

Further Readings for Genesis

God created the world and we believe it. This is core to our Christian faith. *How* He did it is not as detailed for us. Devout Christians wrestle over whether Creation was made in seven literal or figurative days, but the one thing all can agree on is that *God* did it. This truth we can —and must — believe.

FAQ's about Genesis

Why is the Creation account important?

“We must realize that the book of Genesis is the foundation of the entire Bible. The word ‘*genesis*’ means “beginnings.” Genesis tells the story of the beginning of the universe, solar system, earth, life, man, sin, Israel, nations, and salvation. An understanding of Genesis is crucial to our understanding of the rest of Scripture” (*Why We Believe in Creation*, by Dr. Ray Bohlin).

I have a lot of unanswered questions about Genesis – is that OK?

How old is the earth? Did men live with dinosaurs? Are dinosaurs in the Bible? Where do cave men fit in the Bible? Did the flood cover the whole earth? How many animals were on Noah's Ark? What does the word day in Genesis chapter one mean?

These are all common and difficult questions your children may have asked, or maybe they are questions you have. What may surprise you is that evangelical Christians respond with numerous answers to each question. In reality, answers to the preceding questions largely depend on the answer to the first one. How old is the earth?

The diversity of opinion regarding this question inevitably leads to controversy, controversy that is often heated and remarkably lacking in grace and understanding.

God did not answer every question we have and the Bible is not a comprehensive science book. It is Word of Truth and He has given us what we need to make sense of world, why we are here and where we are going. (*Christian Views of Science and Earth History*, by Dr. Ray Bohlin and Richard Milne)

Why should I trust what the Bible says vs. what science says?

“The starting point for this study is the presupposition that Scripture is revelation, a message from God to his people. Genesis thus has a dimension very different from the comparable literature of the ancient Near East. As God's revelation, Genesis is authoritative. Consequently, in studying it, one must go beyond academic inquiry to discover its theologically applicable truth” (*Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*, by Allen P. Ross, p. 23).

Is Genesis about “Creation Science” or about God?

“The account of creation forms the starting point. In other words, the account is essentially a theological treatise (meaning: giving knowledge about God, not a scientific treatise giving knowledge of the how’s and when’s of creation). The basic message is: God is Creator, God is sovereign, God brings order, God is a Redeemer” (*Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*, Allen P. Ross, p. 101-102).

Why doesn’t Genesis tell us everything about God, angels, etc.?

“Genesis is written with the presuppositions that God exists and that He has revealed himself in word and deed to Israel’s ancestors. The Book does not argue for the existence of God; it simply asserts that everything exists because of God.” (*The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, by Allen P. Ross, p. 26).

What does the word “day” mean?

“Regarding the word ‘day’ (or *yom* in Hebrew), several interpretations have been suggested: 1) The days of Creation refer to extended geological ages prior to man’s presence on earth. 2) The days are 24-hour periods in which God revealed His creative acts. 3) They are literal 24-hour days of divine activity. In favor of the third view is the fact that the term *yom* (with an ordinal first, second, etc. adjective) means 24-hour days wherever this construction occurs in the Old Testament” (*The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Allen P. Ross, p. 26).

Why was Genesis written? Why doesn’t it include more science?

“Genesis functions in Israelite society the same way that science functions in our culture and the same way that mythology functioned in the rest of the ancient world. Genesis offers an alternative encapsulation of how the world worked and how it comes to work that way. Like the rest of the ancient world, it has a divine orientation rather than a naturalistic/empiricist one as is common today.”
Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary, John H. Walton, (pp. 9-10).

Why doesn’t it have more detail of how Creation actually happened?

“No historical account is a complete account of all that occurred in a given event or series of events. The author must select those events that most effectively relate not only what happened but also the meaning and significance of what happened. The author selects and arranges those features of a historical event that most characteristically portray the meaning of the event as conceived by him.”
The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Frank E. Gaebelain, (p. 13).

Additional Reading

Dr. Ray Bohlin, [*Why We Believe in Creation*](#).

Dr. Ray Bohlin and Richard Milne, [*Christian Views of Science and Earth History*](#),

Allen P. Ross *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the study and exposition of Genesis*.

Allen P. Ross *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the study and exposition of Genesis*.

Allen P. Ross, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*.

John H. Walton, Zondervan, *Illustrated Bible Background Commentary*.

Frank E. Gaebelin, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*.