

SERMON NOTES
The Story 1: Made On Purpose
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National Presbyterian Church

“The Story”

Today: Ch.1 Genesis 1-4; 6-9
Next Week: Ch.2 Genesis 12-13; 15-17; 21-22; 32-33; 35;
Romans 4; Hebrews 11

How Can you Tell if there is a poem in the Bible?

*Just as rhyming is a sure sign of poetry in English, in ancient Hebrew,
“parallel” lines of thought are a sure sign of poetry. For example:*

DAY 1 “Let there be **light**”; and there was **light**.
DAY 4 “Let there be **lights** in the sky to separate the day from the night;”
DAY 2 “Let there be **a dome** (the sky) in the midst of the **waters**,
DAY 5 “Let the **waters** bring forth swarms of living creatures,
and let birds fly . . . across **the dome** of the sky.”
DAY 3 Let **the earth** put forth . . . **plants yielding seed**,
and **fruit trees** of every kind
DAY 6 “See, I have given you every **plant yielding seed** that is upon the face
of **all the earth**, and **every tree with seed in its fruit**”

Two Types of “Genesis Questions”

Important Questions that Genesis was Not Written to Address:

How did God do it? How long did it take?
Is evolution right or wrong? Where do the dinosaurs fit in?
(Genesis does not even ask “Does God exist, but assumes the existence of God)

Important Questions that Genesis Addresses – and Provides Life-Giving Answers:

1. Is God Powerful? Wise? Good? Personal?
2. Does the universe – or my life – ultimately matter (to anyone)? Is my life an accident?
3. Can I do with my life what I want (am I a free agent)? Is there some “one” to whom we humans are accountable for our choices?
4. If so, and if we mess up, is there mercy, a second chance?

Further Reading

John H. Walton (Professor, Wheaton College)

Genesis: The NIV Application Commentary

The Lost World of Genesis 1

The Lost World of Adam and Eve

Francis S. Collins (Director, NIH)

The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief

Carlo Rovelli (Professor, Aix-Marseille Université)

Seven Brief Lessons on Physics