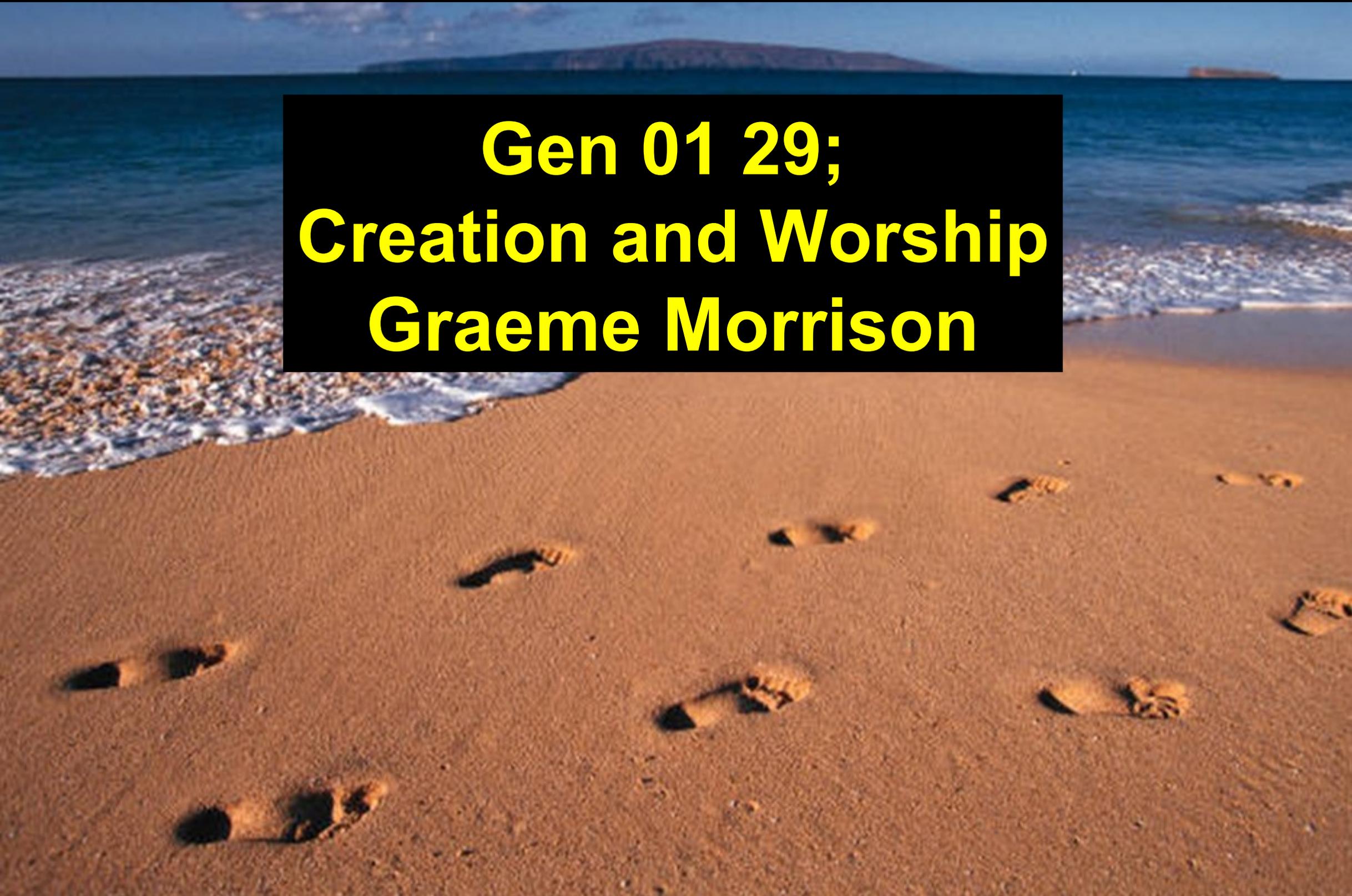


Patriarchal Age- before the flood.

**Gen 01 29;
Creation and Worship
Graeme Morrison**



Introductory Thought

Some of the most **debated questions** asked about the Christian faith demands that we go back to **the creation account to understand what God expects from man and why.**

Is all of mankind really obligated to worship God? Why or why not?

Is the non-Christian who never heard of God liable for his knowledge of God?

We hope to find solid answers as we look at the Creation and how it leads to the Worship of God in Genesis 1:1-2:3;

A) The Worship of the Creator.

The glorious attributes of God are clearly projected into a permanent record in the Genesis creation account:

God's power and eternal nature, His love, beauty and goodness, His order and purposes.

No doctrinal statement is as powerful as the record of **God's mighty works** in Genesis 1.

"Genesis 1, the **most amazing composition in all the world's literature**, using only 76 different word forms fundamental to all mankind, arranged in **a wonderful poetical pattern** yet free from any highly coloured figures of speech.

It provides the perfect opening to God's book and **establishes all men really need to know of the facts of creation.**

The Creation account given in Genesis 1:1 to 2:3 is one of the most action packed bits of information known to man.

Reading each verse of Genesis 1 is like walking down a long corridor. Every couple of words forms a doorway on ones left or right. Each door has on it a 'film trail' (introduction) of some gigantic event.

Once we start watching it, our hands invariably reach to open the door so that we can peer in for a closer look.

**No man could have invented it:
it is as great a marvel as a plant or a bird.**

It is God's handwork, sufficient for Hebrew children or Greek thinkers or Latin Christians; for medieval knights or modern scientists or little children .. rich or poor, simple or learned - sufficient for all!

**Only God could write such a chapter ... and He did.“
Frederick Filby, professor of Chemistry in England.**

But on this page, we must try to keep
an overall perspective of the main teachings being given.

Let's note three special reasons we should worship Him
with our whole heart, mind and soul.

God is our Maker, Designer and Provider

God is interested in our lives.

**He desires the increase of blessing in our lives
and has created a world to provide fulfill that goal.**

(God does have other goals as well).

As our Maker, God brought us into existence.

**As our Designer, He has seen through
all the details of our lives.**

**As our Provider, He adequately
provides for all our genuine needs.**

And God blessed them;

And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28;)

We have so much to thank God for in every area of our lives. We owe Him all.

Man is designed to have a special relationship with God. His worship stems from his total dependence upon God. His appreciation comes from recognizing what good things God has given to him.

His security derives from knowing God’s beautiful arrangement of provision for man.

God Shapes our Purpose

Man is expected like the rest of creation
to **completely follow along with God's plan.**

Genesis 1 breaks through the many barriers man has put up making excuses as to why man does not obey God, by presenting how intimately God is involved in our lives.

God is not just an abstract thought.

He is deeply involved in our lives by first equipping us for His mission and then calling us to fulfill His purpose.

Our life's purpose is to CONFORM to His purpose.

This intimate relationship with man is extended much further by the special way man was made able to communicate and closely relate with God.

God designed man to live ACCORDING to His will not against it.

Man's greatest knowledge will come from understanding his life in relationship with God's purpose for him.

Man's greatest peace will come from living in harmony with God's purpose for him.

Our understanding of God, the world and man largely comes through the Genesis creation account.

We are not saying there are no other teachings, but when we think of the overall picture Genesis 1:1- 2:3; is invaluable to our clear understanding.

We will look at six lessons we learn about God:

1) God's Name:- Although nothing is directly said of God, we gain an immense understanding through what He did and said.

The word 'God' is used 34 times alone in Genesis 1:1-2:3. Some suggest this plural Hebrew word 'Elohim' is used to indicate the Trinity (plurality in unity). Others suggest it is a plural of majesty.

The shortened form **'el'** is often seen on the end of names such as **Joel**.

No one seriously suggests that one should **translate Elohim as gods** because every time it takes a singular verb form.

Only starting in **2:4** is God's name, **'LORD'** (Yahweh) used when it speaks of **personal relationship and fellowship**.

**2) God's Word God is separate from nature.
God is not creation.**

**He abides in creation as much as His purpose and design
and provision is given to it.
God existed before the universe.**

**The universe was something He created.
The creation did, however, come from God's Word.
God spoke, and it came into being.**

**The phrase 'Then God said, Let ...' occurs eight times;
The phrase 'God said' occurs ten times.**

**We see a whole series of commands from God
creating matter, time, order and changes.
God also spoke to man in verses 28-29;**

**Psalm 19; takes the same pattern
dividing what God spoke with His works
with the words He spoke to man.**

**He WARNS us of the consequences of disobedience.
Everything else He said came about as He directed.
Man should ALSO follow the direction of God's Words.**

**Gen 1:3; Then God said, “Let there be light”;
and there was light.**

**Gen 1:6; Then God said, “Let there be an expanse
in the midst of the waters,
and let it separate the waters from the waters.”**

**Gen 1:9; Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens
be gathered into one place,
and let the dry land appear”; and it was so.**

**Gen 1:11; Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation,
plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind,
with seed in them, on the earth”; and it was so.**

**Gen 1:14; Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse
of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be
for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years;**

Gen 1:20; Then **God said**, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.”

Gen 1:24; Then **God said**, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind” and it was so.

Gen 1:26; Then **God said**, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Gen 1:28; And God blessed them; and **God said** to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Gen 1:29; Then **God said**, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

3) God's Thoughts:-

Five times we see the phrase '**God called.**'

God was defining things for us.

He was aiding us in our understanding of things.

Once God calls something in its descriptive way,
man is obligated to use this understanding
to think and define those objects.

Gen 1:5; And **God called** the light day.

Gen 1:5; And the darkness **He called** night.

Gen 1:8; And **God called** the expanse heaven.

Gen 1:10; And **God called** the dry land earth,
and the gathering of the waters He called seas.

Gen 1:10; And the gathering of the waters
He called seas.

**God's thoughts become our thoughts.
Man is called to shape his thoughts after God's.**

We need to **note, though, that in 2:19; and 2:23;
God actually gave man the authority and privilege
to '**call**' the animals their own names.**

In 2:23; **man actually names '**woman.**'
This granting of man such authority should caution us
to be aware of the **power and influence of words.****

4) God's Power:-

Nothing awes us so much as **God's ability** to do what He says. **This is real authority and power.**

Two words stand out in this Genesis 1:1-2:3; passage:
created (barah) and made ('asah).

Create gives us the sense of 'out of nothing.'
While '**made**' speaks more of **forming and shaping.**

This however is not so evident
when we look at the actual word usage.

We only can conclude that the **more 'creative'**
demanding works such as **sea monsters and man**
was the word 'create' used.

Gen 1:1; In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth.

Gen 1:21; And God **created** the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Gen 1:27; And God **created** man in His own image, in the image of God He **created** him; male and female He **created** them.

Gen 1:7; And God **made** the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

Gen 1:16; And God **made** the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He **made** the stars also.

Gen 1:25; And God **made** the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind...

Gen 1:31; And God saw all that He had **made**, and behold, it was very good. ...

Gen 2:3; Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had **created** and **made**.

**When we begin to understand our mighty God,
It humbles us that this same powerful God would
deal so graciously and kindly with His creatures.**

**Usually power stands for impatient. In this case, however,
God's power enables Him to be utterly patient and kind.**

If God is so gracious and kind, we ought to be the same way.

**"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count
slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any
to perish but for all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9;)**

5) God's Goodness:-

Seven times the phrase, 'God saw that it was good' is used to describe **what God thought of His work.**
(Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31;)

If **what a person produces** characterizes his inner self, then we can truly say that God is good.

God is good **because He does good things.**
He sees His work as that which is absolutely wonderful.

Non-Christians confirm this by saying that **the only problem with this world is man.**
(by man is meant fallen and sinful man).

**Creation is not mother-nature;
it is God's goodness made manifest.
This is why understanding the creation of the world
is so important.**

**If people can see God's goodness in what they see
around them, then they might tend to seek Him.**

**From Romans we find that this world lies under a curse.
So even all the goodness that we find in the earth
is still held back from revealing its fully glory.**

**"For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly
for the revealing of the sons of God. for the creation was
subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him
who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will
be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom
of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:19-21;)**

6) God's Wisdom

Lastly we must note that

God was perfectly satisfied at the whole of creation.

Everyone always has another project around the corner
to make things better.

God however used the seventh day to rest.

This thought of taking a day off because everything is
done to its completion is beyond our comprehension.

God knew everything was complete. Nothing was lacking.

The world and His redemptive plan was set in motion.

"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed,
and all their hosts. And by the seventh day God
completed His work which He had done; and He rested
on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it,
because in it He rested from all His work
which God had created and made." (Genesis 2:1-3;)

The pattern for us, then, is **never to rush about
Completing singular projects while missing
the beautiful completeness of what has been done.**

**Never rush about life so that we do not pause.
Never operate as a cog in a machine**

**For we were designed
to reflect, enjoy and worship.**

Having received everything man or woman might ever want, who would think that they would choose to distrust God in His care of giving them His very best.

This sets the stage for yet a still greater show of God's great love for man.

God is our Deliverer

The problem of man's discontent with God's will does not appear until Genesis 3.

There man fell and was cast from God's presence.

Everything good was stripped from him.

Since man was designed to live in perfect dependence upon God for all things, the moment he stopped trusting in God, worries and fears set in.

**One would think their fall would end everything.
After all, God did say that man would die.**

**Instead we find God providing clothes for man.
We see that God made a promise to them
for some kind of delivery.**

**We see that God still patiently
worked with man through early history
all to our complete amazement.**

**This is what the rest of Genesis records,
indeed, even the whole of scriptures
until The Deliverer would come,
the Promised Messiah, even Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Jesus Christ would be the second Adam,
in which through our faith and obedience to Christ,
we can be God's children and live as coheirs
with Christ to rule with Him forever.**

**Joy, love, excitement can again fill man's heart
as we embraces God's second opportunity.
Will we be those who reject His purpose**

or

**Trusting in His infinite love will we
humble our hearts and embrace His will as our own?**

When we grasp this idea that **we can actually reflect God's glory and purpose through our lives here on earth,** then we truly understand the implications of being made in the image of God.

We therefore **seek God's purpose in our own lives rather than our own.**

Worship of God then is the only proper response to our understanding of His creation.

True worship affirms God's person and will by agreeing and complying with it.

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**Next in the series:-
Gen 02; Adam**