

# The King and His Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:3

## A God-less World?

The American Carl Sagan is a well known world authority on the origin of the universe. He is also an atheist who has famously pronounced, "The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be." Materialism's creed is; "what you see is what you get". There is no God outside the "creation". Matter is all that exists matter which was once highly concentrated, then exploded with a "Big Bang", and eventually formed itself into life. We, and the world, are then a product of TIME + MATTER + CHANCE. We're an absurd accident, arisen by chemical chance and mathematical madness from the primordial slime. Carl Sagan mockingly concludes that, "the Christian God is an outsized, light-skinned male with a long white beard, sitting on a throne somewhere up there in the sky, busily tallying the fall of every sparrow."



1. If you believed you were merely a product of TIME + MATTER + CHANCE, what then is the meaning of life? Why would you get out of bed? In this view who becomes "God"?

## God's World

The creation account in Genesis stands in stark contrast. There is a creator God who creates with order and purpose, and who rules over His world.

Read through Genesis 1:1-2:3.

2. Verse 1 summarises what follows. Who created? When did He create? And what did He create?

3. The creation account is very structured and ordered. Write down any repeated patterns and phrases. And discuss what significance they each may have?

4. What do we learn about God and creation from the following;

- God speaks creation into existence?
- God names each part of creation?
- God describing creation as good?

5. In the first 3 days God “forms” the world, and in the last 3 days He “fills” the world. Write down what God creates on the different days in the table below, and then note any connections between them.

<b>FORMING</b>	<b>FILLING</b>
Day 1	Day 4
Day 2	Day 5
Day 3	Day 6

6. The structured pattern is broken on the 6<sup>th</sup> day. Creation reaches it's pinnacle in the making of Man in the image of God. The image is not exactly defined in these verses, but the concepts of relationship and rule are evident from the immediate context. How are they evident from verses 26-28, and can you find evidence for God being a personal and relational being?

7. The creation of Man is the pinnacle, but not the goal of creation. The 7<sup>th</sup> day is not an anti-climax, but reveals the end to which all creation is heading: Rest! God's purpose for Man and creation is Rest. What is the “rest” that Man and creation are meant to enjoy? And does Man and the world enjoy this rest?

8. Take a look at John 1:1-14. What similarities do you see with John's opening verses, and the beginning of Genesis?

What astounding claim is John making here?

Where does Jesus fit in God's creation?

Where do we fit with Jesus?

## **Application**

9. If you believe what Carl Sagan believes then life has no meaning and you are accountable to no-one. However, Carl and you and I will one day stand before the Lord of all creation and give an account for our lives. How is your view of God different from Carl's description of the Christian God? How will knowing that God is King of the World affect the way you live? How does an understanding of the image of God affect the way we should live? How does knowing God's purpose for the world affect the way you live? How does knowing Jesus is the King of the world affect the way we relate to Him?