



Genesis 1

A Good and Sacred Creation

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An Overview of our Study

June 1	A Good and Sacred Creation	Genesis 1:1-2:4a
June 8	What Does It Mean to Be Human?	Genesis 2:4b-25
June 15	Disobedience and Estrangement— Of Humans and Creation	Genesis 3
June 22	Human Estrangement and Divine Restoration: Individual and Global	Genesis 4-9
June 29	The Scattering of the World and the Calling of a Patriarch	Genesis 11-15, 17
July 6	Obstacles, Threats, and Provisions	Gen 16, 18-22
July 13	Divine Visitation amid Human Strife	Genesis 28-33
July 20	The Greed of the Family: the Potential End of the Promise	Genesis 37-41
July 27	Joseph and the Hidden Hand of God	Genesis 42-50

Guiding Questions for Genesis 1

- ▶ What does this text confess about God?
- ▶ What does this text confess about the cosmos?
- ▶ What is the text attempting to teach us?

Genesis 1 as a Text

- ▶ Genre of Genesis 1?
- ▶ Liturgical Literature—even catechetical, “teaching”

Genesis 1:1-- The Opening Theological Claim

bereshit bara Elohim et hashamayim ve'et ha'aretz

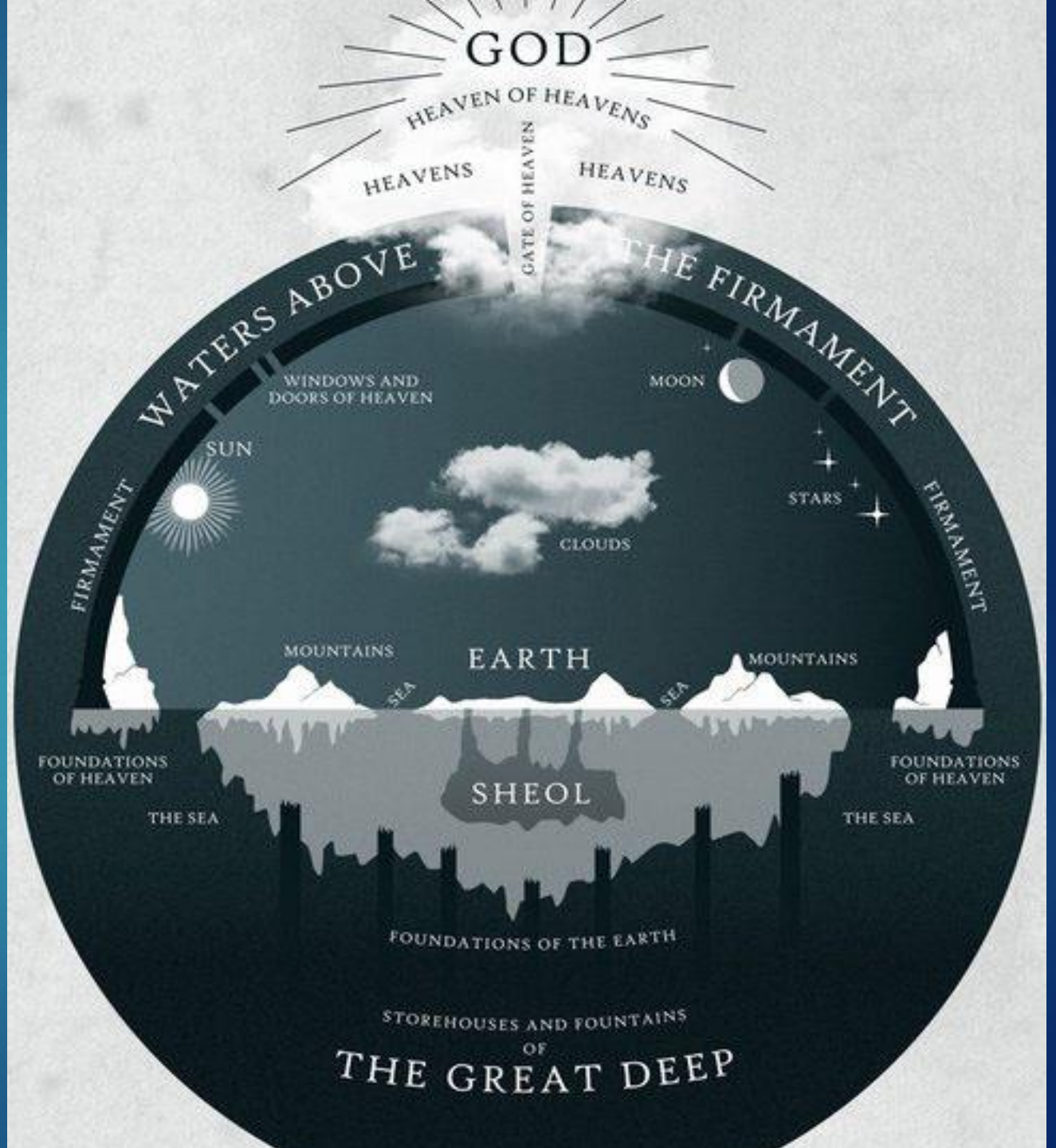
“In (the) beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”

- ▶ bara
- ▶ Elohim
- ▶ “the heavens and the earth”

Genesis 1:2— The Beginning of the Liturgy

The earth was formless and void (*tohu vavohu*),
and darkness was over the face of the deep,
and the wind of God hovered (*merehepheth*) over the face of
the waters.

Understanding Ancient Cosmology



The First Six Days of Creation

Domain Established

Domains Filled

Day 1 Light (1:3-5)	Day 4 lights (1:14-19)
Day 2 Sky, waters below (1:6-8)	Day 5 Aviary/marine line (1:20-23)
Day 3 Land and vegetation (1:9-13)	Day 6 Land animals/humans (1:24-31)

The Sabbath as Culmination

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Day 1 Light (1:3-5)	Day 4 lights (1:14-19)
Day 2 Sky, waters below (1:6-8)	Day 5 Aviary/marine line (1:20-23)
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Day 7 Creation and the Sabbath (2:1-3)	

The Sabbath Day

- ▶ "holy" or "sanctified"—the places where God dwells are sanctified or made holy
- ▶ "Sabbath" from the root meaning to "cease"—refers to the completion of a certain activity with which one has been occupied.
- ▶ "Rest"— "This is more a matter of engagement without obstacles rather than disengagement without responsibilities." (J. Walton)
- ▶ The Cosmos as God's Temple

Day 7 as Culmination of Creation

- ▶ 7 days of Creation
- ▶ 1:1 7 words
- ▶ 1:2 14 words
- ▶ 2:1-3 7th day -- 35 words
- ▶ 1:6-10 dividing and gathering the waters-- "waters" (*mayyim*) 7 times
- ▶ 1:20-23, 24-30-- "living creatures" (*hayya*)—7 times
- ▶ "Elohim" occurs 35 times
- ▶ "good"—7 times
- ▶ The entire narrative in Genesis 1 is 469 words—a factor of 7 (7x67).