

Genesis 1:2 as the Key to Understanding the Structure of Genesis 1

Genesis 1:2 <u>The Challenges to be Overcome</u>	Genesis 1:3-13 <u>Creation of Realms</u>	Gen 1:14-31 <u>Creation of Rulers</u>	Genesis 1:14-31 <u>The Purposes of the Creations of Days Four through Six</u>
<p>And the earth was ↓ and darkness</p>	<p>formless → <u>Forming</u>¹ Day 1 The Creation of Day³ and Night (Gen 1:3-5)</p> <p>Day 2 The Creation of the heavens by their emerging from the waters⁵ (Gen 1:6-8)</p> <p>Day 3 The Creation of the earth by its emerging from the waters⁹ (Gen 1:10-13)</p>	<p>and void, <u>Filling</u>² Day 4 The Creation of Sun and Moon (Gen 1:14-19)</p> <p>Day 5 The Creation of Birds and Fish (Gen 1:20-23)</p> <p>Day 6 The Creation of Animals and Man (Gen 1:24-31)</p>	<p><u>Filling</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Ruling</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">governs the day (Gen 1:18)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">governs the night (Gen 1:18)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">By implication the birds are to rule the heavens⁵</p> <p style="text-align: right;">By implication the fish are to rule the seas</p> <p style="text-align: right;">By implication the animals are to rule the earth⁸</p> <p style="text-align: right;">"let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."¹⁰ (Gen 1:26)</p>
<p>was over the surface of the deep;</p>			
<p>and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.</p>			

¹The creations of the first three days of creation show God's response to an earth that was "formless" (Gen 1:2). See R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2004), 24.

²The creations of the second three days of creation show God's response to an earth that was "void" or empty (Gen 1:2). See Hughes, *Genesis*, 24.

³The creation of light on day one (Gen 1:3) was God's response to the darkness of Genesis 1:2.

⁴The sun specifically fills the day with light.

⁵The phenomenon of territoriality among some species of birds is their ruling the heavens for God.

⁶God took control of the waters of the deep (Gen 1:2) to create the heavens by having them emerge from the midst of the waters (Gen 1:6-8).

⁷One can safely infer from the parallel between the blessing of the birds and fish in verse 22 and the blessing of man in verse 28 that a similar blessing is intended for the animals.

⁸The phenomenon of territoriality among animals is their ruling the earth for God.

⁹God took control of the waters of the deep (Gen 1:2) to create the earth by having it emerge from the midst of the waters (Gen 1:9).

¹⁰God specifically delegates to man the rulership over the creations of days five and six (fish, birds and animals) as well as over the earth itself.