

Giving Our World & Lives Shape

Genesis 1:1-2:1

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What comes to your mind when you think about Genesis 1?

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- What type of book is Genesis:
 - It contains prose, and narrative stories, poetry and symbolism, history (not the same as ours today), and more.
 - It is not a 21st century scientific text.

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- “Ex nihilo” is a word not found in the Bible. It is a word theologians came up with in order to combat other beliefs systems and to explain what the Bible teaches about creation.
- It first appeared in the late 2nd-3rd century AD to combat gnosticism and greek philosophies and again in the 19th century to combat evolution.
- Throughout the Bible it teaches that God created everything that exists or has ever existed.

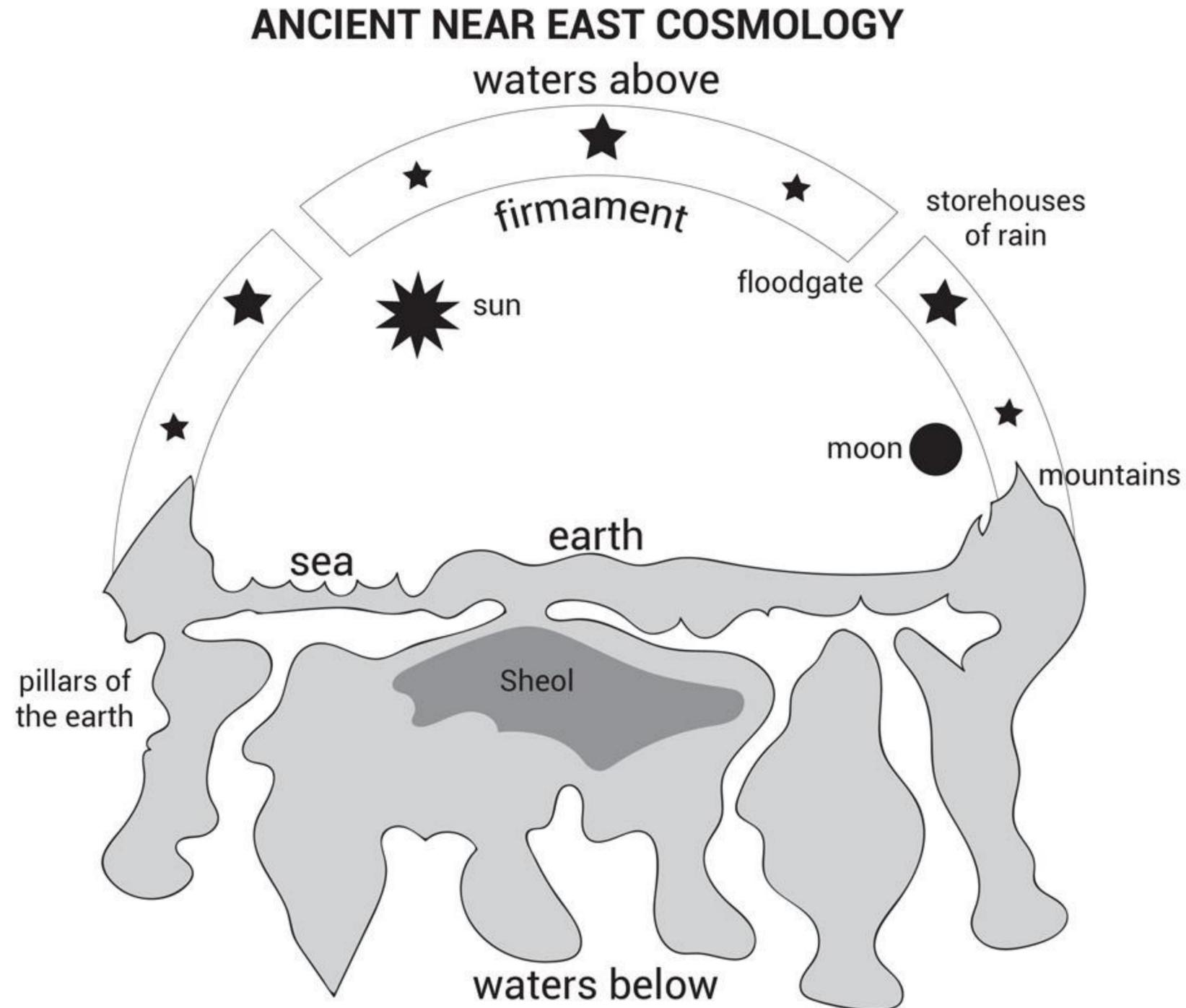
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- The earth was formless and empty.
- Genesis tells us how God gave the earth form/structure and filled it.
- There is a somewhat poetic pattern and repetition of words in Genesis 1.
- There is what God says and then someone narrates what happened.

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- Day 1: God creates light and darkness.
- Day 2: God sets a vault in the sky to separate the waters above from the water below.
- Day 3: God creates seas and dry ground and vegetation
- Day 4: God creates the sun, moon, and stars. Fills the sky.
- Day 5: God creates fish and birds to fill the sky and seas.
- Day 6: God creates animals and humans to fill the land.
- Day 7- God rests.

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- Human beings:
- Made in God's image and likeness.
- Made them as male and female.
- Given the job of exercising rule and dominion over birds, fish, and animals.
- Told to multiply and fill the earth.

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- We are created in God's image & likeness but are not gods ourselves.
- We are meant to represent God- His character and heart as we rule and exercise dominion. But not over each other.
- Neither man nor women more fully represents God or is superior to the other. Both are created in God's image.

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- Genesis teaches that there is 1 God who created everything.
- Every other “god” is merely a created thing at best.
- God created a good world with structure and order.
- Humanity meant to govern and exercise rule over creation
- Polytheistic world with gods struggling to control creation.
- Creation is chaotic and random- as are the gods.
- The world is inherently bad
- Humans are meant to serve the gods as the gods see fit.

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- What about us today?
- We still live in a polytheistic world. We worship at the altars of the gods of war, love, consumption, knowledge, festivals/parties.
- The world and our lives can at times seem chaotic, random, and out of anyone's control.
- Genesis reshapes how we see the world and our lives around the 1 Creator God who is all powerful and sovereign over all creation. God brings structure to our lives and fills our lives with good things.

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- Hear God's invitation to see life Genesis declares:
 - God of the Bible is the only God who is powerful and over all things.
 - He is a God who gives structure and fills our lives with good things.
 - All humanity has value and worthy because all are made in God's image. No one is more or less despite what labels are applied or what anyone else says.