

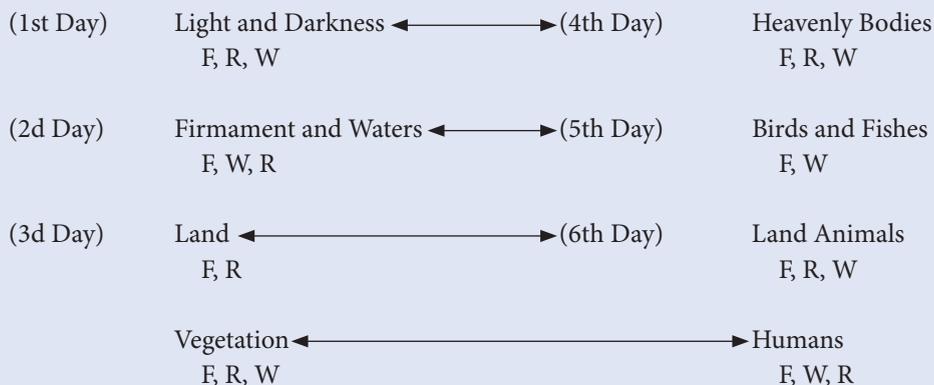
The connection of Genesis 1 to the rest of P is better clarified by the conclusion and execution formulas. Strictly speaking, there is no execution formula in Genesis 1, since there is no higher power than God to direct the deity. On the other hand, the description of creation in six days interweaves two ways of depicting the accomplishment of creation: God *speaking* the world into being (fiat and realization formulas) and God *crafting* the world into being (work formula). On the one hand, the coupling of the fiat formula (“And God said . . .”) with the realization formula (“And it was so”) parallels the execution of command formula that runs throughout the remainder of P, while the work formula (“God created/made/divided . . .”) parallels the completion-of-work formula that occurs in the three key moments listed above. Moreover, the distribution of creative acts over six days shows a symmetry between the acts of days 1–3 and days 4–6 and the fusion of fiat/

realization and work formulas in Genesis 1 (chart 11.1).

The world picture of P that stands behind this creation story is that of a flat disk earth topped by a solid and transparent semicircular firmament, with threatening but controlled waters beneath the earth and above the firmament (fig. 11.1). This cosmos is an orderly rule-governed environment for humans, which anticipates the ark of Noah and the tabernacle in the wilderness as further God-given safe environments to protect humankind, and eventually Israel, against natural and historical chaos, as long as the rule-governed cult for the worship of God is observed faithfully.

A fusion of cosmic myth and cultic scrupulosity in these priestly scribal traditions, stretched upon a frame of stylized history, contributes to a highly differentiated world of thought and practice in which every object, person, and activity has its meaningful place and its proper function that dare not be disre-

Chart 11.1 “Fiat,” “Realization,” and “Work” Formulas in Genesis 1



Key:

F: Fiat Formula: “And God said . . .”

R: Realization Formula: “And it was so”

W: Work Formula: “God created/made/divided . . .”