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**Thesis Abstract**

“This thesis approaches Gen 1 as not just a myth but as a cultural memory. Thus, it is fitting that the some Targums call *Genesis* the “Book of Memories.” But why does it open with two distinct memories of creation? Why was one added to the other? This thesis argues that Gen 1 was intentionally added by the Holiness Group (H), not the Priestly Group (P), to the very beginning of the Pentateuch in order to (primarily) elevate the Sabbath to an equal position with the Temple/Tabernacle. In cultural memory terms, Gen 1 is a countermemory. This countermemory provided a much needed mnemonic foundation and legitimization for Sabbath practice in an exilic and, thus,  temple-less context. Therefore, Gen 1 represents a mnemonic shift from a focus on sacred space (e.g. the Temple), like much of P’s narrative does, to a focus on sacred time (e.g. the Sabbath and calendar). It is a shift from the sanctuary atop Mount Zion to a sanctuary in time.”