

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Handout 1-A

## Interview with the Created

Please read your assigned part slowly and clearly.

**Interviewer:** Welcome to our show today. God has graciously agreed to participate, as well as several of his created beings—an angel, a human, a dog, a fish, and a rock. I would like to begin with a question for God. God, how many types of creatures did you create?

**God:** I made three types of creatures: fully spiritual creatures such as angels; fully corporeal creatures such as animals and fish; and human beings, who are both body and spirit.

**Interviewer:** God, what about the rock?

**God:** Well, I created the rock, but it is not a creature since it is not living like the others.

**Interviewer:** Of course. Question from the audience?

**Audience Member 1:** What about yourself, God. Are you a creature? Did someone create you?

**God:** No, I have been in existence for eternity so I am quite different from every other entity here. No one created me.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, God. I have a few questions for the angel. Angel, tell us about your role with God and then about your interactions with humans.

**Angel:** Angels are God's messengers, and we interact with humans as God desires, such as when Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she would be Jesus' mother. Some angels—guardian angels—protect humans.

**Interviewer:** Question from the audience?

**Audience Member 2:** Angel, where do you live?

**Angel:** I live in heaven with God.

**Interviewer:** Angel, what makes you different from the human being?

**Angel:** I resemble a human because we both are God's creatures, are intelligent, and exist to serve God. But I am fully spiritual, while humans are both spiritual and corporeal. I am also immortal.

**Interviewer:** Question from the audience?

**Audience Member 3:** Aren't human beings immortal too?

**Angel:** Yes, they are, but in a somewhat different way. Humans live a life on earth that is mortal, whereas my only life is immortal. Humans' immortal souls live after their earthly death and then will be rejoined with their bodies at the Last Judgment.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, Angel. I have a question for you, Dog. Dog, what makes you different from the human being?

**Dog:** Not only am I lower to the ground than human adults, but humans know more than I do. I have a body like a human but have never heard of God or the word *spiritual*. I will say, however, that it sounds as though we dogs often behave more like God wants humans to behave than they do.

**Interviewer:** I would have to agree with you on that last comment. Thank you, Dog. Human, you are next. Human, how can you be both body and spirit?

**Human:** I am actually a unity. Spirit and matter form in me a single nature because my soul takes on the “form” of the body. My body is actually part of how I am made in God’s image.

**Interviewer:** Interesting and complicated. It seems that the spirit is more important than the body since you share the body with the fish and dog while you share the spirit with the angels. Question from the audience?

**Audience Member 4:** Human, if the body is not as important, is it unimportant what you do with fully corporeal creatures, and can you do whatever you want with your own body?

**Human:** First, I cannot do whatever I want with the fish and the dog since I am a steward of creation. As far as my own body goes, I must view my body as good and honor it because God created it and will raise it up on the last day, the General Judgment. My soul is immortal, which means that it will not die when it is separated from my body in my earthly death, and it will be reunited with my body at the final resurrection. In addition, my body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

**Interviewer:** Wow! Thank you, Human. Fish, how about you? Are you ordered toward a supernatural end like the human?

**Fish:** I don’t think so. If I had a spirit or soul, then I would be ordered toward a supernatural end—but I don’t seem to have one.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, Fish. God, what are two other reasons you made humans with a body and a soul?

**God:** Humans possess great dignity. They are “someones” rather than “somethings.” They can know themselves and love other people and me. Because I made humans in my own image, I call men and women to love and be in communion with each other and me. In fact, in their bodies, humans sum up the elements of the material world and bring them to perfection so as to praise me, their Creator.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, God. In summary then, in the scheme of things, God is first because he is the Creator rather than one of the created, the angels come second because they are fully spiritual and have special jobs from God, humans come next as corporeal and spiritual, the fish and dog are fully corporeal, and the rock is created but inanimate.

**God, Angel, Human, Dog, Fish, and Rock:** You have described us all correctly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Handout 1-B

## Review of Salvation History

Adam and Eve	They were tempted by Satan and committed the first sin.
Cain and Abel	One brother killed another, showing how sin spreads.
Noah	God wanted to destroy the world with a flood, but he saved this man and his family. God made a covenant with him.
Abraham	God called this person to leave his own land and go to a place that God would show him. God made promises to him, including the promise of a son.
Isaac and Rebekah	This couple had twin sons, but only one would get his father's blessing. The younger son used trickery to secure his father's blessing.
Jacob	This man had twelve sons and favored one of them over the others, making his other sons jealous. The brothers stopped short of killing the favorite son, instead selling him into slavery.
Joseph	This man was a slave who rose to prominence in Egypt because of his ability to interpret dreams and his wisdom.
Moses	God called to this man from a burning bush and asked him to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt. The man did so and was the person to whom God gave the Ten Commandments. Through him God made a covenant with his people.
Joshua	This man took over for an iconic leader and led the Israelites into the Promised Land. Jericho fell under his leadership.
Judges	These men and women were people God called to help the Israelites after they had wandered from him and were in trouble. They resembled tribal leaders.
Samuel	This man was a leader and prophet who interacted with the first kings.
Saul	He was the first king of Israel and fell out of favor with God.
David	This king united the tribes of Israel and moved the people's capital to Jerusalem. God made a covenant with him and his descendants.
Solomon	Known for his wisdom, this king had so many wives that they cost a great deal to support, and some of them encouraged him to worship idols instead of God.

Isaiah	This person's name was given to several prophecies over three centuries that are recorded in a biblical book with his name on it.
Jeremiah	He was a prophet who came from a priestly family and delivered words of warning and hope to Jews living in Jerusalem prior to the Babylonian Exile and then in Egypt during the exile. He shared the news that God was going to make a new covenant with his people.
Ezekiel	God called this man to be a prophet in Babylon, where the Jewish people were in exile. Once the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem, this man promised salvation and a new covenant if the Jews returned to God. He often acted his prophecies out dramatically.
Hosea	This man was a prophet in the northern kingdom who used his marriage and his wife's unfaithfulness as a parallel to Israel's lack of fidelity to God.
Amos	This man bred sheep in Judah but went up to the northern kingdom as a prophet to denounce the hollowness of prosperity and the sin of idolatry.
Mary	She was Jesus' mother, the one who modeled faith by agreeing to be the mother to God's Son.
Joseph	He was betrothed to Mary and stayed by her, though she was pregnant, because of a dream. He raised Jesus and likely shared his trade of carpentry with him.
John the Baptist	He was Jesus' relative, and his mission was to prepare the way for Jesus. He baptized people as part of his call to repentance.
Jesus	This man is the Son of God and Son of Mary, fully God and fully human. He came to redeem humanity from their sins.
Peter	This man was called to be the rock upon which Jesus built his Church.
Twelve Apostles	These men were Jesus' closest followers, people whom he called to share the Good News of the Kingdom with others after he ascended into heaven.
Judas	One of Jesus' disciples, this man is the one who betrayed Jesus to the Jewish leaders. He ended his life once he realized what he had done.
Pontius Pilate	He was the Roman prefect who had to decide whether Jesus should be executed. He bowed to the pressure of the Jewish leaders and their people and ordered his men to crucify Jesus.

Mary Magdalene	She was one of Jesus' followers to whom he appeared first after his Resurrection in three of the Gospels accounts.
Thomas	He was one of the Twelve Apostles who was not present when Jesus first appeared to his Apostles and would not believe Jesus had risen until he saw Jesus himself.
Paul	This man was persecuting Christians when he had a conversion experience. He then became a zealous evangelist for Jesus Christ, travelling all over the Mediterranean region and writing letters to the communities he founded.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Handout 1-C

## Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

Lord Jesus Christ,  
open the eyes of my heart,  
that I may hear your word  
and understand and do your will,  
for I am a sojourner upon the earth.  
Hide not your commandments from me,  
but open my eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of your law.  
Speak unto me the hidden and secret things  
of your wisdom.  
On you do I set my hope, O my God,  
that you shall enlighten  
my mind and understanding with  
the light of your knowledge,  
not only to cherish those things  
which are written, but to do them;  
that in reading the lives and sayings  
of the saints I may not sin,  
but that such may serve for my restoration, enlightenment,  
and sanctification, for the salvation of my soul,  
and the inheritance of life everlasting.  
For you are the enlightenment of those  
who lie in darkness,  
and from you comes every good deed  
and every gift.  
Amen.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Handout 1-D

## Sources of the Pentateuch

	J - Yahwist	E - Elohist	D - Deuteronomist	P - Priestly
<b>God's Name</b>	Yahweh	Elohim	Yahweh	Elohim
<b>Place of Origin</b>	Southern Kingdom (Judah)	Northern Kingdom (Israel)	Northern Kingdom (Schechem/Jerusalem)	Babylonian Exile
<b>Probable Date</b>	950 BC	850 BC	650 BC	400 BC
<b>Emphasis/Theme</b>	God's Promises to Patriarchs	Prophecy/Covenants	Morality/ Living the Law	Temple Worship and concerns of priests serving in the Temple
<b>Overall Contribution</b>	Provided a basic outline for the Pentateuch.	Combined J and E.	Highlighted obedience as the response to God's grace.	Offered a coherent framework for the Pentateuch.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Handout 1-E

## A Study of the Action in Genesis 1 and 2

God's action was the mechanism for the creation of the world. Examine God's action by tracking the action verbs and the context in which they occur in the first and second creation accounts. Use the *New American Bible, Revised Edition* to track the verbs listed on this handout. Make sure to choose only verbs that represent an action of God.

First Creation Account	Second Creation Account
created	made
separated	formed
set	planted