

Steve Greenberg's Handout, Wednesday, January 7, 2025

Week1: Genesis 1:1-23 The Creation Account

Genesis 1:1-2 The History of Creation (Gen 2:4–9; Job 38:4–11; John 1:1–5) The Creation Account

Quote from Pastor Chuck Smith

The book of Genesis was written by Moses. Genesis is the book of beginnings: the beginning of creation, the beginning of man the beginning of sin, and the beginning of God's plan for the redemption of sinning man.

Luk 24:27 And beginning at Moses (his writings) and all the Prophets, He(Jesus) expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

v.1 "In the beginning God" The subject of the Bible is God. The purpose of the Bible is to bring us to the knowledge of God and His love for us.

Doesn't nature reveal God to us? Why do we need the Bible to know Him? Nature reveals God's power, greatness, and wisdom, but this revelation is not complete. We need the Bible to provide us with a unified body of knowledge concerning God.

God is the creator of all things, the object of creation, and the sustainer of creation.

"God created the heaven and the earth". Men who do not accept God as the creator must find other explanations for our existence.

A. Complexity of cells is not synonymous with higher life forms. Frog cells are more complex than human cells.

Suggested reading: Evolution: The Fossils Say No by Duane Gish and Twilight of Evolution by Henry Morris.

Quote from David Guzik

We believe what is written in 2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We believe the Bible must be understood literally, that is, as straightforward and true according to its literary context. We believe the Bible is not a book of science; yet where it touches science, it speaks the truth.

The only proper way to interpret Genesis 1 is not to 'interpret' it at all. That is, we accept the fact that it was meant to say is exactly what it says." (Morris)

i. The Bible is much more than a book; it is a library of books, and books written in different literary forms. Some portions of the Bible give a historical account, others are poetic, and some are prophetic.

- iii. Psalm 119:128 says: Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right. With great confidence, the Psalmist proclaimed the inerrancy of God's Word. It was right, not wrong; and it was right concerning all things. When the Bible gives us history, it is right and true; the events actually happened as described.

- When the Bible gives us poetry, it is right and true; the feeling and experiences were real for the writer and ring true to human experience.
- When the Bible gives us prophecy, it is right and true; the events described will come to pass, just as it is written.
- When the Bible gives us instruction, it is right and true; it truly does tell us the will of God and the best way of life.
- When the Bible tells us of God, it is right and true; it reveals to us what the nature and heart and mind of God are, as much as we can comprehend.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God (**Elohim**) created (**from nothing**) the heavens and the earth.

In the beginning God created: This summary statement simply put declares the world did not create itself or come about by chance. It was created by God who, by definition, is eternal and has always been.

Elohim is a plural form based on el (**root meaning: strength, God**), which itself is used to refer to God in compounds like El Shaddai (**Almighty God**). Elohim" which is plural, indicates God's majesty and that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit acted together to create the world, but the verb "created" is singular, indicating that God is one being.

Heb bara. Here and in Gen 1:21, God created from nothing which is something only He can do. In Genesis 2:7 God used preexisting materials (man was made from the dust (**dirt**) of the ground (**Psalm 103:14, Ecc 12:7, 1Cor 15:47**); Eve from Adam's rib or side (**Gen 2:21–22**); each use of the word bara (**create**) must be considered in its specific context.

Heavens and the earth here means "everything." Thus, "in the beginning" refers to the beginning of everything. The text indicates that God created everything in the universe, which means that he created it out of nothing.

Jhn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jhn 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

Jhn 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Psa 19:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psa 19:2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

Psa 19:3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.

Psa 19:4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

Isa 42:5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:

Isa 45:18 For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Isa 48:13 Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, They stand up together.

Heb 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. This verse tells us that it is through faith, that is faith in God's Word that we understand creation. Apart from the Bible, we would know nothing about how creation began. Hebrews 11:1 does not say that by science we understand that the worlds were framed by God. Science is simply the study of the world we live in and experience. It is limited to observation and measurement and cannot speak to the origin of all things.

In Job 38:6 God says that He laid the foundations of the earth. That statement implies that foundations were put in place first, God is telling us the story or history of creation with little detail but enough detail in order that we can comprehend and believe. Therefore, Genesis chapter 1 shows us a progressive order of creation which we can understand just like a construction project.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Quote from David Guzik

The teleological argument for the existence of God. It is the understanding that there must be a purposeful intelligence that created this world, because the world shows both purpose and intelligence. In the view of many (including the author), this argument from purpose and design remains unanswered by the atheist or the agnostic.

Gen 1:2 The earth was without form (**formless, without shape**), and void (**or empty**); and darkness *was* on the face (**surface**) of the deep (**darkness covered the deep waters & unformed earth**). And the Spirit of God was hovering (**moving, brooding, fluttering**) over the face of the waters.

David Guzik Quote

a. **The earth was without form, and void**: Some translate the idea in this verse as **the earth became without form and void**. Their thinking is the earth was originally created **not without form and void**, but it **became without form and void** through the destructive work of Satan. However, this is not the plain grammatical sense of the ancient Hebrew.

Isa 45:18 For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

The idea, here, is God says He did **not** create the world **in vain** (the Hebrew word is the same as the word for **void** in [Genesis 1:1](#)).

ii. Based on these ideas, some have advanced what has been called the "Gap Theory." It is the idea that there was a long and indefinite chronological gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. Most gap theory advocates use the theory to explain the fossil record, assigning old and extinct fossils to this indefinite gap.

iii. Whatever merit the gap theory may have, it cannot explain the extinction and fossilization of ancient animals. The Bible says plainly death came by Adam (Romans 5:12), and since fossils are the result of death, they could not have happened before Adam's time.

Isa 45:7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.'

The Hebrew text here has two rhyming words, **tohu** and **bohu**, which have similar meanings of "without shape or form" and "emptiness." The construction is a figure of speech in which two words are used together to express the same idea. The meaning is that

the earth had no clearly discernible features at this point in creation but essentially was a mass of raw materials. This proves to be very important from philosophical and scientific viewpoints, because it documents the fact that the raw matter of the earth--and by extension, of the universe--did not coexist eternally with God, but was created by Him (Latin "out of nothing"). There is no reason to think that a gap of time or a long time elapsed between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2.

Cross-reference comparison

Jer 4:23 I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light.

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Genesis 1:3-5 The First Day

Gen 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Genesis tells us that light, day, and night each existed before the sun and the moon gave light on the fourth day (Gen 1:14-19). This shows us that light has a supernatural aspect coming from God. In the new heavens and the new earth, there won't have any need for sun or moon. God Himself will be the light (Rev 22:5).

First Day there is a great deal of creation happening that is not fully explained but is necessary for creation such as light, time, gravity, and other foundational elements. God did not give a complete detailed account of all creation on the first day just enough for us to know He knows what He is doing and we can believe in Him!

Psa 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Psa 33:7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses.

Psa 33:9 For He(God) spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

Psa 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

Isa 60:19 "The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory.

2Cor 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Jhn 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Sometimes I want to figure out how this all happen and my mind is blown, but then I think of why this happened, Jesus (God) involved in creation became a man and suffered and died for me

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Eph 1:7 In Him (**Jesus**) we have redemption through His blood (**death & resurrection**), the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Eph 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He (**Jesus the Christ, God**) might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

Jhn 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Jhn 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Jesus offers comfort, I will go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself (**at My Father's house**);

Jhn 14:1 "**Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.**

Jhn 14:2 "**In My Father's house are many mansions (Literally dwellings); if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

Jhn 14:3 "**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself (My Father's house); that where I am, there you may be also.**

Jhn 14:4 "**And where I go you know, and the way you know."**

Heb 9:24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

Gen 1:4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided (**separated**) the light (**distinguishing it**) from the darkness.

Other scriptures in which God speaks into being and says it is good (Gen 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31).

Gen 1:5 God called the light "Day", and the darkness He called "Night". So the evening and the morning were the first day (**The Hebrew word translated "evening" indicates dusk or sunset and the word translated "morning" indicates the time when it is getting light (dawn).**

Rev 22:5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Exo 31:17 'It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "

Genesis 1:6-8 The Second Day

Gen 1:6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament (**expanse, space or vault-an expanse of space, an invisible but very real structure or barrier that protects the Earth**) in the midst of the waters, and let it divide (**or separate**) the waters (**below the expanse or firmament of heaven**) from the waters (**above the expanse or firmament on the earth**)."

Light was separated from darkness, and now the waters are separated to form an expanse, a firmament, a protected area.

The blanket of moisture that surrounded the earth protected men from cosmic radiation and cell damage so that lifespans were much longer.

Quotes from Henry Morris book The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings.

- i. "The *waters above the firmament* thus probably constituted a vast blanket of water vapor above the troposphere and possibly above the stratosphere as well, in the high temperature region now known as the ionosphere, and extending far into space."
- ii. It would serve as a global greenhouse, maintaining an essentially uniform, pleasant temperature all over the world.
- iii. Without great temperature variations, there would be no significant winds, and the water-rain cycle could not form. There would be no rain, as we know it today.
- iv. There would be lush, tropical-like vegetation all over the world, fed not by rain, but by a rich evaporation and condensation cycle, resulting in heavy dew or ground-fog.
- v. The vapor blanket would filter out ultraviolet radiation, cosmic rays, and other destructive energies bombarding the planet. These are known to be the cause of mutations, which decrease human longevity. Human and animal lifespans would be greatly increased.
- vi. A vapor blanket would provide the necessary reservoir for a potential worldwide flood.

Psa 136:6 To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 148:4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens!

Gen 1:7 Thus God made the firmament (or **expanse), and divided the waters which were under the firmament (or **expanse**) from the waters which were above the firmament (or **expanse**); and it was so (as **He commanded**).**

Pro 8:28 When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep,

Pro 8:29 When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth

Gen 1:8 And God called the firmament (vault or expanse in the sky**) Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.**

Genesis 1:9-13 The Third Day

Gen 1:9 Then God said, "Let the waters under (or **below) the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.**

The earth was covered with water. Now the waters are gathered together into one place, and dry land appears.

Gen 1:10 And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters, He called Seas. And God saw that it was good (God affirmed what He did**).**

God organizes the dry land, forming Earth; and the waters, forming Seas. Notice seas are established before fish are created. Fish come later, and birds later still (on Day Five). Again, we see preparation before habitation, all part of God's master plan.

These verses show how God has arranged time in a weekly with day & night. God is pictured as working for six days and resting on the seventh, which is a model for human activity.

Exo 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Jer 5:22 Do you not fear Me?' says the LORD. 'Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.

Gen 1:11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass (**sprout vegetation**), the herb (**seed-bearing plants**) that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to (**limited to, and consistent with**) its kind, whose seed is in itself (**has seeds to reproduce**), on the earth"; and it was so.

God separates the earth from the water so that plant life and mammals can live and grow on dry land

Gen 1:12 And the earth brought forth grass (**or sprouted and abundantly produced vegetation**), the herb (**or plants**) that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (**God affirmed what He did**).

God created plant life that was mature full grown that can reproduce itself.

Practical application

Luk 6:43 "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

Luk 6:44 "For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.

Luk 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man (or women**) sows, that he will also reap.**

Gal 6:8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Gen 1:13 So the evening (**past**) and the morning (**came and that was**) were the third day.

Genesis 1:14-19 The Fourth Day

Gen 1:14 Then God said, "Let there be lights (**light-bearers or luminaries, sun, moon, stars**) in the firmament (**expanse**) of the heavens to divide (**or separate**) the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

These verses, describing the fourth day, seem to correspond with the dividing of light and darkness on the first day (Gen 1:3–5).

Lights are placed in the heavens for signs and seasons, for marking out days and years and for special events, festivals, Jewish celebrations, such as Passover.

Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths,

Col 2:17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Psa 8:3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

Psa 74:16 The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun.

Psa 74:17 You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.

Psa 104:19 He appointed the moon for seasons; The sun knows its going down.

Psa 104:20 You make darkness, and it is night, In which all the beasts of the forest creep about.

Psa 136:7 To Him who made great lights, For His mercy endures forever--

Psa 136:8 The sun to rule by day, For His mercy endures forever;

Psa 136:9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy endures forever.

Psa 148:3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light!

Gen 1:15 "and let them be for lights in the firmament (**or expanse**) of the heavens (**or sky**) to give light on the earth; and it was so (**as He commanded**).

Gen 1:16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light (**the sun**) to rule the day, and the lesser light (**the moon**) to rule the night. *He made* the stars (**galaxies of stars**) also.

The universe that God created with amazing galaxies of stars

Isa 40:25 "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.

Isa 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

Gen 1:17 God set them in the firmament (**or expanse**) of the heavens (**or sky**) to give light on the earth,

Gen 1:18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide (**or separate**) the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good (**God affirmed what He did**).

God made the sun and moon to define the passing of time each day

Gen 1:19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Genesis 1:20-23 The Fifth Day

Gen 1:20 Then God said, "Let the waters abound (**or swarm**) with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth (**in the sky**) across the face of the firmament (**or expanse**) of the heavens."

God tells us that He filled the earth and skies with various kinds of creatures and birds.

Gen 1:21 So God created great sea creatures (**whales, dragons, dinosaurs, sea serpent, crocodiles, etc.**) and every living thing (**creature**) that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (**God affirmed what He did**).

Gen 1:22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

Gen 1:23 So the evening and the morning were the **fifth day**.

End

Extra Notes:

Gen 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them (**inhabitants**), were finished (**completed**).

Gen 2:5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD **God had not caused it to rain** on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;

Gen 2:6 but a **mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.**

Pro 8:22 "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.

Pro 8:23 I have been established from everlasting, **From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.**

Pro 8:24 When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water.

Pro 8:26 While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world.

Pro 8:27 When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep,

Pro 8:28 When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep,

Pro 8:29 When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth,

Pro 8:30 Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,

Pro 8:31 Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men (mankind, human family).

Heb 1:10 And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

1John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life--

Heb 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

2Pe 3:5 or this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

Rev 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."