

Date : 11th January 2026
Theme : God's Story of Redemption from Genesis
Topic : Who is God?
Key verse : *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.... Genesis 1:1 nkjv*

Introduction

In this first quarter, we shall address the most important issue in life, namely our eternal salvation. Nothing is worse than going through life assuming we are saved. We begin by examining our understanding about God. What are some problems we face in understanding who God is? Today's session aims at teaching about God.

- Problems with *which* God?

God is a generic term for a supreme being, used across religions with different concepts.

- In multi-religious Singapore, there are many deities. Which one is the true God? Even Israel did not realise they were times when the true God was absent.

The gospel story begins with God, then man, sin problem, solution.

In the light of today's hostile views about God, it is not possible to talk about the gospel without first dealing with the God question.

- Problems people have with the term *god*.

- Truth, God

Do these objectively exist?

What make them *gods*?

Who decides who gets to be God / a god?

Is God's existence dependent on my belief?

So, people say, *it depends*:

... if you believe in God, He exists. To me, I don't believe; so God does not exist.

- Is God's existence a figment of our imagination?

Some believe in a deistic God one (who created the world and set it in motion but is not around to relate to us). Most Christians have no problem believing in a creator God, but then live as if He is absent.

- Problem of hostility towards God.

After the Twin Towers fell on 9/11/2001, a prominent group of atheists (R Dawkins, Oxford zoologist, Sam Harris, philosopher and Christopher Hitchens, journalist, among others) attacked belief in God.

How should we respond when people say they don't believe in God? We can ask *...What kind of God don't you believe in?* After they have described their version of God, you can agree with them...*I don't believe in that kind of God either...*and then ask for permission to share something about who your God is.

1. Genesis is our starting point to talk about GOD

- The Genesis account was written from the beginning of time by eye witnesses. The first man, Adam, made the first entry of his experience, obviously from God's revelation to him.
This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created... Genesis 2:4

- In Genesis 1:1 God tells us 5 things about Himself.

Unfortunately, humans have invented personal interactive deities to explain away the divine, leading to a variety of gods:

- atheism (=disbelief in God's existence).
- pantheism (=earth and nature are divine).
- polytheism (=multiple gods/goddesses).
- materialism (=that nothing exists except matter).
- humanism (=humans important, not divine).

2. Genesis 1 The six days of Creation

What do we know about God's Nature from what He did for us?

DAY 1 Genesis 1:3-5

God created earth with the Holy Spirit (energy) *hovering* over the waters to bring potential to life and order, setting the stage for a world designed for relationship and purpose.

Genesis 1:2 says earth (space and matter) was at first unformed and uninhabited, and the waters, like the formless earth, a presence (*kjv* face), rather than a cohesive body.

- The transmission of energy – light and energy for earth's rotation.
...the Spirit of God hovering (moving, shaking) over the waters... Genesis 1:2
- The cyclical succession of **day and night** is to provide us a daily rhythm for living.
Today we know that humans have a circadian rhythm, essential for healthy living.

DAY 2 Genesis 1:6-8

Our atmosphere, a precise composition of air for breathing and air pressure level, is suitable for life.

- The waters above the firmament (=thin, stretched space or atmosphere) and waters below.

Such a water canopy would be highly effective to:

- Accomplish global greenhouse, conducive to lush vegetation (Day 3) with no deserts or ice caps, maintain uniform temperature and comfortable humidities, no turbulence.
- Filter out ultraviolet radiations, cosmic rays and contribute effectively to human and animal health and longevity (Genesis 5).
- Fine-tune the earth for human habitation — 21% oxygen and 78% nitrogen; any variation in composition is dangerous to man and animals. God is concerned for our living condition.

❖ **Do God's preparations on Day 2 show His mind as good or evil in anticipation of man's habitation?**

DAY 3 Genesis 1:9-13

- On the **3rd Day** God accomplished a third act of division: **dry land** from the lower waters. Once again, the energizing agent was the Word of God to set a boundary for the sea to keep it from covering the earth. *Job 38:11*
- Within the earth crust, He embedded gold and 56 kinds of precious as well as semi-precious stones and useful materials such as oil, rare earth etc.
- God organised plant life. 3 main orders of **plant life** were mentioned – grass, herbs and trees. The trees were created as full-grown trees and the whole universe was made as a functioning entity, complete and fully developed.
- According to its kind
This phrase occurs 10 times in Genesis 1 to indicate the **limitation** of variations.
Every type of organism has its own unique structure of the DNA and can only specify the reproduction of that same kind.

The evolution theory that all living things are interrelated by common ancestry and descent is refuted by these biblical statements as well as by observations made.

- God saw that **it was good** *Genesis 1:10* (repeated throughout Days 4-6)
This was God's pronouncement after He had divided the waters and established the land surfaces *Genesis 1:10*, the development of plants for the land *Genesis 1:12*, creation of moon and stars *Genesis 1:18* and birds and sea creatures *Genesis 1:20*.

- ❖ Does the repeated word **good** as an inherent quality of God's creation, agree with R Dawkins' perspective that God is wicked?

DAY 4 Genesis 1:14-19

- On the **4th Day** God created the **celestial sphere of stars and planets** to illuminate earth.
On the first day, God said *Let there be light* Genesis 1:3
On the fourth day, God said *Let there be lights* Genesis 1:14

The chief purpose of both the light of the first 3 days and the light-givers of all later days was to divide the light from the darkness *Genesis 1:4,18* and this can only mean that the two regimes were essentially identical.

- In other words, light rays, impinging on the earth as it rotated on its axis during the first 3 days, were essentially the same intensities and directions as those from the sun/moon on the fourth day. That fact that both sun and moon are called light-givers does not suggest that they are of the same substance. One generates light, whereas the other only reflects light; but both give light as far as their functions relative to the earth are concerned.
- The use of the stars for signs *Genesis 1:14*
Signs to mark seasons, days and years (later corrupted into pagan astrology) and signs for direction, specially for seafarers.

- ❖ What are the benefits to man when God pronounced the **4th Day** to be good?

DAY 5 Genesis 1:20-23 Sea creatures and birds

DAY 6a Genesis 1:24-25 Livestock, creeping things and wild beasts

- All the necessities for living creatures were present on the earth by this time:
light, air, water, soil, chemical, plants, fruits etc.

The difference in animals lies in their classifications by God.

- livestock (tame/domesticated)
- creeping things (small, growling creatures)
- wild beasts (undomesticated land animals)

The key distinction is their function and habitat emphasizing God's orderly and varied creation of distinct animal groups.

- The word **life** (*kjv means soul*) occurs for the first time here *Genesis 1:20*.
In biblical sense, plants do not have *soul* (or consciousness) but both animals and men do.

5th Day God created winged creatures for atmosphere and water creatures for hydrosphere

6th Day God created animal life for the lithosphere and biosphere.

- Each was to reproduce **after its kind** *Genesis 1:21, 24,25*
Like the plants, the actual biochemical reproductive systems of animals were programmed to ensure the fixity of the kinds.

Evolution says that single-celled marine organisms first, then plants and later birds.

Genesis says land plants come first, then marine creatures and birds simultaneously.
If anything, the largest sea animals were the first, again contrary to evolutionary theory.

- God pronounced a **blessing** on the animals He had created *Genesis 1:24*.
Though not an object of God's love as man would be, animals nevertheless are objects of His care and concern. He continually provides food for them.

DAY 6b Genesis 1:26-27 Creation of Man

- A most intriguing type of **exchange within the Godhead** appears *Genesis 1:26*. Whereas previous acts of God have followed immediately ...*And God said, Let there be*. In this verse God speaks, one member of the Godhead to another, in a divine Council.
- Man was to be made in **God's image** *Genesis 1:26,27*
3 times it is stated that God created man in *His* image, as well as in *Our* image. It is clear that *man* is a generic term including both male and female. **Both man and woman** were created in God's image and thus both possess equally an eternal spirit capable of personal fellowship with their Creator.
- God's signature *Genesis 2:4*
Although *Genesis 1* ends on *verse 31*, the chapter really ends in *Genesis 2:4* when the author signs off the section. In this case, since there was no human present to observe the creation, no human name is attached (as in the case of the other ten *toledoths* *subscripts* that occur later in *Genesis*).

At the time of man's creation, the whole universe was a beautiful, perfect creation, the finest that the mind and heart of God could ever devise for man.

❖ **After this study of Genesis 1, how do you feel about the God of Creation?**

❖ **What can you say to God? God, You are.....**

3. Why start with Genesis to talk about GOD's Plan of Redemption? The BIG PICTURE

- To show that **God's redemption** does not begin with the New Testament but is a continuous thread running from Genesis to Revelation.
- To understand **God's relational character** of Love (Grace) and Justice being consistently applied to all individuals, from Adam, Cain, Noah, Abraham, all of whom stood in need of a Redeemer.
- To see that **God's provision** of blood sacrifice are **signs** pointing to the coming **Saviour**.

Application

- Identify how good God is from Days 1 to 6.
- What is the Big Picture of Genesis?

God's r_____ plan.

God's c_____ of love.

God's s_____ of the coming Saviour.