

SMALL GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

22 June 2025, Scottsville Community Church, 9 am

SERIES: Genesis 1-11: Law or hope?

TOPIC: The order of God's faithfulness

READING: Genesis 1:1-31

OUTLINE:

- The context: law or hope of both
 - The facts: Elohim did all this!
 - The message: Great is Thy faithfulness!
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ICEBREAKER

In the sermon, I made the following claim:

'The situation that led to the author writing a Bible book is probably more important than the name of the author.'

What's your view on this? Why would the knowledge of the author be also important?

THE TEXT: Genesis 1:1-31

1. THE CONTEXT – law of hope or both?

Two theories were presented to you on the possible situation that led to the writing of Genesis 1.

- (a) *Let's consider the first theory*, that Israel would have wanted to know from Moses who is the God of the 10 commandments. How is knowledge of God (and relationship with God) related to the obedience of his commands? Please share from your own experience.
- (b) *About the second theory*, that Genesis 1 addresses the questions and despair of the exiles who would want to know how a good God allowed the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile. Have you recently been through a situation that prompted you to ask similar questions? What help do you need from us?

2. THE FACTS – Elohim did all this!

Genesis 1:1 makes a bold claim that Elohim created the heavens and the earth! Elohim obviously existed before the beginning. He is eternal. He is almighty.

- (a) The parallels between the days of creation are obvious. Day 1 parallels with Day 4, Day 2 with Day 5, and Day 3 with Day 6. What does this teach us about Elohim?
- (b) The sentences ‘And God saw ...good’ and ‘Evening...morning, the ...day’ are hard to miss. God is pleased with his accomplishments. It is obviously very difficult for honest Christians to insert ‘millions of years ago’ in this account. It is best to take these as 6 literal 24-hour days. How, for instance, would plants (created in Day 3) survive for millions of years without the sun (Day 4 creation)? If Genesis 1 is not referring to literal 24-hour days, what does this say about the message of the Bible, hermeneutical methods used to study the entire Bible and about its inspiration?
- (c) There is order in the created world. For example, the sun, moon and the stars never fail to execute their God-given tasks. As a result, we can plan ahead, grow crops and do business. This order speaks of God’s faithfulness in upholding the universe so that life on earth is predictable. How is this encouragement to you in 2025?
- (d) Is Science opposed to the God or does it serve his purposes? Where do you, in your current job, fit in the whole picture of what God is doing in the world today?

3. THE MESSAGE – Great is Thy faithfulness!

We ended our worship service with a worship song: Great is Thy faithfulness.

- (a) Read James 1:17 and the third stanza of this great hymn. There is an obvious disconnect between our theology and the songs we sing. What can our little church do to encourage the young and the old to compose such Bible-based songs?
- (b) Google a song ‘**You call out the stars**’ by Aiden Whitaker. Aiden goes to Onelife Church in this city. Why not sing along with Aiden to end this session on a song that reminds you of the greatness of God?