

Session 1: Creation and Exodus

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth. But why? In this session we will look at how the stories of the creation and exodus help us understand the relationship between Heaven and Earth, the purpose of humanity, God's plan for salvation, and our eternal destiny.

Take a few minutes to consider the following questions:

What does the Bible mean by
'heaven'?

What does the Bible mean by
'salvation'?

Where will followers of Jesus
spend eternity?

When Jesus returns what will
happen to the Earth?

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What does it mean to be made in God's image?

'Nature, the world, has no value, no interest for Christians. The Christian thinks only of himself and the salvation of his soul.'
(Ludwig Feurbach)

'In the beginning the Universe was created. This had made many people very angry and has been widely regarded as a bad move.'
(Douglas Adams)

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...' (Genesis 1:1)

Image Bearing:

Genesis 1:26-27

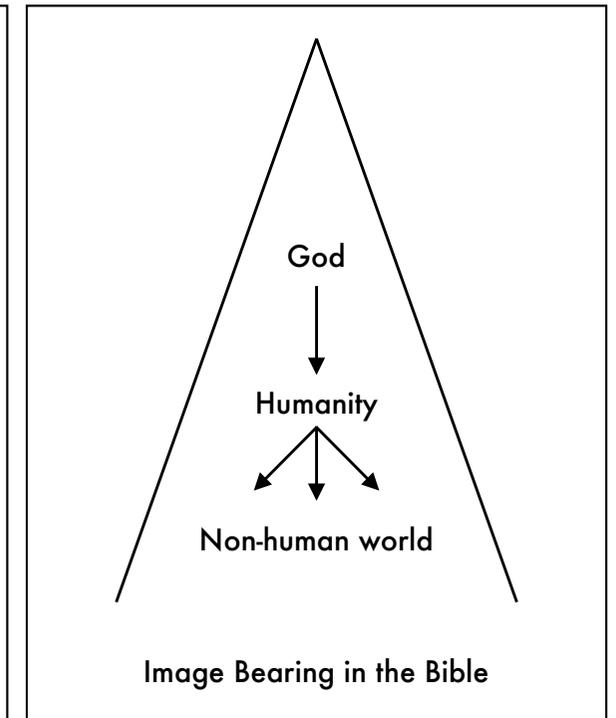
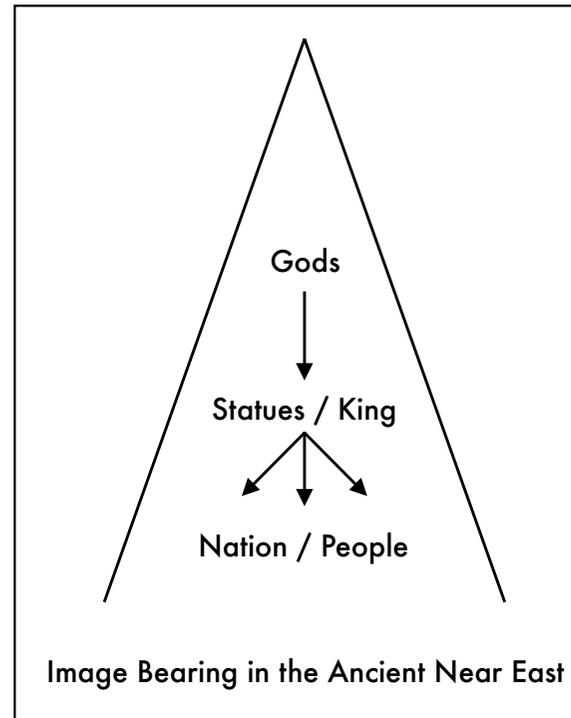
ANE Statues and Kings: responsible for laws, governance, agriculture and religious worship.

Psalms 8:5-8

Exodus 19:6

Prov 3:19-20; 24:2-4

Genesis 2:16; 2:5-8



Creation and Exodus

The Expanding Eden

Eden	Tabernacle	Nation	Temple
God's dwelling place, with expanding borders to fill the earth	'Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.' (Ex 25:8)	God dwells with his people and leads Moses by his presence (Ex 13:21-22) which was carried in the Ark (Ex 25:10-16; Num 35:5)	God's presence filled Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 8:10-11). But Solomon knew that nothing could contain God's presence, not even heaven (v27)
God dwelt there	The verb used in Gen 3:8 means 'to walk back and forth' and is also used for God's presence in the Tabernacle (Lev 26:12; Deut 23:14-15; 2 Sam 7:6-7)		
Priests	Adam's call to cultivate and keep the garden uses the same terminology applied to the priests who are told to 'keep and guard' the tabernacle.		
Guarding cherubim	See Genesis 3:24 and Exodus 25:18-22		
Arboreal Lampstand	The tree of life is the model for the lampstand placed directly outside the holy of holies (Ex 25:31-36).		
Garden imagery	The temple was full of garden imagery that reflected Eden. For example wood-carved gourds and open flowers (1 Kings 6:18), pomegranates (1 Kings 7:20) and a garden area (Ps 52:8; Isaiah 60:13).		
Source of water	A river flowed out of Eden (Gen 2:10), and will do from the eschatological temple (Ezek 47:1-12)		
Precious stones	Gen 2:12. Compare with Exodus 28:6-27 and particularly 1 Chron 29:2.		
Mountain	Ezekiel portrays Eden as having been on a mountain (28:14-16), as were Israel's temple (Ex 15:17) and as will be the end time temple (Ezek 40:21 43:12)		
Eastern Facing Entrance	Compare Gen 3:24 with Ezek 40:6.		

Summarised from *The Temple and the Church's Mission* by G.K. Beale

Creation and Exodus

Exodus as a Paradigm for Salvation

'The most fundamental meaning of salvation in Scripture is twofold: it is God's *deliverance* of those in a situation of need from that which impedes their well-being, resulting in their *restoration* to wholeness. Wholeness or well-being is God's original intent for creation, and that which impedes wholeness - sin, evil and death in all their forms, is fundamentally anti-creational.' (J. Richard Middleton, p79)

