

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
002 - LESSON – Wednesday – April 8

God In Creation

You probably know from memory the first words in the Bible: “In the beginning God.” In Hebrew, the word for God here is Elohim. Although this word can be used when talking about false “gods,” when it refers to the one true God, it describes an almighty, all-powerful Creator in connection with the whole of creation; the transcendent God who is beyond our understanding but in control of everything. He is so powerful that when He speaks, something is created just from His voice.

But in the next chapter, Genesis 2, there appears a different name for God: Yahweh. This name connects to Elohim (*Yahweh Elohim*), the same all-powerful, almighty God; but the name Yahweh is the more personal name of the one true God, often used to emphasize that God is the covenant God, in loving relation with His created people

Compare the descriptions of God in Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 2:7. What do you notice?

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV) “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 2:7 (NKJV) “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

Here in Genesis 2:7, we can imagine God kneeling to form the first human being out of the ground with His own hands. “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” This is a God who gets close—so close that He breathes into Adam’s nostrils the breath of life. This name, Yahweh, presents a more intimate picture of God, but Moses uses both names in the first two chapters of the Bible to describe these two characteristics of God to us.

1. Scope: Creation of Everything vs. Creation of Humanity

- **Genesis 1:1**

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Focus: The **totality of creation**—time, space, matter, and the universe itself.

- **Genesis 2:7**

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground...”

Focus: The **specific creation of humanity**, especially the origin of human life.

Difference:

- Genesis 1:1 = **Cosmic creation**
- Genesis 2:7 = **Personal creation**

2. Method: Divine Command vs. Divine Formation

- **Genesis 1:1** presents creation as an **act of sovereign power**.
God speaks, and reality comes into existence.
- **Genesis 2:7** presents creation as an **intimate, hands-on act**.
God *forms* man from dust and *breathes* life into him.

Difference:

- Genesis 1:1 emphasizes **God's authority and power**
 - Genesis 2:7 emphasizes **God's closeness and intentional design**
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3. Nature of Life: Existence vs. Living Being

- **Genesis 1:1** explains **how everything begins to exist**.
It does not describe *how* life functions—only that creation came into being.
- **Genesis 2:7** explains **what a human being is**:
 - Dust of the ground (body)
 - Breath of life (divine life force)
 - Result: a *living soul* (a complete, living person)

Difference:

- Genesis 1:1 answers **“Where did everything come from?”**
 - Genesis 2:7 answers **“What is a human being?”**
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Cosmic God

- Rules over **time, space, matter, and the universe**
- Speaks galaxies into existence

Scripture

- **Genesis 1:1 — “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**
- **Isaiah 40:26 — “Lift up your eyes on high... He calls them all by name.”**
- **Psalms 33:6 — “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made.”**

Personal God

- Draws near to individuals
- Knows, calls, and walks with people

Scripture

- **Genesis 2:7 — God formed man and breathed into him.**
- **Psalms 139:1–3 — “O LORD, You have searched me and known me.”**
- **John 10:14 — “I know My sheep, and am known by My own.”**

Difference:

God who governs the cosmos is the same God who **leans close to the soul**.