First Story of Creation   Genesis 1–2:4

Directions: Read the scripture passage listed above and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. The book of Genesis concerns itself with the origin of the human race and in particular the Jewish people, and so it begins logically with the creation of the _______________________.

2. The account of creation of the world is divided into days. The number of those days is ___________.

3. The first three days are days of separation. God creates by separating created material to produce something else.
   A. On the first day, God separates darkness and ____________.
   B. On the second day, God separates the sky from the _____________.
   C. The ancient peoples thought that water gave the sky its blue color and therefore the sky must contain water, since at times water did fall from the sky. God, they reasoned, created something to keep the water aloft. This something was a _____________.
   D. On the third day, God separates the earth into water and ________.

4. The next three days are days of populating. God fills the world with many creations.
   A. On the fourth day, God fills the sky with _____________________.
   B. On the fifth day, God populates the land with _________________.
   C. On the sixth day, God creates _______________________.

NAME ____________________
5. Then, on the seventh day, God ____________________.

6. Therefore, this account of creation follows a pattern:
   A. three days of ________ in which a stage is built,
   B. three days of ________ in which "actors" are put on the stage, and
   C. one day of ________ in which the goodness of all is celebrated and enjoyed.

7. There is also a pattern for the days themselves.
   A. Each day begins with the words: ________________________.
   B. Next, to create something, God gives a ________________.
   C. Then this command or order is actually ________________.
   D. God looks at it and sees that it is ________________
   E. The author closes by telling what day it is with these words:
      ________________

8. Patterns allowed ordinary people of the ancient times to more easily memorize stories since most information between generations would have been by word of ________________________.
9. The author's scientific knowledge is obviously not as important for us today as is his understanding of the relationship between creation and its _________________.

10. Scientific accuracy is not the author's intention. For instance, the sun, moon, and stars were not created until the fifth day, while light was created on which day?
____________________________

11. And further, how could one determine the length of the first three days without the ________________?

12. It is evident, therefore, that we do not read the Bible for scientific truth, but for the truths of ________________.

13. God creates humans in his own image in two ways:
   A. Since in Genesis 1:27, God creates them both male and female, God apparently has both male and female _________________.
   B. For the ancient Hebrews, humans most closely resemble God by their ability to control or have authority over the ________. (Gn 1:28)

14. God wants the creation to continue and wishes humans to be part of that process and so orders in Genesis 1:28: _____________________________

15. The most important day for Jews is the Sabbath. The origin for this weekly feast is given in Genesis 2:2-3 where God, on the seventh day, does nothing but _________________. 
16. What truths do we learn from this Genesis account of creation?
   A. We learn that the world and the whole universe were created by ________________.
   B. We learn that creation is not evil, as is believed by some ancient cultures, but _________________.
   C. We learn that creation was not done in a haphazard way, but with great _________________.
   D. We learn that the sun, moon, and stars do not control human destiny; that their purpose as designed by God is to provide _________________.

17. God is portrayed in a definite manner in this account of creation. God seems to be far away from creation and very powerful. To create something, all God has to do is ____________________________ (e.g., Gn 1:3).

18. In this account of creation, God is simply called _________________.

LESSON 2

Second Story of Creation   Genesis 2:4-10

*Directions:* Read the scripture passage listed above and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. Chapter 2 of Genesis gives another account of the story of creation. Despite its obvious contradictions to the first story of creation, the Biblical authors must have put this story next to the story in chapter 1 for a special __________________________.

2. This second account of creation contradicts the first account in several ways. For instance, in the second account, in relation to the other living things, human beings are not created last, but ________________.

3. In the second account, all creation seems to be happening in a very short time, unlike the first account when creation lasted for ____________.

4. In the second account of creation, God does not seem far away from the work of creation, but rather ________________________________.

5. God does not give commands in the second account to create things. We find these differences:
   
   A. For his creatures, God created a garden called Eden by actually
      ________________________________.

   B. Like a sculptor, God himself molded the man out of the __________________________
      and to create a woman, God fashioned her from the man’s ________________________.
C. To bring the man to life, God blew into his nostrils the _________________.

6. In the second account, God seemed to have difficulty in creating the right mate for the man. None of the animals was suitable. It almost seemed as if God did not know what to do. This is not typical divine behavior, but is more characteristic of ____________________________.

7. God finally created a mate for the man by casting a deep sleep over him and removing one of his _________________.

8. In this second account of creation, God is referred to by the title of ____________________________.

9. Now, if there are two different versions of the story of creation in the Bible, which is the true one? But perhaps this is the wrong question to ask. Remember, the stories are not intended to teach literal, scientific truth, but to present a deeper ____________________________.

10. Perhaps the stories were left in the Bible side by side because each story contains some, but not all of the truth we are to learn to learn about ____________________________.

11. We must study both accounts to grasp the full meaning of God's creation of the world.

   A. From the first account, we learn that our God is all-powerful and can create with just a _________________.

   B. From the second account, we learn that our God is a caring God, who is not far away, but intimately involved with _____________________________. 
C. Creation was not done in a chaotic or haphazard way but with great 
______________________.

D. In Genesis 1, man and woman are created together. In Genesis 2, woman is created from the same material as man. Both show that in terms of respect and dignity, men and women are ________________________.

12. Two very different accounts of creation suggest that the biblical story of the beginning of the world was not written by one author or group of authors, but by at least ________________.

13. In fact, the first account of creation was written by a group called the Priestly writers. The second account was written by a group known as the Yahwist writers. These two groups wrote two different stories of because each group wanted to emphasize its own ________________________.

14. The generally accepted date for the priestly writer’s account is c. 500 B.C.E. (which means Before the Common Era and is the term preferred in religious studies). The Yahwist writer's generally accepted date is c. 950 B.C.E. Notice that although the Yahwist writers composed their story first, that version comes ________________________.

15. By examining the two accounts, we can see the different characteristics of the two writing sources:
   A. The Priestly source calls God by the term ________________.
   B. The Yahwist source calls God by the term ________________.
   C. The Priestly source portrays God as being distant or ________________.
   D. The Yahwist source describes God as being involved and ________________.
E. The Priestly source likes to include family trees called genealogies in their writings. For instance, an ancestor list can be seen in Genesis 10. The Yahwist source likes to speak of God in *anthropomorphic* terms. This means that they give God human qualities even though God is not human. List two actions in the second account of creation which make God appear to act as a human:

_______________________________________

_______________________________________

16. In addition to the Priestly and Yahwist sources, there are two other sources which contributed to the writing of the first five books of the Bible. (The first five books are known as the Torah, a Hebrew word which means "law" and refers to the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.) These two other sources are the Elohist and the Deuteronomist. The Deuteronomist obviously wrote the book of

_______________________________________.

17. Each writing source has a code letter for easy reference. These code letters are:

   J for the source called ___________________________

   (Notice that the code letter is not Y because the theory of the four writing sources was originated by German scholars and this code letter has been retained from the original language.)

   P for the source called ___________________________

   E for the source called ___________________________

   D for the source called ___________________________
18. Each source has its own characteristics by which we can identify it. We have already mentioned some of the characteristics of the first two sources. As for the other two sources, the Elohists like to use dreams and visions in their writings to show a way God communicates to people. The Deuteronomists use a literary style which includes long speeches. The theory that four sources are responsible for the writing only applies to the first five books of the Bible known as the ____________________.
Biblical scholars theorize that the Torah was written by four distinct sources and that it is possible to recognize these sources through particular characteristics of particular biblical sections. If we know who is doing the writing of a section, we will also know their viewpoint and what they tried to emphasize about God in their writing which will aid us in interpreting the meaning of the passage.

_Yahwist_ writers (J) prefer to use the name LORD or LORD GOD. They often portray God in very human terms, acting more human than divine. God is very close to his creation and people.

_Priestly_ writers (P) prefer to use the name GOD when speaking of God. They portray God as far above his creation, giving commands, being an all-powerful God. They also like to list family trees (genealogies).

_Elohists_ (E) make use of angels, visions, and dreams as ways God interacts with his people.

_Deuteronomists_ (D) are the writers of the book of Deuteronomy.

_Directions_: Look up the following passages in your Bible and see if you can determine which group is responsible for the writing. Look for the characteristics listed above. Write the code letter for each source on the short line and then, on the longer line, write your reason for choosing that source as the author of that passage.

1. Gn 1:3-5  _____  ________________________________

2. Gn 2:1-4  _____  ________________________________
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LESSON 4

Name ______________________

The Fall of Man   Genesis 3

Directions: Read the cited scripture passages and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. In chapter 1 of Genesis we learn that God created the world and, because God is a good and loving being, all things God created are _______________________. (see Gn 1:4, for example)

2. For the Jews, this caused a problem. If God is good and if God created everything, then everything and everyone in the world should be______________________.

3. We know, however, as well as the ancient Jews did, that this is not the case. There can be much evil in the world. The question on their minds, then, was "Where did ________________ come from?"

4. Chapter 3 of Genesis attempts to answer the question of evil and its origins. Read chapter 3. It tells the story of __________________________. (see the chapter heading)

5. If we accept the story in Genesis 3 as literally true, then evil is the result of listening to a talking snake and eating certain __________________________.

6. Now we know from experience that snakes don’t _______________________ and that eating certain fruit is not what causes ____________________ in the world.
7. These are details that the biblical author uses to convey a deeper and more important truth. It is not so important that Adam and Eve ate the fruit. What is important is that they did not do what God wanted. Instead they did what they themselves ________________________.

8. Our God is a loving, caring God and therefore wants us to be people who are both ___________________________ and ____________________________.

9. When we choose our own selfish ways and not God’s ways, then we bring not love into the world, but ________________________.

10. So evil does not come from God who is love, but from ourselves when we ________________________________.

11. Thus we see that it is not God’s fault that people are starving. The fault lies with people like ourselves who have a great surplus of material goods and who refuse to ________________________________.

12. If certain races or types of people are hated and treated badly, it is because we choose not to love them and treat them with the respect due to all human beings. We, not God, decide to ________________________.

13. If elderly persons are alone or neglected, it is because we choose not to ________________________________.
14. In all these examples, evil comes into God’s good creation because people like us choose evil. Evil cannot exist unless we _______________________________________.

15. Because we choose to cooperate with evil, our world is often a sad place. Beginning in Genesis 3:16, the Bible paints a picture of the kind of life that results from choosing our own selfish wishes. This inclination we have toward selfishness is called the original sin. It is found in all ______________________.

16. The picture is not hopeless though. In Genesis 3:15, God first hints at who will enable us to overcome our inborn selfishness and choose goodness and love. The “offspring” who will be our Redeemer and who will break the power of evil over us will be the one named ___________________________________. (see footnote on Gn 3:15)

17. God knows how hard it is for us to overcome our self-interest. The only way we will ever learn how to be as concerned for the good of others as we are for the good of ourselves is to receive an abundance of undeserved love. This is exactly what God gives to us. Even though Adam and Eve turned away from God, God still shows continuing concern for them in Genesis 3:21 where God makes them a set of ________________________________.

18. Despite God’s care, however, people continue in their selfish ways, choosing evil instead of good. Genesis 4 describes the first _________________________.

19. What selfish motive did Cain act out of in killing his brother? _______________________. (Gn 4:5)
20. Some people may think that temptation always leads to sin, but in Genesis 4:7, the Bible teaches us that temptation can be ______________________________.

21. In the book of Genesis, evil continues to flourish in the world until, as Genesis 6:5-6 states, it became so great that God ________________________________.

22. God, however, never abandons creation and his people. Genesis 6 begins the story of how God would purify the world and give it another chance by means of a __________________________.
1. In the writing of the scriptures, the biblical authors used many different forms of literature. Sometimes they even borrowed stories and myths from other cultures and expanded them to communicate a truth about ________________.

2. The story of Noah is really two stories from two different biblical sources. That is why there are conflicting details in the story. The biblical sources go back to an ancient Mesopotamian story of a great flood known as the _________________________________. (see footnote on 6:5-8)

3. The biblical authors, however, took this account and added further details to it so to make clear the meaning they wished to convey, the meaning God inspired them to _________________.

4. Read the story of Noah and the Flood in Genesis 6:5—9:17. You may notice that there are several conflicting details in the story:

   A. For instance, Genesis 16:19 says that Noah took two of each animal on the ark, one male and one female. Genesis 7:2-3 says, however, that Noah took with him _________________.

   B. Genesis 7:2 says that Noah took seven of every clean animal, one male and one female. Genesis 7:3 says that Noah took only one female of each kind of unclean animal. Genesis 7:2 says that Noah took _________________.

   C. Genesis 7:5 says that Noah entered the ark, and his sons and his wife went in with him. Genesis 7:6 says that his sons and their wives went in with him. Genesis 7:13 says that Noah took with him _________________.

   D. Genesis 7:1 says that Noah was 600 years old when he entered the ark. Genesis 9:29 says that he was 601 years old. Genesis 6:3 says that he was _________________.

   E. Genesis 6:19 says that there were twelve pairs of animals on the ark, one male and one female of each pair. Genesis 7:2 says that there were seven pairs of animals, and Genesis 8:13 says that there were _________________.

   F. Genesis 7:1 says that Noah was 600 years old when he entered the ark. Genesis 9:29 says that he was 601 years old. Genesis 6:3 says that he was _________________.

   G. Genesis 7:1 says that there were twelve pairs of animals on the ark, one male and one female of each pair. Genesis 8:1 says that there were seven pairs of animals, and Genesis 8:13 says that there were _________________.

   H. Genesis 7:1 says that there were twelve pairs of animals on the ark, one male and one female of each pair. Genesis 8:1 says that there were seven pairs of animals, and Genesis 8:13 says that there were _________________.

   I. Genesis 7:1 says that there were twelve pairs of animals on the ark, one male and one female of each pair. Genesis 8:1 says that there were seven pairs of animals, and Genesis 8:13 says that there were _________________.
B. Again, in Genesis 7:4, the Lord promises to bring rain down on the earth for forty days and forty nights. Genesis 8:3-5, however, says that the flood lasted ___________________________.

5. The fact that there are conflicting details suggests that the story of Noah was written by how many different sources? ________________

6. The two sources are not kept separate like in the two stories of creation in chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis, but they are _________________________________.

7. Obviously, many of the details are not meant to be taken literally. Can you imagine Noah trying to catch two of every living thing, like bison from North America, pandas from China, and koala bears from Australia when Genesis 7:4 says that the amount of time available for catching them all was _________________.

8. The author also says in Genesis 7:21-23 that all living creatures in the world died in the flood. Only those in the ark were supposedly saved. This, of course, would not be true. What creatures would have survived the flood?

________________________________________________________

9. The story of Noah should be seen as a parable rather than an historical narrative. Once again, the message is what is important, not the details. The Bible presents us, not with historical truth, but truth that is _________________________________.


10. The first symbol of a covenant or agreement between God and humanity in the Bible comes in Genesis 9:11-17. What is it? _______________________________

11. The biblical story of the flood teaches us that our God is a merciful God. Even when people become caught up in their own evil, God is always willing to forgive and give us another ________________________.

Review Items

12. In these first stories of Genesis, we begin to learn about God.
   
   A. Genesis 1-2 shows us that God is an all-powerful ____________________.
   
   B. Genesis 1:31 points out that everything that God does is ____________________.
   
   C. Genesis 2:18 and 2:21 shows God to be very sensitive to various human ____________________.

   D. In Genesis 8:21-22, God does not hold a grudge. God is very ____________________.

13. In contrast, human beings are pictured as

   A. full of pride and self-seeking, putting themselves on the same level as ____________________.

   B. jealous of each other to the point where they hurt one another, as in the story of Cain and ____________.

   C. evil, so much so that God decided to destroy the world in a ____________________ and start over.
14. The Torah (the first five books of the Bible) is the story of God establishing his kingdom on earth. It will be the call for all people to become holy, faithful, loving, strong, and one family. In a word, all people are to become more like ________________________.