

GENESIS

The Creation

I. THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE – Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

A. The Foundation of the Bible

This majestic first sentence in God’s Holy Word is the foundation of all foundations. Since more copies of the Bible have been printed than any other book and since most people at least start to read the Bible, it is probably the most read sentence ever written. **If a person believes _____, he will have no difficulty believing the rest of the Bible.**

B. The Question Nobody Answers – How did it all _____?

All other religious, philosophic, or scientific theories of beginnings start with preexisting matter or energy in some form, whether it is a cosmic cloud or mythological creature. **Only Genesis tells of the origin of time, _____, and matter – the components of our universe.**

1. “In the beginning, God”

God is timeless – eternal. He is Alpha and Omega, First and Last. God started time as we now count it. What existed before time began? Only God.

2. “created the heavens”

- a. **Created translates the Hebrew “bara.” It means to call into existence out of _____.** Look at the verses where “created” appears. (1:1, 21, 27) Who is the subject in every case? _____

He is the subject of that verb every time it is used in the Bible. Only God creates!

Romans 4:17 (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

- b. **The heavens is a general word meaning _____. The heavens can be divided into the first heaven – the _____, the second heaven – outer space, and the third heaven – the dwelling place of God.**

3. “and the earth”

The word for “earth” is the same word used for the “_____” from which God made man. It refers to _____ – the substance from which things are made.

II. THE SHAPING OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE – (1:1-19)

In this passage, God’s activity is “_____” not “creating.” God is shaping things from materials He called into existence in 1:1. “Create” does not occur again until v. 21.

A. **The Initial State** (1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.)

1. There is _____ between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2. Some suggest that verse 2 be translated “And then the earth _____ without form and void...” Hebrew scholars tell us that the “and” at the beginning of the verse is called the “waw conjunctive.” It never introduces an independent sequential action and cannot properly be translated “and then.” Although “was” can sometimes be translated “became,” it would be highly unlikely in this construction. In fact, no ancient or modern _____ so translates it.
2. Verse 2 says that the matter God created was “without form” – _____, “void” – _____, and “dark” – without light. In the following verses God proceeds to light it (v.3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.), shape it (vs. 6-10 6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. 9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. 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.), and fill it. (vs. 11-19 11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb 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. 13 So the evening and the morning were the third day. 14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. 17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the

day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was good*. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.)

- B. **God Lights His World** (1:3-5 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that *it was good*; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.)

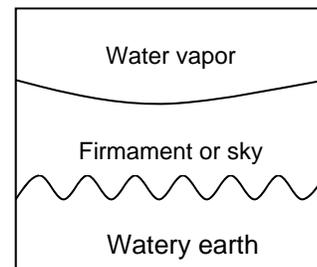
God makes the light and causes day and night upon the earth. By now the earth must be _____. Notice that the sun is not made until verse 16 and day 4.

- C. **God _____ His World** (1:6-10 6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. 9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear"; and it was so. 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*.)

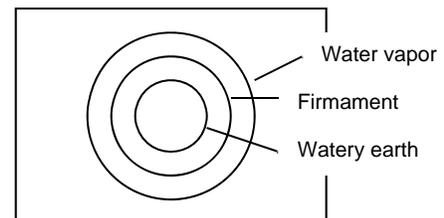
1. **God takes His watery world (1:2) and separates the waters with the "firmament." God called the "firmament" _____ (v. 8). God put the _____ between "the waters above" and "the waters below."**

Study the pictures at the right.

Picture a is a side view.



Picture b is a view from outer space.



God surrounded His new world with a canopy of _____ (which above the atmosphere would have to be in a transparent vapor state.) This would make the world like a _____. What difference would this make in conditions of life on earth?

List the conditions of the earth with the water canopy in place.

Temperature – _____ Deserts – _____
 Wind – _____ Polar caps – _____
 Rain – _____ Length of life – _____
 Vegetation – _____ Atmospheric pressure – _____

Where is the water vapor canopy today? We do not have it. God collapsed it during the 40 days of rain for the _____.

2. Now God gathers the waters under the firmament together and makes the _____ and precipitates the land forming the dry earth.

D. God Fills His World (1:11-19)

1. **God fills it with _____.** (1:11-13 11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *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*. 13 So the evening and the morning were the third day.)

The Scripture identifies 3 types of plants in v. 12.

_____ – This includes all ground covering plants.

_____ – This includes all bushes and shrubs.

_____ – This includes all trees.

- a. Notice that the plants were made "full _____." The trees were made "bearing fruit." A necessary ingredient of special creation is the appearance of _____. The plants looked many years "old" on the first day of their existence.
 - b. The plants were made "according to its _____." One did not change into another. There is no prohibition against the developing of new _____ within the kind, but there is an established _____ between the kinds.
2. **God fills the Heavens with the "_____."** (1:14-19 14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16 Then God made two

1. Life did not occur from the right combination of chemicals. In fact, it could not be “_____.” The beginning of life called for the second creative act of God. Notice that the plants were not called “living” because the biblical term here implies “_____,” not merely growth and reproduction. God created (bara) the animals.
2. God created the animals according to their kind. They did not _____, one changing into another.
3. The biblical order of the creation of animals cannot be _____ with the supposed evolutionary order. Put a number in the blank indicating the order in which the Bible says the following animals were created. (Use the same number if some of them were created at the same time.)

___ birds ___ insects ___ sea monsters, whales
 ___ fish ___ land mammals ___ reptiles and amphibians

Compare this to the supposed evolutionary order listed below. Write the numbers you put by each animal above the names below.

fish → amphibians → reptiles → insects → birds → land mammals → sea mammals

IV. THE QUESTION OF TIME

A. The Meaning of “Day”

1. Some suggest that “day” (Hebrew “yom”) can be translated “_____.” However, whenever the word “yom” is used with a _____ (first day) in Scripture, it always means a 24 hour period.
2. Moses defined the word “day” just in case someone might misunderstand. Each day was composed of an evening and morning. How can an age have an evening and morning?
3. Moses writes in Exodus 20:11 concerning the “days” of creation.

Exodus 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.

Is he possibly referring to “ages?” No. How do you know? The command to work 6 days and rest 1 would be invalid if so.

B. Popular Theory

Why do many people say the earth is 4 ½ billion years old?

1. That much time is required if you're going to believe in _____.
2. They assume that things have always happened at the same rate they are happening now. This is called "_____." The apostle Peter said that such thinking is wrong.

2 Peter 3:3-7 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." 5 For 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, 6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Summarize 2 Peter 3:3-7 _____

C. Little Known Facts

Some facts that say the earth is less than _____ years old:

1. The biblical _____
2. _____ of every major civilization
3. Many geo-chronometers (natural time clocks) like peat bog accumulation, thickness of _____ dust, decay of earth's magnetic field, growth of active _____ reefs, and oil well fluid pressure, to name a few.

Initially, God created a universe dark, shapeless, and _____. But to leave it in such a state for even a single day was not His intention. In less than six 24 hour periods, He filled it with light, shaped it to His specifications, and filled it with everything needed for the benefit of His final creative act – the _____ of His creation.