

## The Old Testament: Part 2, Creation

### I. Six Days of Creation, and Rest

- A. The entire first chapter of Genesis is poetic. What patterns and similarities do you notice in the passage overall, for example in what God creates on each day? What words or phrases are repeated, used as refrains—like the chorus of a song—and how do these repeated phrases shape the meaning of the passage?
- B. Much of the discussion surrounding Genesis 1, both in churches and more broadly, revolves around modern perspectives and concerns. What is the main point the author is trying to communicate in this chapter—why did he write it? What did this passage mean to the ancient peoples who first heard it?
- C. God's seventh day of rest in creation sets a precedent for the people of God, who are called to imitate him by observing a sabbath day of rest. How does this precedent apply to God's people today? Do you value and practice rest in your life? How is this divine kind of rest similar or different to what Americans would normally consider as rest? What have you learned about rest, or how have you rested well or rested poorly throughout your life?

### II. God the Creator

- A. Why is it significant that God creates everything with a word, speaking it into existence, or that he creates everything from nothing?
- B. Most scholars teach that God was perfectly satisfied, and lacked nothing, in his trinitarian existence before creation, so why would God create our world, or us?
- C. With every new day, the author tells us, God sees that his creation is good. What does God mean when he says that his creation is good? What does the rest of creation (besides humans, which we will discuss below) tell us about our God? What does this mean for how we interact with the rest of his creation? What effect has our sin had on the goodness of creation?

### III. God Created People in his Image

- A. In verse 27, we find that people are created in the image of God. Define image. In what way are we an image of God? What effect has sin had on our being made in the image of God? How do redemption and restoration effect our being made in the image of God?
- B. All of creation reveals God, but humans alone are said to be made in his image. In what way are humans separate from the rest of creation?
- C. How does the image of God affect how we treat others, or the value which we assign to human life?