



Genesis 1:1-2:3 (Jonathan Mitchell)

Why Study Genesis?

Every story has a beginning, a middle and an end!

The seven big ideas of the Bible

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Context is everything!

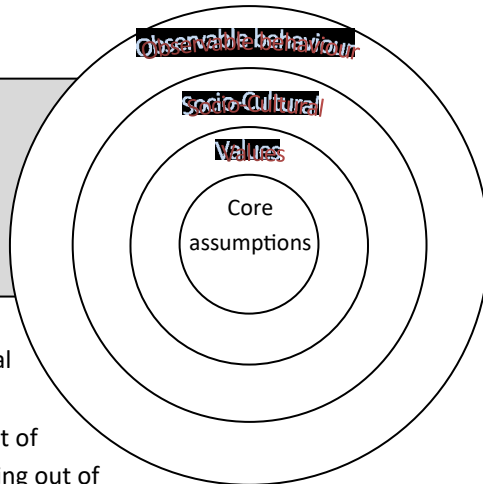
Historical Context

- Conquering and settling the promised land
- Surrounded by hostile nations and religions

Comparison of Genesis 1 with other ANE creation accounts helps our study of Genesis in two primary ways:

1. Understanding Worldview

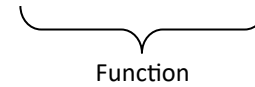
Worldview is the tacitly and emotionally held core assumptions about the nature of reality that form a grid through which one interprets and by which one relates to all aspects of life



- material worldview v functional worldview
- Genesis 1 is “about order out of chaos” rather than “everything out of nothing” - “now the earth was...”

Three days in parallel to three days

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



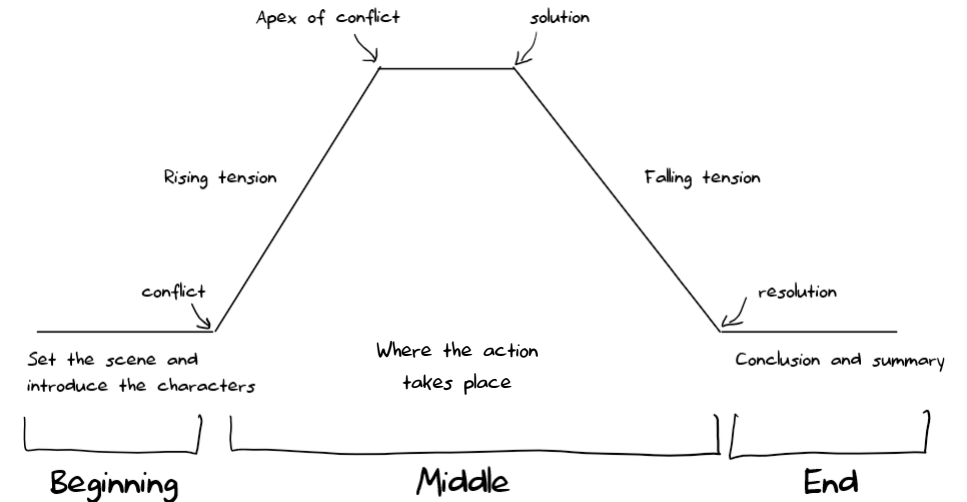
2. Reading Genesis 1 as Polemic

1. The nature of the chaos
2. The nature and status of the gods
3. The place of humanity
4. Creation and Temple (the dome)

Literary Context

The Significance of genre

Understanding how narrative works





Narrative (Gen 1)

within a narrative (Genesis)

within a narrative (Bible)

Narrative...

Analysing the narrative of Genesis 1

Who are the actors? (identify the protagonist and the antagonist)

Identify the tension in the narrative

Always look for repetition and patterns (often points us to the main point)

God said...

God saw...

God called...

And there was evening and there was morning

How is the tension resolved? The 1, 2, 3 of creation

1.

2.

3.

So what is the point of the story?

...within a narrative

Good and evil

Blessings and curses

The nature of true authority

The author

The authorized

A story with no end...

WWPD?

The first principle

The first tool

The Seventh Day

A broken pattern

...within a narrative

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

(Mat 28:18-20)