**Genesis**

 **Genesis 1 Who God is.**

**Genesis 2 Who we are.**

**Genesis 3 and 4 The problem.**

**Genesis 5 to the end of the Bible. The solution.**

**God does not waste his time! He gets right to the point.**

**Genesis 1 is the most brilliant theological treatise ever written by anyone. (That and maybe John chapter 1.**

**Genesis 1 and the Christian World View.**

If Genesis 1:1 is true, then animism, polytheism, pantheism, dualism, naturalism, deism, postmodernism and every other ism is false.

**Genesis 1:31 The creation is “very good.”**

**World View:**

* **The perspective one uses to process and interpret information received about the world.**
* **James W. Sire “A world view is a set of presuppositions (ie. assumptions) which we hold about the basic makeup of our world.”**

 **James W. Sire, *TheUniverse Next Door***

**Qualities of a “good” world view:**

**1. It is “true”**

**There is no virtue and there is very rarely an advantage in being wrong.**

**“True” = consistent with reality. Predictions made using that world view will agree with what we know and what we observe.**

**The Correspondence Theory of Truth.**

**If a belief is in clear contradiction with well-established facts about the world, then it is not true.**

**2. It successfully answers the important questions humans ask.**

**What is the nature of God/the prime reality?**

**What is the right thing to do?**

**What is my value?**

**What is my purpose in life?**

**What is my relationship with the “prime reality?”**

**Does God answer prayer?**

**Why is there suffering?**

**Why is there evil?**

**What about death and judgment?**

**3. Those who ascribe to it are better human beings for having taken this as their world view.**

**“Better” is easier to define than you might think.**

**The Christian World View according to Genesis Ch 1-4:**

**1. The physical world is: a. real b. created out of nothing (ex nihilo) and c. essentially good.**

**2. There exists an unseen spiritual reality which is not limited to or defined by the physical reality. Human beings have a spiritual aspect to their nature.**

**3. The creator of both the physical and spiritual realm is the God who reveals himself in the Bible.**

**4. Human beings have both a physical and a spiritual nature, The spiritual nature is more essential as it is eternal.**

**5. God is not easily defined but he can be characterized by certain qualities. God is a person. God is love, God is just, God is holy, God is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent.**

**6. Although all God’s creation, including the physical world is good, evil does exist. Such evil is the result of freedom of will given to created beings and their subsequent decision to use that freedom to rebel--to “sin”**

**7. Because of God’s justice and his holiness, those who choose to rebel against him will ultimately be judged and separated from God for eternity.**

**8. The solution to evil, to sin and its eternal consequences is provided by God through the atoning substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ.**

**All of this is found in Genesis 1-4**

**Competing World Views (none of which are nearly as good in any of the three criteria of being true, answering the hard questions and making one a better person).**

* **Naturalism**
* **Postmodernism: No World View**
* **Deism**
* **Pantheism**
* **Animism/Polytheism**
* **Dualism**

**The Christian World View is true:**

* **The Universe is Real**
* **The creation is good.**
* **Evil exists.**
* **Despite what Naturalists say, there is a spiritual reality. For example, “I” exist. Consciousness is not simply an epiphenomenon.**
* **Science and the Christian world view do not contradict.**

**The Christian World View answers the hard questions:**

* **The Problem of Sin (the substitutionary death of Jesus)**
	+ **Romans 7:24,25**
* **The Problem of Suffering (compassion)**
	+ **Matthew 9:35-36**
* **The Problem of Death**
	+ **1 Corinthians 15:54-56**

**The Christian World View makes us better than we would be if we accepted any competing world view.**

**Most of the benevolent work, even in Buddhist, Hindu and other countries is done by Christians.**

The story of Genesis is the story of God and it is the story of Abraham—salvation by faith.

The story of Adam and Eve is the story of us. We had everything. God had just one command.

Love and free will.

**Genesis Chapter One and Creation**

Theories about Genesis 1 and creation:

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 a. How far away is that galaxy?

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 Problem: This is not the natural interpretation of “There was evening and there

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 Problems: This gap is very speculative. Does it really solve the science

problems? Where is the evidence of this recreation? Seems contrived. Ockham’s Razor.

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Bruce Waltke summarizes his own reflections on the literary genre of the passage:

. . .it is a literary-artistic representation of the creation. To this we add the purpose, namely, to ground the covenant people's worship and life in the Creator, who transformed chaos into cosmos, and their ethics in his creative order.

Problems: In denying chronology it seems to deny a chief feature of the account. If Genesis 1 is not historical, what about the rest of Genesis?

E. “Just a myth”

 Problems: Inconsistent with what we know of the rest of the Bible. Also, how do

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More on metaphorical days:

There is that pesky “evening and morning—the first day.” True, but be aware that this is a 2nd millennium BC Near Eastern document, not a 21st century Western document.

Ancient Near Easterners were not linear, analytical thinkers!!!

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Yes. It is a true myth.

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**The Flood**

The Flood Genesis 6-8. Another “true myth.”

Theories:

* Just another unfounded myth.
* Worldwide flood.
	+ With a “scientific” explanation
	+ A unique and completely miraculous event
* Local flood

1. Flood Geology. (The Genesis Flood by John Whitcomb and Henry Morris)

 Could a single flood lay down up to tens of thousands of feet of sediment?

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New Guinea

Aborigines of Australia

New Zealand

Iroquoi

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**VI. The Flood**

Going to mostly skip this. Partially because there is relatively little of positive apologetic value here. Nevertheless the Christian Apologist needs to be able to field questions about the flood.

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Genesis: Should reflect the world of Mesopotamia about 2000 BC, which is exactly what it does.

a. Laban goes after, not his daughters, but the family gods. Genesis 31:30 “Why did you steal my gods?”

b. Ebla tablets (2200 BC) mention Terug, Nahor, Abram, Sarai.

Etc…

1. Lot/Sodom and the league of five cities.

 Evidence of the judgment of God and of a fulfilled miracle.

What about Sodom and Gomorrah?  Bible: fairly well-watered, large cities

Lot got the good land!

League of5 cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, Zoar **(Genesis 14:2)**

Today:  SE corner of Dead Sea.  Total wasteland.

Archaeologists about 2000 BC Dead Sea twice as large, much wetter.

Evidence of intensive irrigation.

Guess how many wadis contain ruins of cities?  Five!!

All destroyed about 2100 BC by fire

Largest city Bab ed-Dhra (presumably Sodom) 3 ft thick ashes. Gomorah (Numeirah), as thick as 7 ft. ashes.

The graveyard .5 km from the city:  Burned from the top down!

This makes the reality of final judgment more convicting. It makes 2 Peter 2:6-10 come alive..

1. The source used for these creation myths is Daniel G. Brinton, *The Myths of the New World*, reprint of the 3rd ed. (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1974). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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