



# PHF ELITE SCHOOLS

EDUCATION SKILLS FOR ALL

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## The Primeval History - Genesis 1 – 11

### Is creation a Story or a Myth?

- All religions and philosophies look at the origins in order to understand the nature of the world and man using “mythical” accounts.
- In Polytheistic myth, the basic issues of life and death are presented in stories about the gods, who are themselves, representations of these realities. (e.g. Warumbe-Death, Ddungu – God of wilderness and hunting in the Kiganda creation myth)
- Biblical “myth” explains: the world and humanity as works of the one supreme Lord.
- Genesis 1-11 addresses fundamental characteristics of human life we need to answer:
  - Why do we exist? -Who is in charge? -Who are we related to? -What are our duties? -Why do we die?

The creation of the world - [Genesis 1](#)

Many Creation stories existed in the Ancient Near East (e.g. the Babylonian Enuma Elish). However the Biblical account is unique because it shows the sovereignty of the One God over all Creation.

- God was not born nor was any part of the world born out of his body.
- He always existed.
- Created everything by His spoken word.

### **READ Gen [1:1-2:4](#)**

God does not create all at once but orders the cosmos in a progression of events, more logical than chronological manner according to common principles of observation. The creation is like a great symphony, with separately crafted movements carrying forward one great theme.

There are **SIX** distinct acts of ordering the world between the beginning of Creation and the Sabbath.

- On Days 1-3, the space of the universe from formless to form:
  - Darkness and light, night and day (Day 1);
    - Sea and sky, separated by the atmosphere (Day 2);
    - Sea and land with ground cover (Day 3).
- Days 4-6 the spaces formed in Days 1-3 are assigned rulers that move in their particular elements:
  - Sun, moon, and stars rule the day and night (Day 4)
  - Fish and birds rule the sea and sky (Day 5)
  - Animals and man rule the land (Day 6)

### **The Logic of Creation Pattern**

- (I) Beginning is not dated, it is infinite and timeless

(II) Day 1 darkness and light; night and day – to be ruled by Sun, Moon and Stars of day 4.

(III) Day 2 Sea and Sky; separated by the atmosphere – ruled by Fish and Birds of day 5.

(iv) Day 3 sea and land with ground cover –ruled by animals and man of day 6.

(V) Day 7- God Rested

### **The Climax of Creation**

The creation of man and woman in God’s image is the climax of God’s unfolding plan. The “image and likeness of God” has been understood in terms of certain qualities shared by God and man:

- Wisdom or rationality (perception)
- Sociability, capacity for relationships;
- Lordship, capacity for free decision;
- External appearance (cf. [Ezek 1:26](#)).