

In the Beginning

Introduction

In this and the following studies we turn our attention away from general overview of Genesis 1-11, to a more detailed study of the text itself. In study 2 we look at Genesis 1vs1-2vs3 which describes the creation of 'the heavens and the earth' i.e. of everything that exists. In particular we learn some key lessons about the way in which God relates to His world and the privilege and responsibility that humankind has in relation to God, one another and the world in which God has placed us.

At the end of this study you should be able to answer 4 key questions from the text.

- How did the Universe begin?
- What was the Universe like in the beginning?
- What is humankind's place within the Universe?
- What is God's purpose for creation?

Read Genesis 1vs1-2vs3



Observe:

1. God is the main subject of all the activity in the passage
2. The repeated phrase "and God said"
3. The key words *good, separated, called, image, rule, fill, blessed, rest*
4. The pattern of repeated words and phrases in Genesis 1vs3-vs25
5. The change in the pattern in Genesis 1vs26-31
6. The Use of singular and plural in Genesis 1vs27
7. The reference to the *rest* day as a *holy* and *blessed* day
8. The absence of the phrase "there was evening and there was morning in relation to the 7th day.

?Think: _____

1. What happens when God speaks?
2. How does the passage teach us that God rules over His creation?
3. How do we know that creation conformed to God's design in the beginning?
4. What does it mean for humankind to be God's image?
5. What does Genesis 2vs1-3 teach us about God's purpose for creation?

! Understand / Apply _____

1. What answers can you give for our 4 key questions?
2. In what way have you been challenged or encouraged by Genesis 1vs1-2vs3?