



## GOD


### DAYS OF CREATION IN GENESIS ONE

<b>DAY 1</b> EARTH, SPACE, TIME & LIGHT	<b>DAY 2</b> ATMOSPHERE	<b>DAY 3</b> DRY LAND & PLANTS
<b>DAY 4</b> SUN, MOON & STARS	<b>DAY 5</b> SEA & FLYING CREATURES	<b>DAY 6</b> LAND ANIMALS & MAN






Very Good





Lord!  
GOD

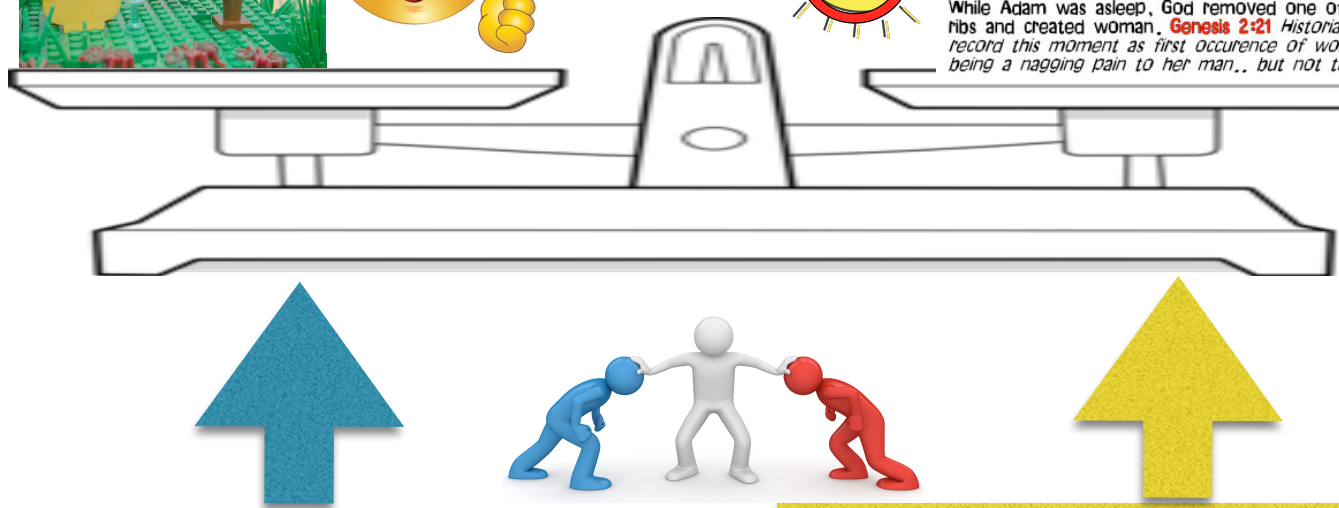
No Light. No Light




What if this leaves a scar people notice on the beach?



While Adam was asleep, God removed one of his ribs and created woman. **Genesis 2:21** Historians record this moment as first occurrence of woman being a nagging pain to her man.. but not the last.








Genesis 1:1-2:4

1. refers to Creator as "God"
2. concrete, structured report that world was created in 6 days with rest on seventh
3. detailed description of daily creations of God
4. God created Water first "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:2)
5. Next God created vegetation, animals, man and woman (at same time)
6. In God eyes His all His Creations are Good

Genesis 2:4-25

1. refers to Creator as "Lord God"
2. absence of description how or how long it took to create the world
3. absence of mention for God creating the sun, moon, light
4. world is created from dry, arid, ground: "Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain and the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground."
5. Man is created first, then Garden of Eden, the rest of the vegetation, the animals, then woman was created from Man's rib
6. God creates Tree of Life: "In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." God forbids Adam and Eve to eat the fruit of the tree



### **What are two important ideas about God that emerge from this exercise?**

I have mentioned in previous responses how intriguing I find engaging in these reflective analytic exercises comparing and contrasting stories of the gospel to unravel their teachings. I feel we miss out on these learning experience in high school as our analytical research skills are not developed which makes for decipher gospel teachings very difficult. The first important idea about God that emerges from this exercise is that in both versions of creation God is the creator. As Cooper (2003) states, God has given us our lives...the universe in which we grow towards wholeness...in the world. As a science teacher, in grade 9 unit of space, one of the expectations is to address theories about formations of the universe. Every year when I address this topic students are under the misconception that if you believe in the theory of the "Big Bang" you are "Not Catholic" or you are going against the teachings of the "Catholic Church". While Guinean (nd) address there may not be any scientific evidence tot he stories of Creation in Genesis 1 and 2, Cooper (2003) reinforces that scientific study of the universe is compatible with religious faith. This is further validated through Pope Francis (2014) as he provides support for scientific evidence in the Catholic faith at Casina of Pius IV where he states: "The Big Bang theory, which is proposed today as the origin of the world, does not contradict the intervention of a divine creator but depends on it. Evolution in nature does not conflict with the notion of Creation, because evolution presupposes the creation of beings who evolve." Accepting a theory of the formation of the universe such as the "Big Bang" is congruent with Creationism where time, space, all matter had their beginnings. Where there is Creation, there is destruction, where there is life there is death, where there is death there is resurrection.

The second important idea relates to our conception of the image of God. Cooper (2003) poses the query what image of God did the authors perceive in humanity...should we imagine God as a human, an old Jewish man?" Here the term image can be misleading to the reader as they interpret a real physical construct made up of atoms and molecules. However Cooper (2003) explains that God's image can be manifested through other human characteristics such as thoughts, feeling, and actions. Interpreting the gospel stories on creation in present time calls upon students to apply the Catholic graduate expectations of being a discerning believer and reflective creative thinker to gather evidence to support how they see their faith.

### **From your own reading of these stories, what is your understanding of original sin?**

Prior to these readings I would have responded to this question as original sin being born with the sins of Adam and Eve disobeying God's request and eating the fruit from the Tree of Life in Genesis 2. However after reading "Language of the Heart" chapter 9, I have gained new insight on the interpretation of original sin. Cooper (2003) refers to original sin as "the sinful heritage of humanity". Meaning that there will be a perpetual temptation to not act congruently with teachings of the gospel, however if we strive to live life through the path of Jesus we can repent for forgiveness and continue to spread the Good word.

### References

Cooper, N. (2003). *Language of the heart: how to read the Bible*. Toronto: Novalis.

Genesis 1:1-2;4. Oremus Bible Browser. Simon Kershaw, 10 Feb. 2011. Web. 15 Feb. 2016. <<http://bible.oremus.org/>>.

Genesis 2:4-25. Oremus Bible Browser. Simon Kershaw, 10 Feb. 2011. Web. 15 Feb. 2016. <<http://bible.oremus.org/>>.

Guinan, M. (nd). Cretonism: What's a Catholic to do?. *Catholic Update: Update your faith*. Retrieved from <http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac1007.asp> 15 February 2016.

Francis. (2014). Address of his holiness Pope Francis on the occasion of the inauguration of the bust in honour of Pop Benedict XVI. *Plenary session of the pontifical academy of sciences*. [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2014/october/documents/papa-francesco\\_20141027\\_plenaria-accademia-scienze.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2014/october/documents/papa-francesco_20141027_plenaria-accademia-scienze.html) 15 February 2016.