

The God who simply is:

*The first 2/3 of the bible is referred to as the OT and sweeps through the creation to the period before Jesus. The last 1/3 starts with Jesus and focuses on Him.

Genesis 1-2 : In successive days, various things are created by God through spoken commands “Let there be this...Let there be that.” Followed by the occasional refrain “And God saw that it was good.” (1:10) You get to day five and the waters began teeming with living creatures and the sky with birds flying above the earth. (1:20,1:21). And then the sixth day land creatures (1:24), And it was good (1:25) Next, mankind was made (1:26-2:3), and the rest of Chapter 2 offers a kind of explanation of the creation of human beings.

There are different thoughts on the creation events by God. How they fit in correctly with science, if the days are literary or symbolic, if the earth is 4000 years or 3.3 billion years old. Despite the debates over the relationship between science and Genesis chapters 1 and 2, there is a minimum that these chapters must be saying for the bible to have any coherence at all.

Some things about God:

1. God simply IS:
 - The bible does not try to argue His existence.
 - He is not an object open for evaluation.
 - We are not in a position to judge His actions or thoughts.
2. God made everything that is non-God:
 - God’s existence is not dependent on anything or anyone else.
 - We were created, the universe was created, God is not created. He is the Creator.
3. There is only one of Him:
 - We are not made to completely understand his Oneness in the Trinity, but the Bible supports that there is only one God
4. God is a talking God:
 - God spoke everything into existence.
 - God spoke to Adam and Eve.
 - God speaks throughout the bible in different ways.
 - God speaks to his creations (us).
5. Everything God makes is good:
 - There is no hint of death or decay in Chapters 1-2.
 - God is good and that is declared right off the bat.
 - He did not create a bad world meant to be filled with death and pain.
6. God comes to the end of His work, and rests:
 - God was not tired or needed a break, but decides to deem the last day of creation for rest.

Some things about human beings:

1. We are made in the image of God:
 - a. Humans and animals are both created, creatures, and we share many common attributes with animals. We share many of the same genes genetically. We both are born, we live, and we die.

- b. Genesis insists that human beings, and human beings alone are made in the image of God.
 - c. As God's image bearers, we reflect God in a number of ways:
 - i. God is a talking God who speaks to human beings and they speak back to Him.
 - ii. Implanted in humans, as a reflection of God, is a certain creativity though not the same as God's who created out of nothing.
 - iii. Humans enjoy a capacity to work, to be responsible and care for creation, our families, and each other. Our work reflects Him and is offered back up to him with integrity and gratitude.
 - iv. Meaning in life is bound up with the fact we were made by God, in his image, and for God, with an eternal destiny. We cannot compare ourselves with ourselves. We are compared against God's standards.
2. We human beings were made male and female:
- a. Genesis insists man and woman were equally made in the image of God and that the man and woman were to come together in one union, a marriage union (1:27).
 - b. A man and woman were not made simply for sex as they wish or for a woman to be nothing more than a piece of property.
 - c. Woman and man are not identical but each other's sexual and emotional counterpart.
 - d. This vision of marriage ultimately becomes a model of other relationships in the bible, especially with Christ and the church.
3. The man and his wife were innocent:
- a. They were naked, and felt no shame (2:25).
 - b. "Eden" means delight. Adam and Eve had nothing to hide or be ashamed of; to never have told a lie, nurtured bitterness, succumbed to lust, burned with hate, been puffed up in arrogance. But to always have loved God with heart, soul, mind, and strength and always loved other as themselves.
 - c. Adam and Eve could afford to be naked in innocence, we cannot because of sin.

How Genesis 1-2 fits into the bible and into our lives

1. Understanding these chapters is necessary to understand Genesis Chapter 3:
 - a. "The Fall" makes no sense without understanding Genesis 1-2
2. Creation surfaces again throughout the bible, even after the coming of Jesus:
 - a. The bible continues to promise a new heaven, new earth, and new creation. God is needed to do a new creative act, to begin again, to create people over again, to create a new existence.
 - b. Adam is the ancestor of the human race, Christ is the "second Adam" that begins another humanity, a new race that works differently than Adam's race.
3. Solid understanding of Genesis 1-2 shapes our worldviews:
 - a. Polytheism says there are many gods in charge of different domains. We know one God made it all.
 - b. Hedonism tells us the point of human existence is to find as much pleasure as you can by whatever means, a very shallow, narrow life. We know the pursuit of pleasure is bound up with God Himself. We were made BY God FOR God.
 - c. Pantheism says the entire material world and God are all the same. We know He created the world and is all-together different than it.

- d. Genesis 1-2 sets the story straight against all of these false religions.
4. What the bible says about creation is what grounds the notion of human accountability and responsibility:
- a. Why should I obey God? Who is He to tell me what to do? Why can't I choose my own gods or invent my own? WHY?? You shouldn't have to....unless he made you, designed you, which he did.
 - b. He made us, we owe Him. He is not a supreme bully, we would not be here without Him and we will have to give an account to Him one day.