

Reading Guide to Selected Views of the Beginning Narratives of Genesis

PART ONE

Historical Survey of Seven Ways to Read Genesis One

Read introduction at http://scriptureworkshop.com/hb/gen1_7ways.html and complete the questions below.

Augustine (354-430)

Summarize in your own words the leading elements of Augustine's interpretation of the Genesis creation narrative.

What are the reasons for this interpretation, that is, why did he interpret the passage this way?

What are the strengths of this approach?

What questions and issues does this approach raise?

Judaic Readings

Summarize in your own words the leading elements of the selected Judaic interpretations of the Genesis creation narrative.

What are the reasons for these interpretation, that is, why did they interpret the passage as they did?

What are the strengths of these readings?

What questions and issues do these readings raise?

John Calvin (1509-1564)

Summarize in your own words the leading elements of Calvin's interpretation of the Genesis creation narrative.

What are the reasons for this interpretation, that is, why did he interpret the passage this way?

What are the strengths of this approach? What questions and issues does this approach raise?

Julius Wellhausen (1844-1918)

Summarize in your own words the leading elements of Wellhausen’s interpretation of the Genesis creation narratives.

What are the reasons for this interpretation, that is, why did he interpret the passage this way?

What are the strengths of this approach? What questions and issues does this approach raise?

Hermann Gunkel (1862-1932)

Summarize in your own words the leading elements of Gunkel’s interpretation of the Genesis creation narrative.

What are the reasons for this interpretation, that is, why did he interpret the passage this way?

What are the strengths of this approach? What questions and issues does this approach raise?

Karl Barth (1886-1968)

Summarize in your own words the leading elements of Barth’s interpretation of the Genesis creation narrative.

What are the reasons for this interpretation, that is, why did he interpret the passage this way?

What are the strengths of this approach? What questions and issues does this approach raise?

Concordist Approaches—Harmonizing Science and Scripture

Summarize in your own words the leading elements of the concordist interpretations of the Genesis creation narratives.

What are the reasons for these interpretations, that is, why did they interpret the passage this way?

What are the strengths of this approach? What questions and issues does this approach raise?

PART TWO

Several Evangelical Interpretations of the Opening Chapters of Genesis

Read introduction at http://scriptureworkshop.com/hb/gen1_5ways.html and complete the questions below.

Todd Beall, literal, “recent creationist”

Summarize in your own words the leading elements this interpretation of Genesis 1 & 2.

Richard Averbeck, “real creation,” literary-intertextual approach

Summarize in your own words the leading elements this interpretation of Genesis 1 & 2.

John Walton, ancient cosmology approach

Summarize in your own words the leading elements this interpretation of Genesis 1 & 2.

C. John Collins, analogical day, and pre- and proto-history as alternative worldview

Summarize in your own words the leading elements this interpretation of Genesis 1 & 2.

Tremper Longman III, polemic literary presentation of creation, “theistic evolution”

Summarize in your own words the leading elements this interpretation of Genesis 1 & 2.

Explain the reasons for the different approaches, taking into consideration ancient Near Eastern creation myths, genre, the historicity of Adam and Eve, and scientific developments.