

**Creation**

Jesus is the reason for the book – throughout the bible, it depicts God’s plan for redeeming us to right relationship to Him. Jesus is the person and vessel of that salvation, but that didn’t start at the fall. Jesus was there from the start!

**Genesis 1:1**

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”

**John 1:1**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

**Revelation 22:13**

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

But where is Jesus? If we translate the Greek to the Hebrew, Jesus calls Himself the “Aleph (Alpha) and the Tav (Omega). The fourth word of the first verse of Genesis is a word that doesn’t get translated into English, because it’s not really a word. It’s in fact only two letters – an Aleph and a Tav. The Jewish rabbis and scholars don’t know why it’s there – it doesn’t make any sense to them!

**JESUS WAS THERE AT THE BEGINNING!**

Don’t forget the Holy Spirit was there as well! In verse 2, we see the “Divine Presence” of God, the “Spirit of God” hovering over the formless earth... The Trinity is there from the start!

Six days of creation – did God really make the world in six days? Science aside – would you devote your life, family, treasure and talents to a God that *couldn’t* create the universe and everything in it in six days? *Ask yourself and think about it...*

If we question what God is able to do right from the beginning of the book, we run into shaky ground when it comes to the real application of teaching.

In Hebrew hermeneutics (interpretation), there is a rule called the “Law of Firsts”. The First Mention Principle states that *“God indicates in the first mention of a subject the truth with which that subject stands connected in the mind of God.”*

In essence, the first mention of a subject will give us some insight into the meaning of that subject, throughout the Bible. The Bible is consistent throughout, and if we believe it to be divinely inspired and inerrant in its original transmission, that means that it’s all there for a reason, and it all means something!

Let’s look at the first thing that God created...

HEBREW LESSON

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא

אֶל־הַיָּהוָה אֶת

Bereshit bara Elohim

“In the beginning, God created”

HEBREW LESSON

רוּחַ

ruach

Spirit/breath

**Law of First Mention**

**Let there  
Be Light!**

Light was the first thing created – and so as the first created thing – it is essential to creation – in fact, continuing in John 1 – verse 4&5 say:

*“<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”*

Another interesting note – after God had created the light and saw that it was good, there was evening and there was morning, the **first day**. In Hebrew, it reads **one day**. The first day – none before it! Is this the beginning of *time*?

You may notice it says there was evening (*erev*) and morning (*boker*) – that is why the Jewish days begin at sunset. The Sabbath begins Friday night.

**God created:**

- the Light, Day & Night on Day One
- Waters/Firmament/Heavens on the Second Day
- Earth & Seas; Plants on the Third Day
- Lights in the Heavens on the Fourth Day
- Animals in the sea & the air on the Fifth Day
- Land animals & Man on the Sixth Day
- On the seventh day, God rested.

**Double  
Blessing**

Look carefully at the Third Day. God created the Earth & Sea, and saw that it was good. *Then* He created plants on the ground, and saw that *they* were good as well. It’s the Day of Double blessings! And that is why Jewish weddings are traditionally on a Tuesday!

This is just the first instance of the whole concept of weddings in the Old Testament. Just wait for Exodus!.

**The  
Pinnacle  
of  
Creation**

Man was created last – on the Sixth Day. But don’t think last is least – God created us as the crowning achievement of His grand creation. We were the only ones made in God’s own likeness and image, and we are given dominion over the Earth.

But is Man actually the pinnacle of creation? Take a look at Genesis 2:21-23. Who was *really* the pinnacle of creation? ☺

Notice she has no name – that will be important later. Also notice that we were given dominion over the Earth. That will also be important later.

**Jesus in  
Creation**

We’ve already seen Jesus “hidden” in the text of Genesis 1:1, but when we look at the Principle of First Mentions, Adam as the first Man should also catch your attention. One of Jesus’ title for Himself was the “Son of Man”. So, something about Adam should reflect Jesus to us.

The first thing is Adam’s initial relationship with God – intimate, personal, real, face-to-face. Also, look at 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 for how Adam and Jesus are linked.

**The Fall**

The serpent did the tempting – but how? He questioned what God had said, and created doubt. He also twisted what God said. God never said you couldn't "eat from any tree in the Garden." The woman replies with some truth, and some falsehood – God never said "you can't even touch it."

We can see the beginning of the problem. When we take what God has said, misunderstand it, misquote it, or add to it with our own perspective and interpretation, we can quickly run into shaky territory.

Eve knows the fruit is good, but she doesn't know that the ramifications of knowing good and evil means that she is now under the responsibility/judgement of knowing what's right, and what her response to that is. She gives the fruit to Adam, and he knows what it is, and what he should do, but eats it anyway.

They became instantly aware that they were naked. Some Hebrew scholars taught that it wasn't that they were always naked and became aware at the Fall, but that they were originally "clothed in light", and at the moment they sinned, the "light"(glory of God) departed. This is an interesting model to follow through the Old Testament.

**Fig Leaves**

The man and woman sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness. Where else do we see fig trees mentioned? Matthew 21:19, when Jesus is on His way into Jerusalem. He curses a fig tree for having no fruit. Is it the same for Adam & the woman? Sewing fig leaves together is our attempt to "cover" ourselves, to make it right with God. And Jesus doesn't have much good to say about that!

God calls to them and asks where they are. Did God not know where they were? Or was He already giving them the chance to come back to Him of their own accord?

The first death recorded in the bible is the animal, killed by God to provide clothes, "a covering", for the man & woman. But it is only a stop-gap measure, because as the writer of Hebrews says in chapter 10:4:

*"it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins"*

**Curses**

In Genesis 3:14, we have the first clear prophecy of Jesus. In amongst all the cursing, there is a blazing dawn of hope. The "seed" of the woman will crush the head of the serpent. The man's heel will be bruised, but he won't be overcome. What an amazing promise. It's called the *proto-evangelium*, the first mention of the gospel message.

It's also interesting to note who is being cursed here... The earth is cursed, and the serpent is cursed, but does it seem that we just have to bear the consequences of those things?

Also, this is where we lose out "authority"(dominion) over the earth. By sinning, we have removed ourselves from our rightful place as rulers of earth, and Satan has control (Jn 12:31)

**Naming Rights**

Adam names the woman “Eve”. The name might mean something about “living”. But the fact is *he* named *her*. Who else had Adam named? Already, the unity is being broken down, almost beyond repair. Equality was broken.

**Angels & Flaming Swords**

Adam & Eve are cast out of the Garden – out of their place of perfect communion with God. We have spent history since then trying to get back in. But, the way is guarded by “cherubim” and a flaming sword.

Where else do we see two cherubs? On the top of the ark, and on the curtain that separates the holy place from the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle (Ex 26:31). The Cherubim guarded the entrance to God’s dwelling even in the temple!

Cain was the first born of Adam and Eve. And if we think that Adam and Eve didn’t understand what God said to them in chapter 3, look at Cain’s name. “Cain” means something along the lines of “brought forth”, and Eve says “*with the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.*” She thinks that this is the “seed/offspring” from Genesis 3! And of course she would – she didn’t see God’s long-term plan.

**Offerings**

How do we know Abel’s offering was accepted, and Cain’s wasn’t? Fire from heaven burned it up!

**Why was Cain’s offering rejected?**

Hebrews 11:4 says:

*“By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.”*

It wasn’t *what* was offered, but the heart attitude of the person doing the offering... What is your heart attitude when you bring your offerings?

**Family Tree**

Genealogies can be pretty boring. But if we take the approach that they are there for a reason (at least one!), then we might just be able to learn something from them. The first lesson is that we can trace Jesus’ physical, human lineage back to the very first man (see Luke Ch 3). But when we look at the meanings of the Hebrew names in Genesis Ch 5...

Adam	אדם	Man
Seth	שֵׁת	Appointed
Enosh	אֵנוֹשׁ	Mortal
Kenan	קֵינָן	Sorrow;
Mahalalel	מַהֲלָלֵל	The Blessed God
Jared	יָרֵד	Shall come down
Enoch	חֵנוֹךְ	Teaching
Methuselah	מֵתוּשֶׁלַח	His death shall bring
Lamech	לָמֶךְ	The Despairing
Noah	נֹחַ	Comfort, Rest

**HEBREW LESSON**

**כרובים**

*Cherubim*

The “im” ם is plural in Hebrew

**INTERESTING FACT**

Abel was the first Prophet!  
See Luke 11:49-51...

**Why the Flood?**

Genesis 6... *“Sons of God and Daughters of Men”*  
 Who were these people? Some say they are the descendents of Cain (*Men/worldly*) and the descendents of Seth (*Godly*).

But the Hebrew says Sons of God are *“bana elohim”* – a direct creation of God. So they may not be men. The theory is that the *“fallen”* angels *“clothed”* themselves in a physical body, and had children with human women, thus the Nephillim. This then puts a whole spin on Gen 6:9 – the Hebrew actually says Noah was *“perfect”* in his generations – not spiritually, but genetically!

God had said that the redeemer would come from the offspring of the woman, so Satan was trying to pollute that offspring, and force his curse on to us. So, after literally generations of giving people the choice to turn back to Him, the world had become polluted in so many ways that:  
*“the LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.*

God gave man the longest recorded lifespan in which to return to Him. Methuselah is recorded as living 969 years, and he came with a warning. His name meant *“his death shall bring (it)”*, and so everyone knew something was coming. But even the longest life wasn't long enough for people to recognise their lack of righteousness in God's eyes.

So Noah took two of every unclean animal, and seven of every clean animal, and God preserved him through his judgement. There were eight on the Ark, and from them, the world was repopulated. Noah did what God said, and so redemption and salvation was found in obedience and faith in what God has said.

**HEBREW LESSON**

בְּנֵי-הָאֱלֹהִים הֵימָּנָה  
*Bana 'elohim*  
 “sons of god”

בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם  
*Benoth adam*  
 “daughters of adam”

**HEBREW LESSON**

נְפִילִים  
*Nephillim*  
 “The fallen ones”  
 Jude 6, 7  
 2 Cor 5:2  
 2 Peter 2:4,5

**WHAT TH?**

How did Noah know the difference between *“clean”* and *“unclean”* animals?

**Timeline of the Flood**

Time	Event	Mon/Day	Ref.
7 days	Noah enters the Ark	2/10	7:7-8
	7 days later: rain begins	/17	7:10-11
	40 days later: heavy rain stops	3/27	7:12
	110 days later: waters recede	7/17	7:24
150 days	Ark rests on Mt Ararat		8:4
	74 days later: Mountain tops visible	10/1	8:5
	40 days later: Raven sent;	11/11	8:6-9
	Dove #1 sent & returns	11/18	
	Dove #2 sent & returns with leaf	11/25	8:10
	Dove #3 sent & does not return	12/2	8:12
	22 days later: water receded		
163 days	Noah saw dry land	1/1	8:13
	57 days	Land completely dry – Ark exited	2/27
<b>377 days</b>	<i>Note: 360 day years, 30 day months</i>	<b>1 yr 17 days</b>	

**Noah's Blessing**

*“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem!  
 May Canaan be the slave of Shem.  
 May God extend the territory of Japheth;  
 may Japheth live in the tents of Shem,  
 Genesis 9:27*

This is the first mention of God being the *“God of...”*. Shem and his tents will be a recurring theme in the Old Testament, especially in Exodus and Numbers. God's blessing will dwell on tents and in tents. We will see God's blessing – the *“Sh'kina”* rest on Shem's tents *“shakan”*.

**Questions**

**Questions & Application**

- How do you see God in the creation story? Is your God powerful enough to create the heavens and the earth in six days?
- Do you put your education above your revelation of/from God? Does your worldview influence your perspective of God, or does God influence your worldview?
- What are the “fig leaves” in your life, that get in the way of God *actually* impacting your life?
- God gave His one and only Son as your covering sacrifice... Do you acknowledge that and live in that “covering”?
- The Cherubs that guard the way to the Tree of Life have parted for us in Jesus (the Temple Veil was torn at the crucifixion) – have you returned to the garden?
- God loves you, and loves it when you present pleasing sacrifices to Him. Examine your life and see what you present to God, and then make sure you dedicate it all to Him!

**Extra  
Resources**

**Bibliography / Recommended Reading**

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