



# **The Creation Record: Is It Poetry?**

**William D. Barrick, Th.D.**

**2013 MacDonald Lectures**



# Introduction

**Genesis 1 is**

- **a literary masterpiece,**
- **a literal historical account, and**
- **a theological foundation.**

# 1.0 - Not Poetry

- Genesis 1 lacks parallelism.







# Psalm 104

- 2 Covering Yourself with light as with a  
cloak,  
Stretching out heaven like a *tent*  
curtain.
- 3 He lays the beams of His upper  
chambers in the waters;  
He makes the clouds His chariot;  
He walks upon the wings of the wind;
- 4 He makes the winds His messengers,  
Flaming fire His ministers.



# 1.0 - Not Poetry

- **Genesis 1 lacks parallelism.**
- **Not the grammar of poetry.**
  - Limited use of “the” in Hebrew.
  - Limited use of “which.”
  - Limited use of sequential verb forms.



# 1.0 - Not Poetry

- Genesis 1 lacks parallelism.
- Not the grammar of poetry.
- No imagery or metaphor.



# Psalm 104

- 2 **Covering Yourself** with light as with a cloak,  
**Stretching out** heaven like a *tent* curtain.
- 3 He lays **the beams of His upper chambers** in the waters;  
He makes the clouds **His chariot**;  
**He walks upon the wings of the wind**;
- 4 He makes the winds **His messengers**,  
Flaming fire **His ministers**.





# Psalm 104

- 5 He established the earth upon its foundations,  
So that it will not totter forever and ever.
- 6 You covered it with the deep **as with a garment;**  
The waters were standing above the mountains.
- 7 **At Your rebuke they fled,**  
**At the sound of Your thunder they hurried away.**





# 1.0 - Not Poetry

- **Genesis 1 lacks parallelism.**
- **Not the grammar of poetry.**
- **No imagery or metaphor.**
- **Poetry provides no automatic confirmation of a lack of historical veracity.**



# 1.0 - Not Poetry

- Genesis 1 lacks parallelism.
- Not the grammar of poetry.
- No imagery or metaphor.
- Poetry provides no automatic confirmation of a lack of historical veracity.
- Exodus 15 (the “Song of Moses”)



# 1.0 - Not Poetry

- Genesis 1 lacks parallelism.
- Not the grammar of poetry.
- No imagery or metaphor.
- Poetry provides no automatic confirmation of a lack of historical veracity.
- Exodus 15 (the “Song of Moses”)
- Judges 5 (the “Song of Deborah”)



## 2.0 - Historical Narrative

- Peter Enns: “narrative is not an automatic indication of historical veracity, either in the Bible or any other literature, ancient or modern.”  
— *Evolution of Adam*, 53
- Narrative prose without historical veracity: fiction.



## 2.0 - Historical Narrative

- Chronological sequence.





## 2.0 - Historical Narrative

- Chronological sequence.
- Formulaic repetitions.



# Repetition of a Pattern

1. “God said”
2. God’s speech
3. Result
4. God’s work
5. Naming
6. God’s view
7. Day



## 2.0 - Historical Narrative

- Chronological sequence.
- Formulaic repetitions.
- Close to pattern of genealogies.
  - See Genesis 2:4 and 5:1





## 3.0 - Don't Misunderstand

- The supernatural.



## 3.0 - Don't Misunderstand

- The supernatural.
- The reality.



## 3.0 - Don't Misunderstand

- The supernatural.
- The reality.
- The historical testimony.



## 3.0 - Don't Misunderstand

- The supernatural.
- The reality.
- The historical testimony.
- The chronological data.





## 3.0 - Don't Misunderstand

- The supernatural.
- The reality.
- The historical testimony.
- The chronological data.
- The pattern of biblical history.



# Conclusion

- 6 literal days of creation.

“unformed”	“unfilled”
3 acts of forming	3 acts of filling
<b>1</b> Light from darkness	<b>4</b> Light givers
<b>2</b> Upper from lower waters	<b>5</b> Fish and birds
<b>3</b> Lower waters from dry land	<b>6</b> Land animals and man



# Conclusion

- 6 literal days of creation.
- Precedents regarding God and His work.



# Conclusion

- 6 literal days of creation.
- Precedents regarding God and His work.
- Faith in the unity of the Scripture's testimony.