1-2 a summary? (Also, please briefly discuss the Gap Theory: was there a prior creation?)

Is it significant that God did not call "good" His creation of "Heaven" (the expanse between the waters) on the second day? Probably not, since in Genesis 1:31, He saw everything He that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

My memory is that I have often heard that God pronounced His creation good, but in all the versions I checked, it says He saw it was good - even on the last day when He saw it was very good. This actually heightens my first question: why did God not see His creation and separation of the expanse as "good"?

Interesting that He spoke light into being, He was the only "agent" bringing about the expanse, separating the waters and dry land, and putting lights in the heavens. However, it appears that He somehow utilized the earth to bring forth vegetation and living creatures. Finally, He made man from dust of the earth.

What is the significance of no evening and morning on the seventh day?

Why is it that Genesis 1:12 (the third day) states that "earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed... Yet Genesis 2:5 (in the context of the sixth day_) states that "no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up -- for YaHWeH had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground"?

Genesis 2:18 is interesting: God says, "It is not good that the man should be alone..." And so God creates a helper fit for him (who becomes Adam's wife). It would seem that Adam had God with whom to fellowship before God created Eve, and in heaven we will fellowship with God -- but we will not marry. Why was Adam alone without a wife but in fellowship with God in Eden when he will not be alone without a wife but will be in fellowship with God in heaven?

Why would God speak of father and mother in Genesis 2:24 when there were, as yet, not fathers or mothers?

Interesting that in Genesis 3:14-19, God cursed the serpent and the ground, but neither the man or the woman; am I missing something?

Interesting that Genesis 3:7 states that Adam and Eve "knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths." However, it is not until Genesis 3:21 that it is said they were "clothed" - and that by God Himself.

Interesting that in spite of the multiplied pain of childbirth and expulsion from the garden, Eve speaks of the birth of Cain occurring with the help of YaHWeH. She seemed to have learned of her dependence upon Him.

Interesting that people began to call upon the name of YaHWeH in the third generation; who do you think did the "evangelizing" -- Seth or Enosh?

Interesting that the oldest recorded age of a man before fathering was 187 years until Noah -- at 500 years.

Who were "the sons of God" in Genesis 6:1? Who were the Nephilim?

What does it mean that Enoch walked with God?

Interesting that God told Noah He would destroy the people He had created, and told Moses He would destroy the nation He created; we have no record that Noah interceded on behalf of the people, but Moses did; God destroyed those for whom there was no record of intercession, and did not destroy those for whom there was intercession. Might this be an example of the role of prayer or the office of mediator?

Why did God command in Genesis 6:19-20 to take "two of every sort" into the ark and the commands in Genesis 7:2-3 to take "seven pairs" into the ark.

Was God actually concerned about the capability of man at the tower of Babel? Why did Abram tithe to Melchizedek?

Who are the three men in Gen 18:2? Gen 19 suggests they are angels. Does Gen 18:1 suggest that the Lord appeared to Abraham through his angels? Who is speaking in these verses?

Is God not omniscient in Gen 18:22? Why must he go down and see Sodom for himself?

Why is Lot so against going to the mountains Gen 19:19 then seems to change his mind in v 30?

Why is Abraham doing the same "sister" trick in Gen 20? Did he not learn the first time?

Is Jacob's deception of Issac condoned by the Lord? Moses and Pharaoh Gen 12?

Issac's blessing is treated almost magical or mystical. Was there a legal element to it? What was its cultural significance?

NEW TESTAMENT MATTHEW 1:1- 10:16

Why was the Christ named "Jesus" when the prophet Isaiah said "they shall call his name Immanuel" (Matthew 1:23, 25)?

Matthew 2:23: Where did the prophets say, "He shall be called a Nazarene"?

Matt 2 How long did it take the wise men to reach Jesus? I have heard that He was a toddler, the Bible seems to say that He was 2?

How did the magi know, with precision, about Jesus' birth from the stars? (Matt 2)

Interesting that John the Baptist is already, in Matthew 3:9, warning against relying on being a descendant of Abraham for salvation from the wrath to come.

What was the meaning of John's message to repent? Why was the precursory message to Christ? Matt 3 Matthew 4:1 seems to state the pattern of Jesus' entire life -- he "was led...by the Spirit." Oh, that I would be so submissive.

How is the sermon on the mount to be understood? Are we able to achieve it or not?

What does Matt 7:6 mean in its surrounding context?

What does Jesus mean that the eye is the lamp of the body? (Matt 6:22)

What is Jesus quoting in Matt 5:31?

Who are those that "practice lawlessness" in Matt 7:21-23?

Why is unchastity the only justifiable reason for divorce? (Matt 5:32) What does Sarai mean in Gen 16:5?

PSALMS & PROVERBS

What does it mean to "fear the Lord"? Prov 1

Who is the blessed man in Psalm 1? Who is pictured in Psalm 2?

What a comfort: "But you, O YaHWeH, are a shield about me..." and "I lay down and slept; I woke again, for YaHWeH sustained me."