

Scripture - Genesis 1 Seven Days of Creation

Part 3 - Meaning: Who Gets to Say What the Bible Means?

(Authorial Intent)

This fall for our Bible study we're asking - what is the Bible? So we're asking all these fun, hard questions about the Bible that the Bible asks and answers about itself. The question today is about meaning: Who gets to say what the Bible means?

Problem: When talking about what the Bible means some people will say the Bible can mean different things to different people and nobody's wrong. *"Well you've got your interpretation of the Bible and I've got my interpretation and none of us can say who's right and wrong. To you the Bible means one thing but to me the Bible means something else BUT we're both still right."*

Answers: The problem is that if the Bible can mean many different things at the same time then it can mean anything AND if the Bible can mean anything then it really means nothing. This is a way of saying, *"The Bible means whatever I want it to mean."*

Has anyone ever twisted something you said? How frustrating is that?

If God is saying something to us in the Bible then it's God, not us, who gets to say what he means. It's the author of the Bible who gets to say what he means, not us. It's our job to listen and understand what the author means. This is called **authorial intent**.

Let's look at Genesis 1 and ask: what is the author telling us about creation? Read Genesis 1:1-3.

Who made everything in the beginning?
God made all things.
God even made time and space itself.
God even made heaven! Heaven did not always exist.

Who made God?

Nobody. Nothing made God. God never had a beginning. God always was, always is, always will be.

So how many Gods are there?

There is only one God.

How did God make all things?

He said it and it came to be. God made everything out of nothing!!

Read Genesis 1:26-28

Who did God create in his image?

Just man and woman.

What does it mean that people are created in God's image? How are we supposed to be like God?

God is good and we're supposed to be good. God creates and rules over everything and we're supposed to create and rule over his creation.

God is glorious and we're supposed to be all about his glory and worship him!

Read Genesis 2:15-17

Do you think God wanted Adam and Eve to live forever or die?

Do you ever make plans with your friends and family? Do they always work out?

Does God's plan always work out?

Yes, God wanted a people to live and be with him in glory forever and not die. That was always the plan.

So who accomplished that plan for God?

Jesus! By living for us like Adam was supposed to do and by dying for our sins in our place.