



# **LIFE AS WORSHIP IN GENESIS 1**

## **Creation and the Formation of our Social Imaginary**



**ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programme**

**October 19-23, 2026  
Banska Bystrica, Slovakia**

## WELCOME TO BANSKA BYSTRICA

Banská Bystrica is a **charming historic city in the heart of Slovakia**, surrounded by beautiful mountains and unspoiled nature. Known for its rich cultural heritage, lively cafés, and welcoming atmosphere, it offers the **perfect balance between tradition and modern student life**. Its compact city center makes it easy to explore, while the nearby Low Tatras and national parks provide great opportunities for hiking and outdoor activities. We believe Banská Bystrica will offer you not only an inspiring academic environment, but also a truly memorable cultural experience.

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## ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF MATEJ BEL

**Matej Bel University is a modern public university in Slovakia and a proud member of the European University Association.** It offers high-quality education at all three levels of study in a wide range of fields, including economics, law, social sciences, humanities, natural sciences and international relations. Many programmes are available in English, and some also in French, making it accessible to international students.

The **university actively cooperates with partner institutions abroad**, giving students the opportunity to study in other countries and gain valuable international experience. Beyond academics, Matej Bel University supports research and innovation through European-funded projects and provides a vibrant student life with cultural, sports and social activities, as well as opportunities for personal development through lifelong learning programmes.

## ABOUT BIP

One of the strengths of the Department of Theology and Christian Education in Banská Bystrica is its emphasis on **Biblical Studies** and **Systematic Theology**. These disciplines provide a framework for exploring a Christian social imaginary—that is, how we worship God in everyday life.

The creation narrative of Genesis 1:1–2:3 sets in motion the **biblical plotline** and is foundational to theology, contributing significantly to doctrines from theology proper to eschatology. Within contemporary evangelical discourse, however, this text is often

approached primarily through debates at the intersection of biblical authority and scientific explanation. While such questions are not without importance, they frequently obscure the crucial canonical role of Genesis 1. This BIP seeks to recover **Genesis 1 as a formative text for shaping a distinctly Christian social imaginary**.

During our 2026 Blended Intensive Program we will begin with a guided exploration of interpretive strategies for Gen 1 in an attempt to spiral in on the author's original intent. A central focus will be the **role of temple imagery** in the creation account and its significance for understanding the world as ordered toward communion with God. This theme will then be traced through the rest of Scripture, with special attention to **how New Testament writers appropriate and transform temple imagery**, culminating in the eschatological vision of the Book of Revelation.

Throughout the program, textual and theological insights will be brought into dialogue with contemporary questions relevant to a Christian social imaginary. These may include topics such as **metaphysics, education, wisdom, technology, creation care, and sexuality**. By combining exegetical rigor with theological reflection and collaborative learning across Central European evangelical institutions, the BIP aims to **equip students and faculty to articulate a holistic vision of life as worship** rooted in the opening chapter of the biblical story.

**Target Group:**

Staff and Faculty of Christian Institutions for Higher Education

**Host Institution**

Department of Theology and Christian Education  
Faculty of Education  
Matej Bel University  
Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

**Participants**

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**Event Main Venue**

Baptist Church  
Horná Strieborná 5, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

**Date**

October 19 - October 23, 2026

**Contact us for more information about the programme.**

Todd Patterson: todd.patterson@umb.sk

**Contact for registration and information about accommodation, etc.:**

Peter Azor: kancelaria@zec.sk

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Monday | October 19**

13:00 Arrival, lunch

14:00 Coffee and welcome

18:00 Dinner

19:00 Welcome Session

**Introduction to BIP** (Ben Uhrin)

### **Tuesday | October 20**

08:30 Devotions, worship

09:00 Session 1

**Genesis 1 – from textual interpretation to creation as temple,  
and its implications for our metaphysics and social imaginary**  
(Todd Patterson)

10:30 Coffee break

11:30 Small groups work on Session 1

Summary Session (presentation of small group results)

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Session 2

**Genesis 1 – from textual interpretation to creation as temple,  
and its implications for our metaphysics and social imaginary**  
(Todd Patterson)

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Small groups work on Session 2

Summary Session (presentation of small group results)

17:30 Free time, dinner

19:30 Open lectures  
**Topic** (Speaker)

### **Wednesday | October 21**

08:30 Devotions, worship

09:00 Session 3

**Genesis 1 – from textual interpretation to creation as temple,  
and its implications for our metaphysics and social imaginary**  
(Todd Patterson)

10:30 Coffee break

11:30 Small groups work on Session 3

Summary Session (presentation of small group results)

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Open lectures

**Topic** (Speaker)

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Activity

18:00 Dinner

19:30 Open lectures

**Topic** (Speaker)

### **Thursday | October 22**

08:30 Devotions, worship

09:00 Session 4

**The Temple in the New Testament**  
(Peter Málik)

10:30 Coffee break

11:30 Small groups work on Session 4

Summary Session (presentation of small group results)

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Session 5

**Teaching Genesis 1 to first graders**  
(Jana Patterson)

15:30 Coffee break

17:00 Activity

### **Friday | October 23**

08:30 Devotions, worship

09:00 Session 6

**Creation as Temple in Everyday Life:**

**Intersections of faith with society, science, and work**

(Ben Uhrin)

10:30 Coffee break

11:30 Small groups work on Session 6

Summary Session (presentation of small group results)

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Departure

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