

In the Beginning...

“And God saw every thing He had made, and behold, it was very good. And evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

- Genesis 1:31 (KJV)

God

In Genesis 2:4 and following, the covenant name for the Almighty, YHWH, is used, regularly translated in English as “the LORD.” However, Genesis 1:1-2:3 uses the less personal “Elohim,” which is simply the plural form of “El,” or God. Christian interpreters are happy to see the first hints of the concept of Trinity, three persons in one God. Indeed, 1:2 gives us the “ruach Elohim,” and John 1 recognizes the creative “Word” as God’s Son. All three persons of the Trinity are engaged in creation. Also note that the word “bara,” or “create,” is a verb whose only subject in the entire Bible is God. Who is God? He is the Creator.

The Workweek

Day I	Day II	Day III	Day IV	Day V	Day VI	Day VII
Preparing	the	Environment	Filling	the	Environment	Resting
Day/Night	Water/Sky	→ Earth	Sun/Stars	Fish/Birds	→ Humanity	Holiness
31 words	38 words	69 words	69 words	57 words	149 words	29 words

God’s work of creation begins by setting things apart. Light and dark are set apart. Water and sky are set apart. The earth is brought out of the waters beneath. Then, that which is set apart is filled. Lights are given to both day and night. Living creatures are given to both sea and sky. Humanity is brought out of all the living animals, alone made in the image of God. When we recognize this pattern, we see the same thing happen at the close of the week. The Sabbath is set apart, a time away from the time of work. Sabbath is filled with holiness. See *The Small Catechism*, Commandment IV.

Made in the Image of God

God fills the environments He created. Humanity, made in the image of God, is given the task to fill the earth by being fruitful and multiplying (1:28). Chapter One builds to the creation of humanity and only at humanity’s creation is it “very good” (1:31). As God’s interior relationships include Father-Son, so every human being is made in family. Other creation myths saw humans as intended slaves of gods. Genesis is already imaging God as Father and we as His children, given dominion over His creation. See *The Small Catechism*, First Article of the Creed.

Time

While humanity is the climax of Genesis’ first creation account, the entire passage is both marked by time passing and bookended by references to the creation of specific times. See Hebrews 4.