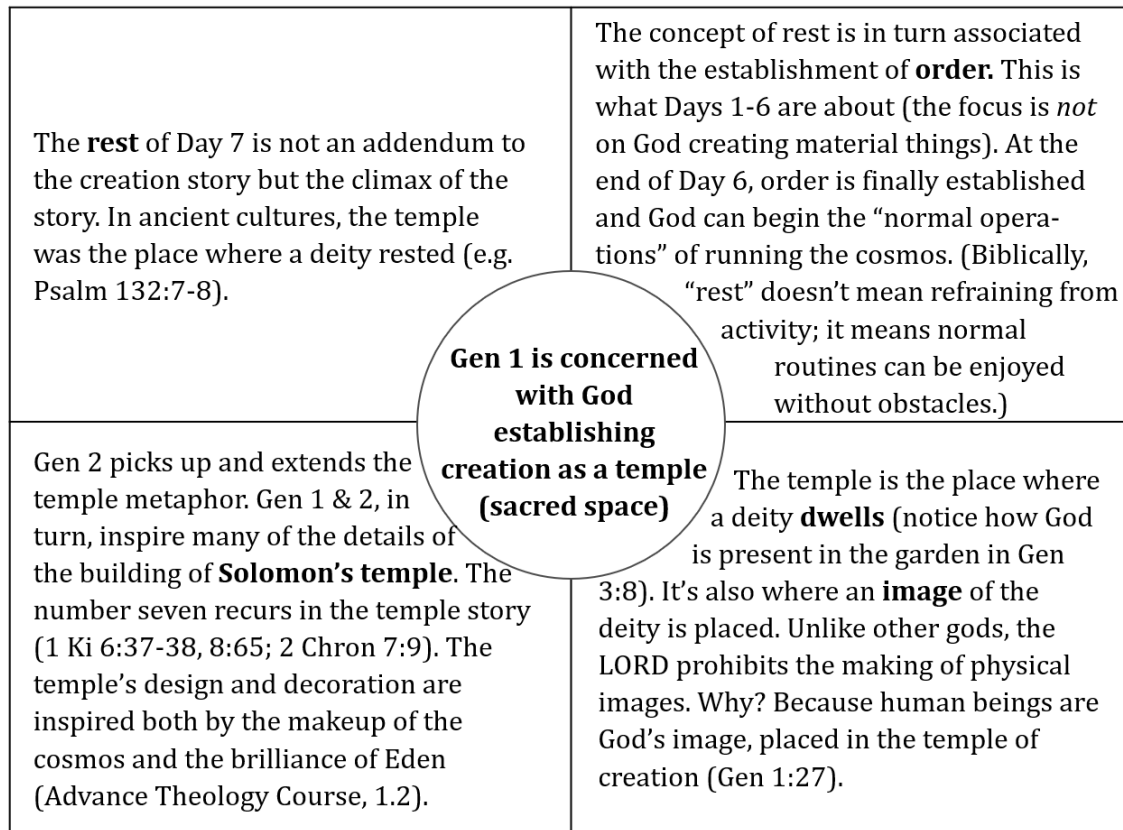


THE COSMIC TEMPLE INAUGURATION VIEW

John Walton: The difference between building a house and making a home –

“[The ancients] were not interested in how the material objects of the house came into being – God did it and that was enough for them. Of much more interest to them was how this house (the cosmos) had become a home for humans but even more importantly how God had made it his own home.” (2015, p. 45)



Evaluation

- This view strengthens the connection between Genesis 1 and 2 (and beyond. From page 1 of the Bible, a picture emerges of God’s intention to dwell with humanity in the earth, a situation that is disrupted by sin in Genesis 3 and which God takes steps to remedy with the call of Abram in Genesis 12).
- The cosmic-temple inauguration view “feels” authentically Hebrew, that is, given what we know about the centrality of the temple to Jewish life and thought, it seems likely that the original audience would have readily understood the temple references in Genesis 1. The reading may not seem “plain” to us, but it could very well have been “plain” to them.
- John Walton may perhaps have overstated the case for Genesis 1 not being about material creation but only about God establishing “functions”. Couldn’t it be about both?
- There’s no reason why this view can’t sit alongside other perspectives, such as the literary framework view and/or the polemical view.