

# Contents



Preface	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Abbreviations for Reference Works, Translations, and Text Versions	xvii
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1. The Purpose and Parameters of This Book	1
2. The Plan of This Book	2
3. The Format of This Book	6

## PRELUDE

### Creation in the Bible

<b>Chapter One Three Models of Creation in the Bible</b>	<b>11</b>
1. Creation as Divine Might	17
2. Creation as Divine Wisdom	23
3. Creation as Divine Presence	27

## PART ONE

### Creation and the Priestly Vision of Reality

<b>Chapter Two The First Day: Questions about Genesis 1</b>	<b>41</b>
1. Does Genesis 1:1 Begin in “the” Beginning?	43
2. Did God Make Creation from Nothing in Genesis 1:1-2?	49

3. Does Genesis 1 Explain the Origins of Good and Evil?	59
4. What is the Significance of Divine Speech in Genesis 1:3?	64
5. Was the Light on Day One in Genesis 1:3 Created?	71
6. Why are Divine Sight, Separation, and Speech in Genesis 1:4-5 Important?	79
7. Who is the Audience for the Divine Speech and Light in Genesis 1?	82
<b>Chapter Three The First Week: The Priestly Vision of Time and Space, Humanity and Divinity</b>	<b>87</b>
1. Priestly Time and Space	87
2. Priestly Time: The Lights of Day Four	93
3. Priestly Person: Humanity on Day Six	98
4. Priestly God: Divine Blessing and Sanctification on Day Seven	102
5. The Priestly Vision of Genesis 1	108
<b>PART TWO</b>	
<b>Literary Issues concerning Genesis 1 and its Position in the Hebrew Bible</b>	
<b>Chapter Four The First Creation Story: Genesis 1 as Priestly Prologue and Commentary</b>	<b>117</b>
1. The Scribal Background of Biblical Texts	118
2. The Priestly, Scribal Context of Genesis 1	121
3. Genesis 1 as Implicit Commentary in Narrative Form	129
<b>Chapter Five Is Genesis 1 a Creation Myth? Yes and No</b>	<b>139</b>
1. Myth and its Modern Definers	139
2. Ancient Signs of What Myths Are	145
3. Myths in Relation to Various Genres	149
4. Divine Space in Myth	151
5. Is Genesis 1 a “Creation Myth”?	154

<b>Appendix A Very Brief Introduction to Modern Scholarly Approaches to Genesis 1</b>	<b>161</b>
1. Recent Approaches in Biblical Studies	163
2. Traditional Approaches and Genesis 1	169
3. A Few Reflections	187
Recommended Reading for Genesis 1	193
Notes	197
Indexes	
Index of Subjects and Terms	301
Index of Biblical References	306
Index of Extrabiblical References	314