



Links Players

New Beginings 2026 | Repetition

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1-2)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1-5)

If you didn't know anything about Jim Furyk, you probably wouldn't imitate his swing, especially after hearing David Feherty say it looked like "an octopus falling out of a tree." But here's the thing—it repeated like a Rolex watch.

Turns out, seeing repetition in Scripture is key to profitably reading these ancient texts, too.

We shouldn't be surprised, then, that the heavenly Author inspired the earthly authors to develop the overarching storyline through repeating patterns.

The "In the beginning" of Genesis and John's Gospel is a clue to a major recurring pattern. These citations are bookends, with many 'new beginnings' in between.

After the original "In the beginning" of Genesis, things went terribly wrong. Six chapters later, Yahweh 'begins again.' God returns the earth to its primordial state—darkness and water once more cover the world (Genesis 1:1-2; 7:17-19).

Just as God separated the waters from the waters and dry land appeared "In the beginning" (Genesis 1:9), he also parted the floodwaters with a strong wind and placed Noah on dry ground to "begin again" (Genesis 8). Moses presents Noah as the "new Adam."

God commanded Adam to "be fruitful, and multiply and fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion" (Genesis 1:28). He repeats this same command to Noah, "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Gen. 9:1).

Adam ate from the fruit of the tree and, in sin, misdirected God's purposes. Noah, too, drank from the fruit of the vine, and so God would begin again—this time with another son.

By the time we reach Exodus, we discover that Israel, like Adam, is referred to as "the son of God" (see Ex. 4:22-23; Hosea 11:1; Luke 3:38).

It is far from coincidental that "darkness covers the land" in the Israel narrative (Ex. 10), and God's east wind blows, separating the waters of the Red Sea (Ex. 14), so dry land appears, allowing God's Son (Israel) to move

forward, multiply, and fill the earth (Ex. 14).

In each narrative, God's 'sons' emerge from water: Adam after the chaotic waters of creation, Noah after the waters of judgment, Israel from the Red Sea, and Jesus from the waters of Jordan. And in each case, they are to "multiply, fill, and subdue" the enemy.

Sadly, Adam, Noah, and Israel, as "creaturely sons," broke their covenant with God (Hosea 6:7), but this Son kept the covenant to the point of death—the new covenant ratified in blood.

The Last Adam emerges from the waters of Jordan into the wilderness, but he did not succumb to the devil's enticements; instead, he trusted God's word all the way to the cross (Matthew 4).

Like Noah, Jesus emerged from the waters of baptism to "multiply, fill, subdue, and rule." Unlike Noah, in obedience, he drank the sour wine (fruit of the vine), symbolizing God's wrath (Psalm 75:8), so that his offspring could live forever in a new heaven and earth cleansed of all unrighteousness.

Like Israel, God's corporate son, this Son came out of Egypt (Matthew 2:15), passed through the waters, entered the wilderness, fought the enemy, and entered into what the Promised Land foreshadows—the new heavens and the new earth.

Unfortunately, the original "In the beginning" of Genesis came to an abysmal end. The last "In the beginning" found in John's Gospel is a never-ending love story in which the groom and bride "live happily ever after!"

Prayer: Lord! Open our eyes to see that these patterns all culminate in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 1:20; Luke 24:25-27, 24:44).

READING: A good exercise would be to revisit all the texts referenced in the devotional and prayer.

1. Discuss the importance of a repeating swing, the factors that disrupt it, and what it would take to increase its frequency.

2. After revisiting these narratives—Adamic creation, Noahic flood, Israel's exodus—all thematically culminating in Jesus—ask, "What can we learn from this about God, God's plan, and our salvation?"
