

## THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE – CREATION

Introduction – The message of the entire Bible can be summed up in these easy to remember categories: Creation, Corruption, Covenant, Christ, Community, and Consummation.

- A. The biblical account of creation must first be understood in its Ancient Middle Eastern context before it is applied to our context.
1. They were not concerned with the material making of nature but its functioning purpose.
  2. Warfare among the gods leads to chaos, which needs the restoration of order in the cosmos.
  3. Humans are made to do the hard work originally done by the lesser gods.
  4. Humans were to create city states with a temple in honor of their god. Then the god would choose a divine king to represent him.
  5. The order created that permitted human life was constantly under threat by the forces of chaos. Only a rigorous routine of ritual could keep this order.
- B. Chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis offer a counter narrative to this existing Ancient Middle Eastern myth of creation.
1. There is only one Creator God instead of a pantheon of gods.

Genesis 1:1-2

2. God restores the order in creation for the sake of “Adam’s Family” in Genesis 1.
3. God creates the world for the good of human beings with whom God wants a relationship of love, rather than using us as menial servants.
4. The account describes the whole universe as God’s temple.
5. God calls couples to exercise rule together for the good of creatures and creation as his divine representatives.
6. Genesis 2 tells the story from the perspective of a representative couple named Adam (human being) and Eve (life). They are placed in a sacred space and given the role of a royal priesthood. Their purpose is to multiply true image bearers to go forth and fill the earth, so it all becomes sacred space.

Genesis 2:15

C. The message of creation for us today

1. We and our universe are not the result of irrational forces acting by blind chance. We are the creation of the one true God.
2. This means every individual, no matter their economic status, ethnicity, intelligence, or disabilities, is to be respected as potential royalty.
3. There is a God-given purpose for every individual and couple.
  - a. We have the responsibility for creation care.
  - b. The original great commission of God was for us to become united in the mission to fill the earth with true image bearers.

Conclusion – This creational vision is now being fulfilled in those who form the Christ community.

1 Peter 2:9

1 Corinthians 3:16

Colossians 3:9-11