

OCIA: Session 5 -- Creation

God creates the world in wisdom and love
(Gen 1-2, CCC 279-354)



*The world was created
for the glory of God.*
(CCC 293)

CCC 285

CCC 116

CCC 290, 296, 318

CCC 295-301

CCC 325-37

CCC 329-331

CCC 339-342

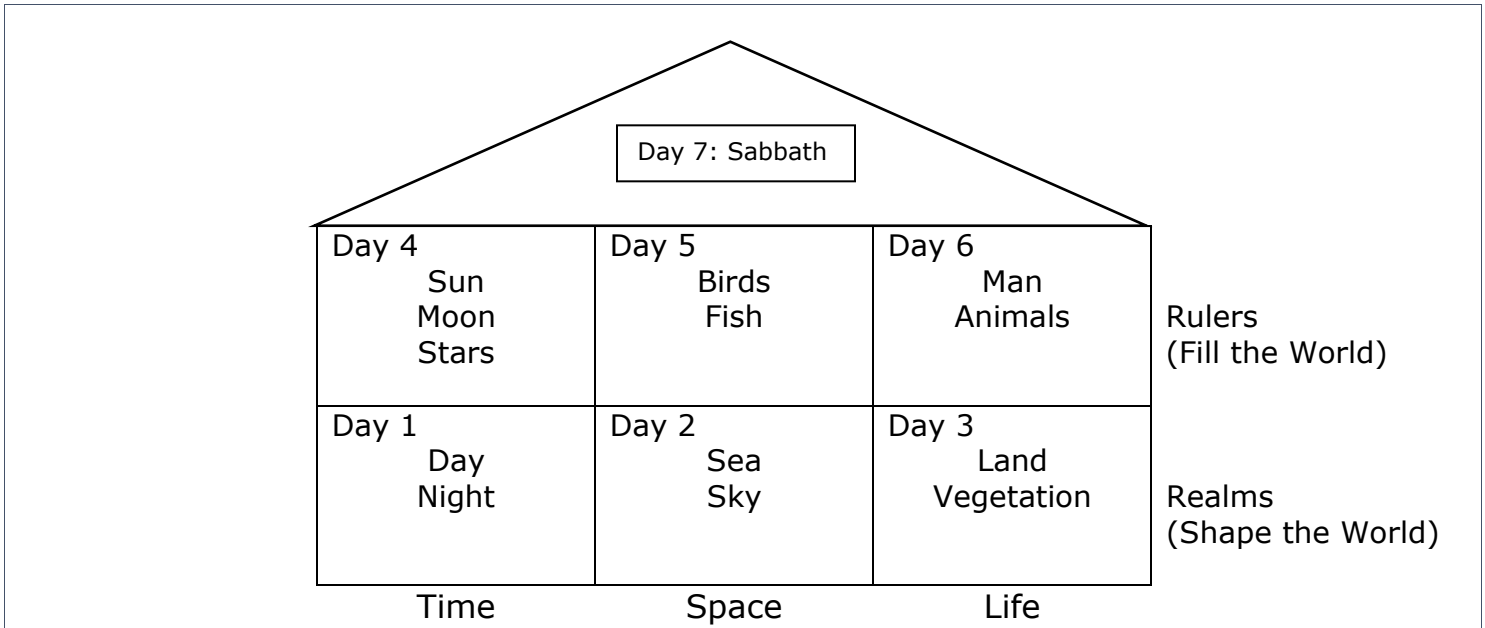
Gen 1:26-27

CCC 347

Gen 1-2 & Ex. 39-40

1. Some theories about the creation of the world:
 - a. Pantheism – everything is God.
 - b. Gnosticism – the world comes from and returns to God, and is inherently evil.
 - c. Dualism/Manichaeism – permanent conflict of good and evil.
 - d. Deism – God made the world and then left it to itself.
 - e. Materialism – world is an interplay of matter that has always existed.
2. The Bible is not a science textbook. Genesis communicates revealed truths through its literary forms. The accounts of Creation and the Fall affirm real events at humanity's beginning.
3. God created the universe out of nothing (*ex nihilo*).
4. God created in wisdom and love a good, ordered world for man; he transcends creation yet sustains it at every moment.
5. God created an invisible (spiritual) and visible (corporeal) world and they are closely united.
6. Angels are part of the invisible world. They are God's messengers: intelligent, spiritual creatures who are personal and immortal.
7. The visible world is good and its beauty reflects the beauty of the Creator.
8. Man is the crown of creation. By nature, we are God's creatures and servants and are given sanctity of life, dignity of labor and sacredness of family love, so we can live, work and love like God.
9. The Sabbath is a sign of the covenant between God and creation, of the union of heaven and earth, God and man, male and female. It points to our end with God for all eternity.
10. The world is a "macro-temple" – a holy place for God's presence and man's worship in sacrifice. The first six days of creation are similar to the building of the tabernacle.
11. The Garden of Eden was a sanctuary of life similar to the later Israelite tabernacle, with its cherubim and menorah representing the tree of life.

CCC 303-308 CCC 311-312, Rom 8:28	12. Adam is high priest of humanity called to sanctify creation, as Aaron was later high priest of Israel. 13. Creation is not yet complete, but in a journey toward perfection. God guides his creation towards perfection and cares for all through his providence. Humans enter this divine plan through their actions, prayers and sufferings. 14. God permits evil because he respects our own free will. He can always bring out good from evil.
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Hierarchy of Beings

- **Divine Life – God in the Trinity**
 - pure uncreated spirit with infinite intelligence and will

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- **Angelic Life**
 - Pure created spirits with intellect and will

- **Human Life**
 - A spiritual soul w/ intellect and will

- **Animal Life**
 - Existence, growth, and sensations

- **Plant Life**
 - Existence and growth
- **Rocks, minerals, elements**
 - Existence

Nine Choirs of Angels

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| • Seraphim | Isaiah 6:2–3, 6–7 |
| • Cherubim | Ezekiel 10:1–5, 20 |
| • Thrones | Colossians 1:16 |
| • Dominations | Colossians 1:16 |
| • Virtues | Ephesians 1:21 |
| • Powers | Colossians 1:16 |
| • Principalities | Colossians 1:16 |
| | Ephesians 1:21 |
| • Archangels | Jude 9 |
| | 1 Thessalonians 4:16 |
| • Angels | Hebrews 1:13–14 |