

The Very Beginning

What is your earliest memory?

Read Genesis 1:1-31.

Read Genesis 2:1-25.

1. What does “in the beginning” tell you?
 - A. It all started with God.
 - B. It all started with a big bang.
 - C. The scientific theory of evolution claims a different beginning.
 - D. This will take faith, since nobody but God was present (Hebrews 11:3).
 - E. Every cultural group has to have a beginning story; this is for Jews.
 - F. The Trinity was present (God, spoke/the Word, spirit of God).
 - G. The Bible supports baseball: “In the big inning.”
 - H. The very beginning begins with God.
 - I. Other.

2. God pronounced His creation “good,” which means:
 - A. Good.
 - B. It’s all good.
 - C. God don’t make no junk.
 - D. Nobody else was around to say otherwise.
 - E. It culminates in “very good” found in Genesis 1:31.
 - F. This stands in contrast to Genesis 2:18.
 - G. God created the earth sin-free/unbroken.
 - H. Everything good comes from God.
 - I. Other.

3. What does it mean for humans to be made in the “image of God”?
 - A. Humans are just like God.
 - B. Humans are gods.
 - C. God gave humans dominion over the earth.
 - D. Humans have abilities no other part of creation has.
 - E. God created humans for divine companionship and intimacy.
 - F. *Imago Dei*—the Latin term for humans made in the image of God.
 - G. The image of God requires both genders; not just one.
 - H. Humans are similar, but not identical to God.
 - I. Other.

4. Why did God rest on the seventh day of creation?
 - A. He was tired.
 - B. He had accomplished enough to finally enjoy it.
 - C. So we could keep the Sabbath for the rest of history.
 - D. To create a sanctuary in time.
 - E. To start humans on their first full day to have a special relationship with Him.
 - F. This started the rhythm of work and relaxation.
 - G. So when sin entered, people could recalibrate each week.
 - H. Creation made the entire world a sanctuary; it was time to worship.
 - I. Other.

5. What stands out in your mind about God's creation of humans?
 - A. God personally formed humans rather than speaking them into being.
 - B. We are made of dust, and we will return to dust.
 - C. God breathes life into dirt.
 - D. The order/sequencing of creation.
 - E. God's choice to make only man first, and then woman.
 - F. God's plan for humans to be fruitful and multiply.
 - G. Why did He do this when He knew in advance what would happen?
 - H. God made humans in His own image—like Him.
 - I. Other.

6. Why did God create woman?
 - A. To complete the image of God.
 - B. He didn't mean to do so.
 - C. It's not good for a man to be alone (Genesis 2:18).
 - D. Companionship and intimacy.
 - E. This replicates the Trinity with the 3-part God, male, female union.
 - F. All the other animals had a partner suitable to them; why not man?
 - G. After making man, God improved things; He made woman.
 - H. So humans could be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28).
 - I. Other.

7. How do you reconcile the Biblical account of creation with current scientific statements about origins?

8. Do you create Sabbath experiences or do you just let them evolve?