

What A Touch!

Presentation Handout

Nuance Regarding God's Name in the Creation Story

- Interestingly, two names used for God...
 - “God” {**Genesis 1**} – in the Hebrew “Elohim,” which means “God; the Almighty”—the all-powerful God who can do anything, just speaking creation into existence.

DAY 1	“God said, ‘Let there be light...there was light.’” {v. 3}
DAY 2	“God said, ‘Let there be a firmament....’” {v.6}
DAY 3	“God said, ‘Let the water..., let dry land appear...it was so.’” {v. 9}
DAY 4	“God said, ‘Let there be lights...let them be....’” {v. 14-15}
DAY 5	“God said, ‘Let the waters abound... let birds fly....’” {v. 20}
DAY 6	“God said, ‘Let the earth....’” {v. 24} “God said, ‘Let Us make man.....’” {v. 26}

- “Lord God” {**Genesis 2**} – in the Hebrew “Yahweh,” which means “the faithful covenant-keeping God”—the God who is personal, present, close, and caring.

Creation—God is Personal & Present

- **Genesis 2:7** reveals a Creator-God who bends down on His “knees” to create human beings from the ground with the personal touch of a potter {**Isaiah 64:8**}—willing to get dirt under His “fingernails”—then breathing the breath of life into them—you have to be close to do this, like CPR.
- Specific ways God is personal and present in human beings’ lives:
 - God knows everything about us personally—even before our conception and birth, the future before us, our joys and sorrows, etc. {**Exodus 3:6-14; Psalm 139**}.
 - God “holds” our hands with His “hand” {**Isaiah 41:10, 13**} and even “carries” us when needed {**Isaiah 40:27-31**}.
 - God suffers with human beings when they suffer {**Isaiah 63:9**}.
 - God numbers each of our hairs, not just knows the total number {**Matthew 10:29-31; Luke 12:6-7**}.
- God’s personal touch and presence in the lives of human beings reveals a divine condescending humility—God is humble!! Revealed by the fact:
 - God self-describes Himself by using the names of mere human beings—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob {**Genesis 28:10-[13]** -> **John 1:51; Exodus 3:6, 15-16; 4:5**} reminding us of God’s covenant faithfulness.
 - God comes to human beings to pursue, convict, and/or investigate issues with them, many times sinful messes—like Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden after sin {**Genesis 3:8-9**}, after Cain’s sins {**Genesis 4:6-7, 9-12, 15**}, the Tower of Babel builders {**Genesis 11:5-7**}, and to rescue the children of Israel from Egyptian captivity and lead them in the wilderness {**Exodus 3 onward**}.

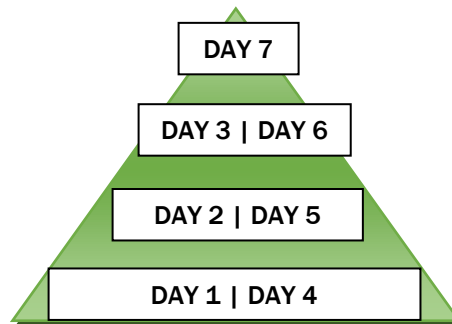
- God stands before Abraham (inferred in the original translators' notes) listening to his pleas for the people of Sodom & Gomorrah {**Genesis 18:[22]-33**}.
- God comes down in-person on Mt. Sinai to speak to the children of Israel to give them the 10 Commandments {**Exodus 20:1-19; Deuteronomy 4:7-12**}.

Re-Creation—God's Personal Presence to Redeem

- God personal presence with humans took an amazing turn in the Godhead's salvation plan for them:
 - Jesus (God) came in-person to our Earth taking on humanity to save sinful humans {**Matthew 1:21, 23**}.
 - Jesus (God) humbled Himself to take on humanity {**Philippians 2:5-7**}.
 - Jesus (God) was willing to die on the Cross to save sinful humanity {**Philippians 2:8**}.
 - The Godhead was willingly "torn apart/asunder" for our salvation, even for eternity, so humans could be saved {**Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34**}.
 - Jesus shares His throne with the redeemed human beings {**Revelation 3:20-[21]**}.
 - The Godhead will spend eternity with the redeemed human beings in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth—the "black sheep" planet {**Revelation 21:1-[3]**}.
- This is the greatest, clearest revelation of the Creator-God's personal presence with humans—His humility and suffering for sinful human beings' salvation!

Creation—God's Purpose/Plan

- In God's personal presence with humanity we see revealed a purpose/plan as He created.



DAY 7 - 7 th -Day {2:1-3}			
DAY 3	Dry land {1:9-10} Vegetation {1:11-13}	Land animals {1:24-25} Humans {1:26-28}	DAY 6
DAY 2	Firmament {1:6-8} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sky ▪ Seas 	{1:20-23} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birds ▪ Fish 	DAY 5
DAY 1	Light of God {1:1, 3}	Lights—sun, moon, stars {1:14-19}	DAY 4

- God's creative purpose is a transformational pattern/process from disorder/brokenness -> order/wholeness, which leads to completeness in His purpose for His creation.
- It's God's personal presence that creates this outcome for His creation!

- The same divine, creative ordering/completing in the physical creating is needed for sinful human beings' salvation/re-creation because they cannot do it themselves {*Exodus 31:12-13; Ezekiel 20:12*}.
- God's ultimate plan for this "ordering" in human beings' lives is to connect with them {*Exodus 33:14; Psalm 104:31-35*}, particularly on the 7th-day which is His sign/promise pledge He can and will do this "ordering" in their lives, if they let Him!

REFLECTION:

- God did all He could have done for human beings to be with Him through creation and re-creation/redemption—ultimately dying to provide salvation for them!!
- God really, really wants to be with you—like a good friend who can't wait to spend time with their best friend—doing whatever it takes within His nature and character to make this happen!!

How does it feel to know God cares about you personally wanting to be closely connected with you as if you were the only person on planet Earth?

ADDENDUM

*Why I don't personally believe in evolution as a model/explanation for the origin of our world.
This is not meant to "create" arguments or belittle anyone else!*

1. The intricate design of our world and human beings is too complicated to develop through random chance or blind natural selection.
 - Charles Darwin confessed it was "absurd" to propose the human eye evolved through spontaneous mutation and natural selection.
 - The complicity of the human DNA cannot be explained by this model/process.
2. Since science is defined as the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment, evolution cannot be scientifically proved since no scientist lived billions of years ago nor can the same experiment conditions be replicated.
 - In reality science is a philosophy of the origin of life (much like creation) that does not involve a personal Divine Being—God.
 - So, it takes faith to believe in science like it does for the biblical creation model.
3. Something (the physical world) does not come from nothing—you **CANNOT** have a "divine spark" without an Intelligent Designer/God.
 - No scientific experiment has proven otherwise.
 - Billions, upon billions of years will **NOT** change this fact.