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## Sermon Summary - 9 May 2021

### Genesis # 1: Life by Design - Genesis 1:1-2:3 (Andrew Cox)

A worldview is a way of looking at \_\_\_\_\_(1), like a set of glasses. A robust worldview is one that works. It covers the really important questions: Who am I? How did I come to be? What has gone wrong with the world? What solution is there to this problem? How now should I live? And where am I - and all of us - going? It is my contention (unsurprisingly) that the Christian worldview provides the best answers to these questions. So we are going to start at the beginning, Genesis, in fact. As we do, we will be better equipped to answer the big questions and to live more consistently with what we believe. So let's begin ...

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen 1:1)

I am indebted to John Walton's book, The Lost World of Genesis One for many of these insights.

#### 1. Genesis One reflects Ancient \_\_\_\_\_(2)

Genesis One does not attempt to describe cosmology in modern terms or address modern questions. For example, in the ancient world people believed that the seat of intelligence, emotion and personhood was in the internal organs. God didn't try to teach them about the brain. He adapted his revelation to the language of the culture so they could understand it.

#### 2. Genesis One is \_\_\_\_\_(3)-oriented rather than material-oriented

The example of a company – when does it actually exist? When it's registered? When it's actually open for business? The answer is yes to both. Our English word "create" has a range of meanings. In the same way, in the ancient world, people believed that something existed because it had a function in an ordered system rather than because of its material properties. The sun does not exist because it is a burning ball of gas, but because it provides light and heat

**Verse 1:** The fundamental premise: God is the creator of all things. **Verse 2:** The earth is a blank canvas awaiting the stroke of genius from the Master artist.

**Day 1:** He created time as a fundamental \_\_\_\_\_(4) in his universe

**Day 2:** Here God is making a \_\_\_\_\_(5) for people to live in

**Day 3:** Water, soil and seed are all essential to the production of food

So on Days 1-3, God had prepared three spheres of his created order: time, weather and food. Now He is ready to place into this system the functionaries or inhabitants that he wants.

**Day 4:** God installs his \_\_\_\_\_(6), the moon and sun to govern night and day

**Day 5:** The functionaries simply carry out their own functions in the space that they inhabit. Fish teem and birds fly.

**Day 6:** God continues to populate his cosmos in an ordered way, including animals and livestock. Then the pinnacle of God’s creation: \_\_\_\_\_ (7)! They are made in God’s image, both male and female. Like the other animals, they are to be fruitful and multiply. And like the other animals, they are provided with plants for food. But they have a special function: to subdue and rule the earth.

### 3. Genesis One represents “cosmic temple \_\_\_\_\_ (8)”

**Day 7:** A bit of an afterthought? Actually the climax of the whole thing! Everybody knew that Deity rests in a temple, and only in a temple (see Psalm 132:13-14). In the ancient world, rest is what results when a crisis has been resolved or when stability has been achieved. (See Deuteronomy 12:10). It is a place for the deity—sacred space. When the deity rests in the temple it means that he is taking command. So if we see cosmos as a temple with all of its functions and with God dwelling in its midst, Day 7 is his triumphant inauguration! For example, the inauguration of the tabernacle is completed by the glory of the Lord filling it (Ex 40:34).

So Day 7 is the climax, not the aftermath.

### Implications

- God is involved in the world
- God established order in the cosmos and he desires order in our lives as well
- This world is designed for us
- This world is the dwelling place of Almighty God and we are to look after it
- \_\_\_\_\_ (9) – God is at the control panel of the universe, not us
- We are special

### One more implication ...

- Science and Christianity don’t need to be in \_\_\_\_\_ (10)

## Questions

**(You will need to refer to the summary above to answer these questions.)**

1. Look at the Worldview questions raised in the first paragraph. How would you answer them? What’s your evidence?
2. Read Genesis 1:1- to 2:3. What patterns do you notice? What questions do you have?
3. Explain what is meant by Genesis One being *function*-oriented rather than *material*-oriented.
4. In this interpretation, Days 1-3 provide the setting or “spheres” for the “functionaries”. Another way of putting it is: God *formed* the spheres on days 1-3 and *filled* them on days 4-6. Complete the chart below:

Day	God formed ...	Day	God filled it with ...
1		4	
2		5	
3		6	

5. If we see Genesis One as *cosmic temple inauguration*, how is Day 7 the climax of the whole thing? (See Exodus 40:34).
6. Look at the implications listed above. What encourages you the most today? Why? Is the Science / Christianity debate an issue for you? What are your top questions in this area?
7. Spend some time worshipping our amazing Creator God!

## **Answers to blanks**

*(1) reality, (2) Cosmology, (3) function, (4) structure , (5) space, (6) functionaries, (7) human beings,  
(8) inauguration, (9) Sabbath, (10) conflict*