



# ***Bible Basics Conference***

## **Genesis 1-12**

Session 2: The spiritual meaning of Genesis 1

Michael Hardt

10 November 2012  
[www.biblecentre.org](http://www.biblecentre.org)

# ***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.***

## ***Gen 1:1***

### **Genesis**

- Beginnings
- The 'seed plot of the Bible'

### **Exodus**

- Redemption

### **Leviticus**

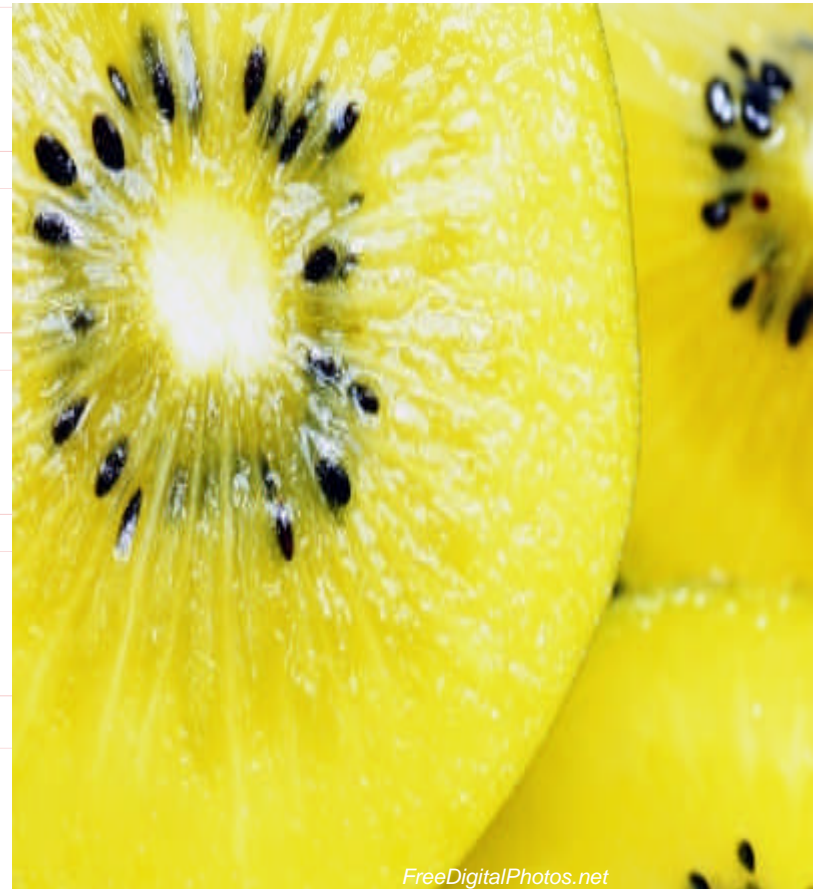
- Approach to God

### **Numbers**

- Wilderness Journey

### **Deutero- nomy**

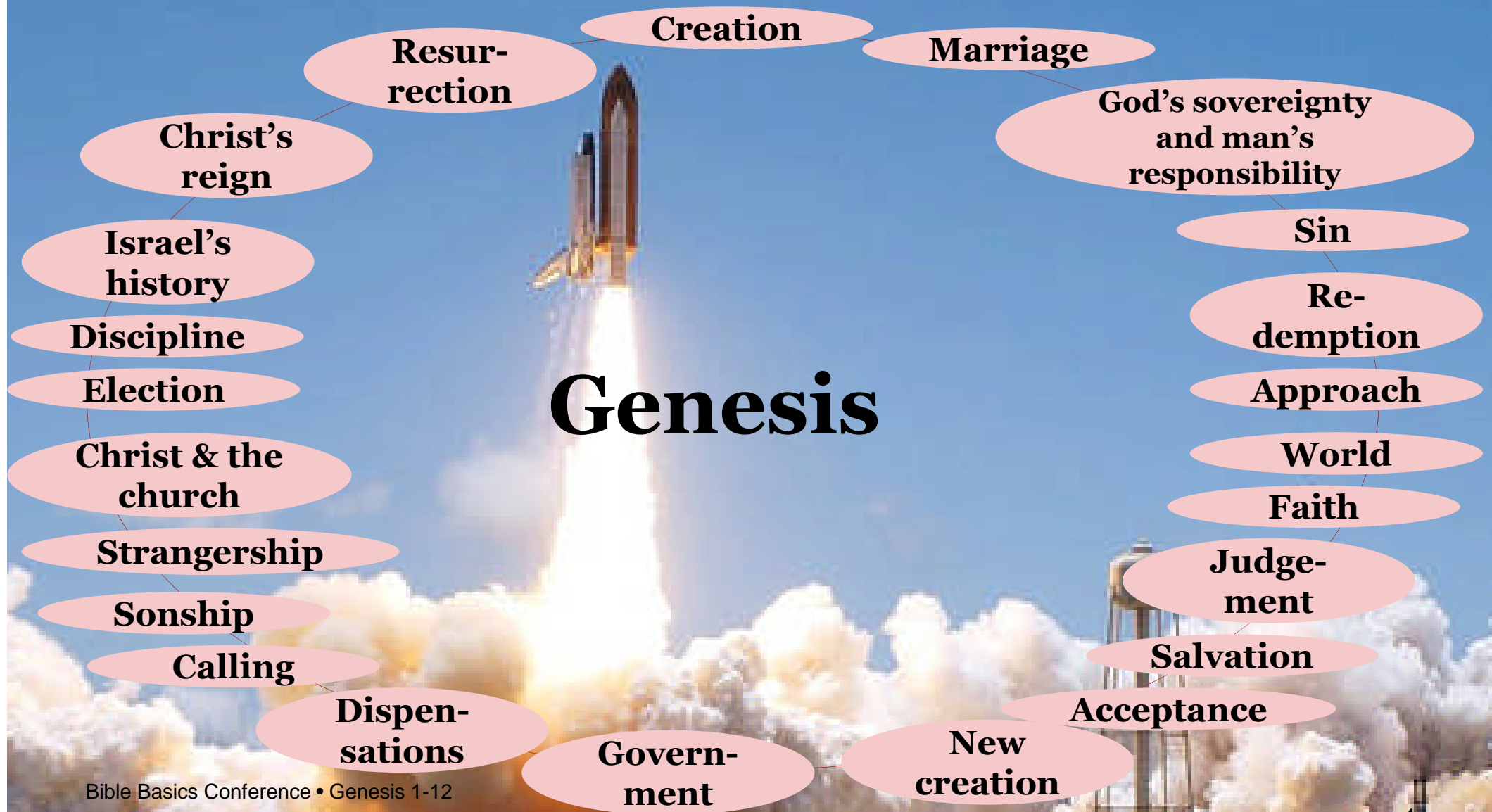
- Retrospect and outlook



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*Did you know...*

*... that all these principles can be found in the book of Genesis?*



## ***Genesis 1 is a literal account***

**‘God’ – not chance**

**‘created’ – not evolved**

**‘after its kind’ - not  
evolving from one  
species into another**

**‘Days’ – not ages**

**‘Adam’ – a real man,  
not just a figure**



## ***Genesis 1 – no spiritual meaning?***

How do you explain...?

**Days 1 and 4: light**  
**Days 2 and 5: water**  
**Days 3 and 6: earth**



**A double work only on:**

- **day 3 and day 6**

**On these days, God speaks twice.**

**The report is selective – only about 1 page long.**

**It's very specific about some aspects but not about others. Why?**

**'Good'**

**Day 1: 'good'**

**Day 2: --**

**Day 3: 'good' (2x)**

**Day 4: 'good'**

**Day 5: 'good'**

**Day 6: 'good' (2x), of which once 'very good'**

**On day 1, it does not say that God 'made' the light – why not?**

**Light on day 1 – sun, moon and stars on day 4! Why?**

## ***Genesis 1 – no spiritual meaning?***

“What saith the Scripture?”

**2 Cor. 4:6**

- ‘Because it is the God who **spoke** that out of darkness light should shine who has shone in our hearts for the shining forth of the **knowledge of the glory of God** in the face of Jesus Christ.’

**2. Cor. 5:17**

- ‘So if any one be in Christ, there is a new creation’

**Eph. 1:22**

- and has put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the assembly

**1. Cor. 12:13**

- ‘so also is the Christ’
- In connection with Gen. 1: 26.27: “Let us make man ...And God created Man ...; male and female created he them.”

**Exod. 20:11**

- ‘For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore Jehovah blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.’



## ~~Day 1~~ ***'Let there be light' (verse 3)***

### **Gen. 1:3.4**

And God said, Let there be light. And there was light.  
And God saw the light that it was good;  
and God divided between the light and the darkness.

- **Light and Darkness used as figure of spiritual state:**
  - Once: no knowledge of God or self: Eph. 5:8;
  - Now: Col. 1:13; 1 Thess. 5:4.5; 1 Pe 2:9; 2 Cor. 4:6
- Light – shows things as they are: Eph. 5:13
- In our hearts there was **waste / emptiness**: nothing that could please God
- But the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters (v. 2)
- These two elements characterise new birth: water and Spirit (John 3:5)



## ***Day 2: 'Let there be an expanse' (verse 6)***

**Gen. 1:7**

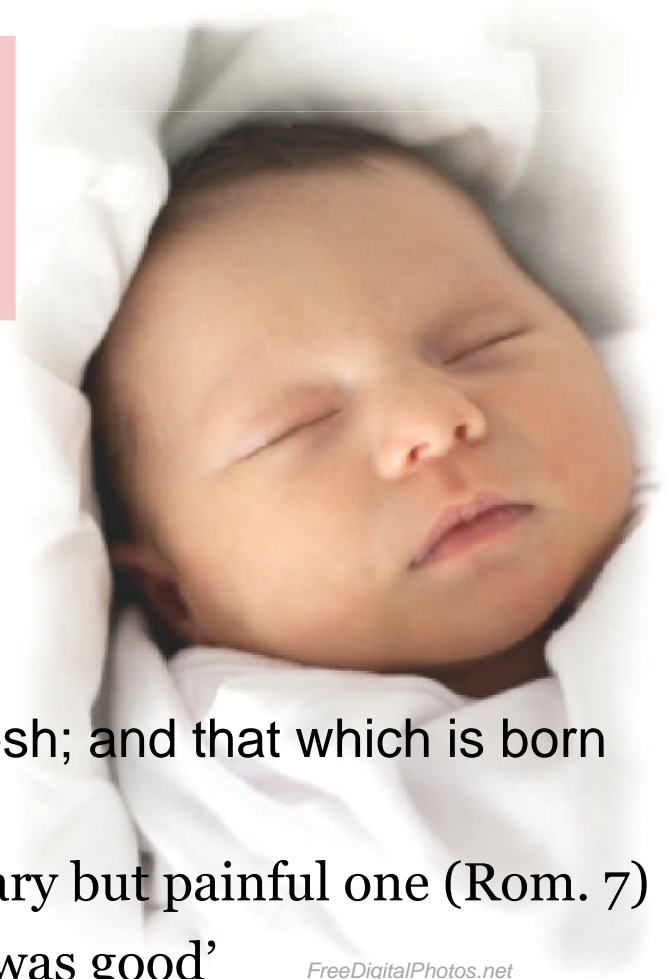
And God made the expanse, and divided between the waters that are under the expanse and the waters that are above the expanse; and it was so.

- God makes a division between:
  - The waters above, and
  - The waters below.
- An expanse in between

**John 3:6**

'That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.'

- The discovery of the old nature (flesh) is a necessary but painful one (Rom. 7)
- Remember: on day 2 we do not find the words 'it was good'



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## Day 3a: 'Let the dry land appear' (verse 9)

### Gen. 1:9

- Let the **waters** under the heavens be gathered together to one place, and let the **dry land** appear

**'3'**

**waters**

**dry land**

### Resurrection

- Genesis 22:4
- Hosea 6:2
- Luke 9:22
- Acts 10:40
- 1 Cor. 15:4

### Adverse element / judgement

- Genesis 6:17
- Psalm 69:1.2
- Psalm 69:14.15

### Safety / resurrection

- Exo 14/15 (4x)
- Josh. 3:17
- Ps. 27:5
- Ps. 40:2



## ***Day 3b: 'fruit-trees yielding fruit' (verse 11)***

### **Gen. 1:11**

- 'Let the earth cause grass to spring up, herb producing seed, fruit-trees yielding fruit'

- Now there is fruit
- This is still day 3
- It is only when we see that
  - 'there is no condemnation' (Rom. 8:1) and
  - 'no one shall seize them out of His hand' (John 10:28)
- Then our lives can be fruitful for God
- Romans 7: → discovery of new and old nature (day 2)
- Romans 8: → 'in Christ'; firm ground (day 3 a)
- Romans 12-16: → fruit bearing for God

## ***Day 4: 'Let there be lights' (verse 14)***

**Gen. 1:16-18**

- And God made the two great lights...and the stars.
- And God set them in the expanse of the heavens,
  - to give light on the earth, and
  - to rule during the day and during the night...

### **Day 4 corresponds to day 1**

- But we come from 'light' to 'lights'
- The light bearers come into view
- The thought is **testimony** ('give light' and 'rule')
- In the spiritual development of the believer:
  1. Recognition of Christ as 'the great light' and of our heavenly position and citizenship
  2. Testimony to the world (Phil. 2:15.16)



Days 1-4: spaces  
Days 4-6: objects moving in them

## ***Day 5: 'Let the waters swarm' (v. 20)***

### **Gen. 1:20-22**

- And God said, Let the waters swarm with swarms of living souls ... And God created the great sea monsters, and every living soul ...with which the waters swarm... And God saw that it was good.
- And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas...and let birds multiply

### **Day 5 corresponds to day 2: water**

- But here it is a matter of fruit bearing
- In an adverse environment (water)
- Testimony (day 4) will result in opposition
- But God wants us to bear fruit for Him in an adverse environment
- And God say that it was good...
- Rom. 5.3.4





## ***Day 6a: 'Let the earth bring forth living souls' (v. 24)***

### **Gen. 1:24-25**

• And God said, Let the earth bring forth **living souls** after their kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth, after their kind. And it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after its kind, and the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing of the ground after its kind. And God saw that it was good.

### **Day 6 corresponds to day 3**

- Land
- Double work
- God makes the land animals
- All of these will form part of the sphere in which man is to have dominion (see next slide)



## ***Day 6b: 'Let us make man' (verse 26)***

**Gen. 1:26-  
27**

- Let us make man in our image, after our likeness;
- and let them have dominion ... over the whole earth.
- And God created Man..; male and female created he them.

### **On day 6, God creates man**

- Spiritual development → we learn:
  - We are united to Christ (→ 'them')
  - Christ is to be supreme over all
  - Gal 4:19 "my children, of whom I again travail in birth until Christ shall have been formed in you..."
- This is greater than testimony etc.
- Only now can God say:

**"...and behold it was very good"**





## ***Day 7: 'And God ...rested on the seventh day' (2:2).***

**Gen. 2:2-3**

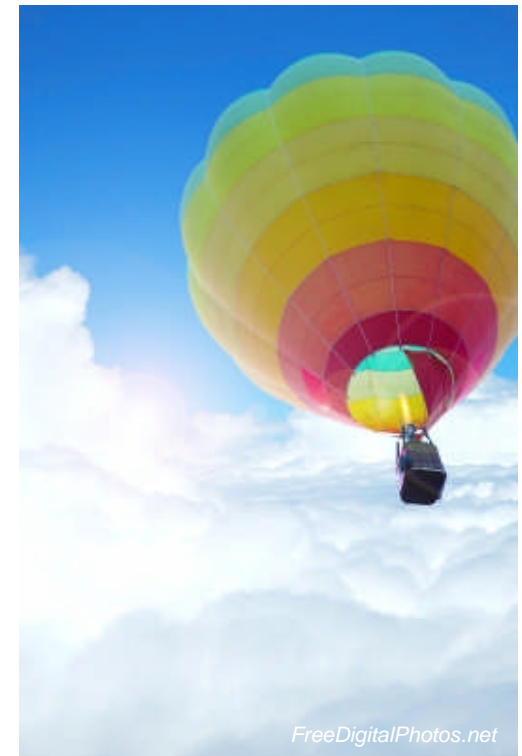
“And God had finished on the seventh day his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.”

- On day 7 we come to God's rest
- God wants to share this rest with man:

**Day 3: rest for the conscience: Matt. 11:28**

**Day 6: practical rest: Matt. 11:29, Col 3:15**

**Day 7: eternal rest: Rev. 21:1 b**



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# Summary



DAY	Event	Meaning
1	Light	God let light shine into our hearts
2	Separation of waters	New and old nature
3	Dry earth Fruit yielding herbs and trees	Safety on resurrection ground Fruit bearing
4	Lights	Testimony
5	Water animals, birds, and fruitfulness	Fruit-bearing in adverse circumstances
6	Land animals Man	We learn that we are associated with Christ, and that he must be supreme
7	7 <sup>th</sup> day hallowed	Rest

***More...***

***Literal  
meaning***

***Spiritual  
development***

***Christ***

***Dispensations***



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*We should not be surprised to find similar patterns, whether God reveals Himself in creation or new creation, in Christ or throughout the ages.*

## ***Conclusion***

***“I have joy in thy  
\*word, as one that  
findeth great spoil.”***

***Psa 119:162***