

We begin our study with Genesis 1 and 2, perhaps the most contested and debated chapters in the Word of God... because they deal with the beginning of the world, of mankind, and of marriage. There is a wide variety of ideas, theories, and concepts about these subjects. We're going to focus on what the Word of God, the Bible, has to say about them.

We will observe, observe, observe... to clarify what the Bible says, before we ask what does it mean (interpretation), or what it means to me (application)? This may be a deeper and more intentional study of this book than you have ever done. The book is primarily a spiritual book, to be spiritually understood. As we enter in, let's do it prayerfully. **Pray that you will see God more clearly. Pray for clarity. Pray to understand, from God's perspective.**

1. *First of all, read Genesis 1. Read it slowly, deliberately, and thoughtfully. It may be helpful to read it aloud. As you read, mark every reference to God (including pronouns). Next, list what these places you've marked tell you about God. Be brief but be thorough.*

2. *As you read, did you notice any repeating phrases? List them below.*

3. *Did you notice references to different days?*
 - a. *How many days are mentioned in this chapter?*
 - b. *According to the text, when does each day begin? When does it end?*

4. *Does Genesis 1 tell you anything about how all this was done? How it happened?*
If so, write it below.

5. *List exactly what came into existence on each day.*

6. *Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God (Elohim) created (bara) the heavens and the earth.”*
 - a. *Look up a definition of the word “created” (bara) in Hebrew. It is used five times in Genesis 1-2. List what was “created.” What do you learn?*
 - b. *Elohim is used more than 2,500 times in Scripture. It has the Hebrew plural ending (-im). In Genesis 1:26, who is the “Us” and the “Our”? How do you know? (Consider: Matthew 3:16-17)*
7. *In Genesis 1:2, which of the “whos” mentioned in Matthew 3:16-17 are mentioned in this verse, and what is being done by whom?*
8. *Who are the persons who are acting in the following verses:*
 - a. *John 1:1-4 –*
 - b. *John 1:14-18 –*
 - c. *Hebrews 1:1-3 –*
 - d. *Colossians 1:15-17–*
9. *Accurate interpretation requires that we allow the context to determine all interpretation. In Genesis 1 the Hebrew word for “day” is yom. It is used more than 2,200 times in the Old Testament. It can mean, (1) light contrasted with darkness... (2) the twenty-four-hour period... or, (3) portion of a twenty-four-hour period... (4) a point of time... or (5) a general, vague time. The particular meaning is made clear by the context.*

In the following verses, find the word “day” and determine which of the possible meanings for yom is most apparent?

 - a. *Genesis 1:5a –*
 - b. *Genesis 1:5b, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31 –*
 - c. *Genesis 2:4 –*
 - d. *Exodus 20:1-3 and 8-11 –*
10. *Why do you think that people doubt that creation took place in six literal days as God describes – “evening and... morning, one day”? Or, why do you doubt it, if you do?*
11. *Read Hebrews 11:1-3 and 6 and consider those verses regarding your view of a literal, 6-day creation.*