

## Reflection Questions: Genesis 1:1-2:3

For the message, "This is (Still) My Father's World" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on September 16, 2018

---

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read / Review the Scripture text:** Genesis 1:1-2:3

**Summary of the message:** Genesis chapter one invites the original audience (a nation of slaves who had been liberated from Egypt) and us into a story which tells us that the universe and this world had a beginning, and this story challenges both ancient and modern stories that are told about our world.

#### **Key Points:**

- As a Master Architect, the Creator God perfectly designed this world for our existence.
- As a Sovereign Ruler, the Creator god graciously established his kingdom for our benefit.

#### **Bottom Line:**

- Isaiah 66:1, "This is what the Lord says: 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.'"
- 

### **Let's get started...**

In your own life, have you spent much time in your own life thinking about what Genesis chapter 1 says? Whether it is a familiar passage to you or completely new, what questions have risen in your mind as you've thought about what it is saying?

In the message, the pastor suggested that we should always ask what the passage would have meant to the original audience. Was that helpful? Frustrating? Explain.

### **QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- What do we learn from Genesis 1 about God and his character as a Master Architect and a Sovereign Ruler?
- When I forget my Creator, or don't think about him or my life in relation to him, how does it affect me and all my relationships? What lies fill that vacuum? Or, conversely, when we remember our Creator, how should it affect me and my relationships?

#### **2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- What kind of community of faith is this text calling us to become for the sake of the world? In other words, what does this text mean for us as we live out our faith in our city remembering that this is still our Father's world?

- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

### 3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?
- What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?

### **CONCLUSION QUESTION**

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

### **PRAYER**

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- 

### **Key Quotes from the Message:**

- Johnny Miller & John Soden, *In the Beginning, We Misunderstood*, "The biblical accounts resoundingly dismiss the concept of deified elements of creation by treating all of creation as devoid of personality and totally subservient to the spoken will of God."
- Francis Collins, *The Language of God*, "When you look from the perspective of a scientist at the universe, it looks as if it knew we were coming."
- Isaiah 66:1, "This is what the Lord says: 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.'"
- John 1:1, 14, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory...."
- Nancy Guthrie, *Even Better Than Eden*, "...the story of the Bible is the story of God working out his plan to be at home with his people. The great passion of God's heart, as revealed from Genesis to Revelation, is to be at home with his people in a place where nothing can separate or alienate or contaminate, enjoying a face-to-face relationship of our joy with no goodbyes."