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- when we attempt to re-interpret the message of the original author & we do an “end-around” straight to God, we are violating the authority given to the author by God Himself



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- Greek (Western) questions can't be answered by Hebrew (Eastern) authors



## BETTER QUESTIONS LEAD TO BETTER ANSWERS

- this does not mean that some questions are silly and some are more intellectual in a way that puffs up, but that all of our questions can be ever more better informed as we learn and grow



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO EXIST?

- Does material, physical make-up constitute existence? e.g. company & chair
- In ANE thought, existence is *functional*, not merely material



## ORDER VS CHAOS

CHAOS/  
DISORDER

NON-  
ORDER

ORDER

- These status' do not have a moral quality, but are status' of functionality or non-functionality



## **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

**WHAT KIND OF CREATION  
ACCOUNT IS THIS?**

- If Genesis 1 is not telling a story of material creation, then what kind of creation is this?
- house story vs. home story

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**WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE  
IN CREATING THE EARTH?**

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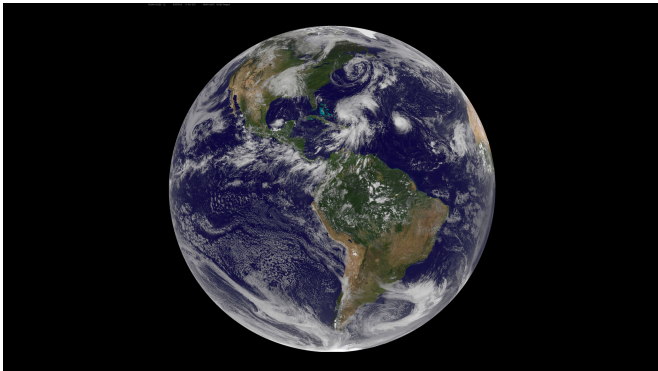


**SCIENCE OR  
NARRATIVE?**

- The creation story is a poem, not a lab report
- Remember that easterners communicate through images
- It is about creating (whatever that means) and resting (whatever that means)

# GENESIS 1 AS POETRY

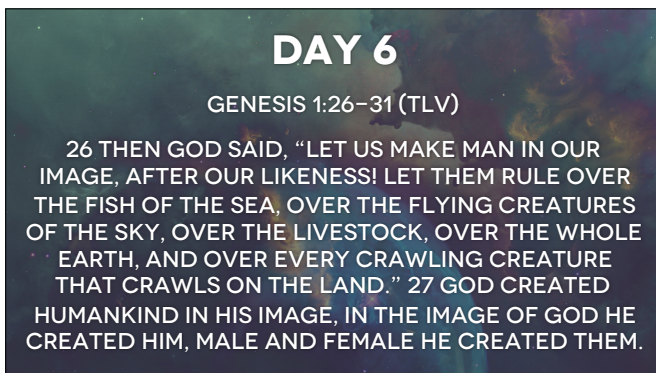
- Chiasm
  - True learning doesn't happen through facts and supporting evidence, but through discovery of things buried in the story...it's engagement over regurgitation







- house story vs. home story
  - buying/building a new house and moving in but boxes are unpacked (non-order)
- Naming & separating is a creative process



- Man/humanity (adam)
- Image (tselem)
- Similar to the earth & sky creatures, humanity has the function of being fruitful & multiplying but we also have a function in relation to the creatures (dominion)
- Thus, all of creation functions in relationship to humanity and humanity serves creation as God's vice-regent (ambassador)
- In other ANE accounts, creation is set up to serve the gods, but here, creation is not for God, but for humans
  - In other ANE accts, people bring creation to deity
  - Here, humankind is the image of God, representing God to creation

- Manufacturers in a plant vs sales staff

## DAY 6

28 GOD BLESSED THEM AND GOD SAID TO THEM, "BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY, FILL THE LAND, AND CONQUER IT. RULE OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, THE FLYING CREATURES OF THE SKY, AND OVER EVERY ANIMAL THAT CRAWLS ON THE LAND."

29 THEN GOD SAID, "I HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU EVERY GREEN PLANT YIELDING SEED THAT IS ON THE SURFACE OF THE WHOLE LAND, AND EVERY TREE, WHICH HAS THE FRUIT OF A TREE YIELDING SEED. THEY ARE TO BE FOOD FOR YOU.

## DAY 6

30 ALSO FOR EVERY WILD ANIMAL, EVERY FLYING CREATURE OF THE SKY AND EVERY CREATURE THAT CRAWLS ON THE LAND WHICH HAS LIFE, EVERY GREEN PLANT IS TO BE FOOD." AND IT HAPPENED SO. 31 SO GOD SAW EVERYTHING THAT HE MADE, AND BEHOLD IT WAS VERY GOOD.

SO THERE WAS EVENING AND THERE WAS MORNING—THE SIXTH DAY.

- Tov meod (very good)

## DAY 7

GENESIS 2:1-3 (TLV)

1 SO THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH WERE COMPLETED  
ALONG WITH THEIR ENTIRE ARRAY. 2 GOD COMPLETED  
—ON THE SEVENTH DAY—HIS WORK THAT HE MADE,  
AND HE CEASED—ON THE SEVENTH DAY—FROM ALL  
HIS WORK THAT HE MADE. 3 THEN GOD BLESSED THE  
SEVENTH DAY AND SANCTIFIED IT, FOR ON IT HE  
CEASED FROM ALL HIS WORK THAT GOD CREATED FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING.

- Gen. 1:1 & Gen. 2:1 as literary brackets
- If Genesis 1 is a lab report, then day 7 seems to be out of place, nothing more than an add-on
- An ancient reader would instantly recognize what this story is...a temple text
- What is divine rest?
  - Rest is the result of chaos being ordered, stability being achieved, things have “settled down”
  - The God Who knows when to say, “Enough”
- Where does deity rest?
  - In a temple, and only in a temple
- Why is understanding & practicing the sabbath a key to understanding the whole mission and message of the Bible?

## EXODUS 20:8-11 (TLV)

8 “REMEMBER YOM SHABBAT, TO KEEP IT HOLY. 9 YOU ARE  
TO WORK SIX DAYS, AND DO ALL YOUR WORK, 10 BUT THE  
SEVENTH DAY IS A SHABBAT TO ADONAI YOUR GOD. IN IT  
YOU SHALL NOT DO ANY WORK—NOT YOU, NOR YOUR  
SON, YOUR DAUGHTER, YOUR MALE SERVANT, YOUR  
FEMALE SERVANT, YOUR CATTLE, NOR THE OUTSIDER  
THAT IS WITHIN YOUR GATES. 11 FOR IN SIX  
DAYS ADONAI MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND  
ALL THAT IS IN THEM, AND RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY.  
THUS ADONAI BLESSED YOM SHABBAT, AND MADE IT  
HOLY.

## EXODUS 31:12-17 (TLV)

12 THEN ADONAI SPOKE TO MOSES SAYING, 13 "SPEAK NOW TO BNEI-YISRAEL SAYING, 'SURELY YOU MUST KEEP MY SHABBATOT, FOR IT IS A SIGN BETWEEN ME AND YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS, SO YOU MAY KNOW THAT I AM ADONAI WHO SANCTIFIES YOU. 14 THEREFORE YOU ARE TO KEEP THE SHABBAT, BECAUSE IT IS HOLY FOR YOU. EVERYONE WHO PROFANES IT WILL DIE, FOR WHOEVER DOES ANY WORK DURING SHABBAT, THAT SOUL WILL BE CUT OFF FROM THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE.

15 WORK IS TO BE DONE FOR SIX DAYS, BUT ON THE SEVENTH DAY IS A SHABBAT OF COMPLETE REST, HOLY TO ADONAI. WHOEVER DOES ANY WORK ON THE SHABBAT WILL SURELY BE PUT TO DEATH. 16 SO BNEI-YISRAEL IS TO KEEP THE SHABBAT, TO OBSERVE THE SHABBAT THROUGHOUT THEIR GENERATIONS AS A PERPETUAL COVENANT. 17 IT IS A SIGN BETWEEN ME AND BNEI-YISRAEL FOREVER, FOR IN SIX DAYS ADONAI MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY HE CEASED FROM WORK AND RESTED.'"

## DEUTERONOMY 12:10 (TLV)

10 BUT WHEN YOU CROSS OVER THE JORDAN AND SETTLE IN THE LAND THAT ADONAI YOUR GOD ENABLES YOU TO INHERIT, AND HE GIVES YOU REST FROM ALL YOUR ENEMIES AROUND YOU, YOU WILL DWELL IN SAFETY.



## JOSHUA 21:44 (TLV)

44 THEN ADONAI GAVE THEM REST ON ALL SIDES, JUST AS HE HAD SWORN TO THEIR FATHERS. NOT ONE MAN OF ALL THEIR ENEMIES WITHSTOOD THEM, FOR ADONAI GAVE ALL THEIR ENEMIES INTO THEIR HAND.

## JOSHUA 23:1 (TLV)

23 NOW IT CAME ABOUT AFTER MANY DAYS, WHEN ADONAI HAD GIVEN REST TO ISRAEL FROM ALL THEIR ENEMIES AROUND THEM, AND JOSHUA WAS OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS,

## PSALM 132:7-8 (TLV)

7 LET US GO INTO HIS DWELLING PLACE,  
LET US BOW AT HIS FOOTSTOOL.  
8 ARISE, ADONAI, TO YOUR RESTING PLACE—  
YOU, AND THE ARK OF YOUR MIGHT.

- menucha (מְנוּחָה)
  - Resting place
  - Fully arriving

## PSALM 132:13–14 (TLV)

13 FOR ADONAI HAS CHOSEN ZION,  
HE HAS DESIRED IT FOR HIS DWELLING:  
14 “THIS IS MY RESTING PLACE FOREVER.  
HERE I DWELL, FOR I HAVE DESIRED IT.

## 1 KINGS 8:65–66 (TLV)

65 SO SOLOMON AND ALL ISRAEL WITH HIM  
CELEBRATED THE FESTIVAL AT THAT TIME—A GREAT  
CONGREGATION FROM THE ENTRANCE OF HAMATH  
TO THE WADI OF EGYPT—BEFORE ADONAI ELOHEINU,  
SEVEN DAYS AND THEN SEVEN MORE DAYS—14 DAYS  
IN ALL. 66 ON THE EIGHTH DAY HE SENT THE PEOPLE  
AWAY, AND THEY BLESSED THE KING AND WENT TO  
THEIR TENTS JOYFUL AND GLAD OF HEART OVER ALL  
THE GOODNESS THAT ADONAI HAD SHOWN TO HIS  
SERVANT DAVID AND TO HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL.

## 2 CHRONICLES 7:8–10 (TLV)

8 AT THAT TIME, SOLOMON OBSERVED THE FEAST FOR  
SEVEN DAYS AND ALL ISRAEL WITH HIM—A VERY GREAT  
ASSEMBLY FROM LEBO–HAMATH TO THE BROOK OF EGYPT.

9 ON THE EIGHTH DAY THEY HELD A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY,  
FOR THEY HAD CELEBRATED THE DEDICATION OF THE  
ALTAR FOR SEVEN DAYS AND THE FEAST FOR SEVEN  
DAYS. 10 ON THE 23RD DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH HE  
SENT THE PEOPLE AWAY TO THEIR TENTS, JOYFUL AND  
GLAD OF HEART FOR THE GOODNESS THAT ADONAI HAD  
DONE FOR DAVID, SOLOMON AND ISRAEL HIS PEOPLE.

- Solomon gathered the materials and built the physical structure for years before the inauguration
- The inauguration ceremony takes 7 days
  - A building becomes a temple
  - A house becomes a home