

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. We are returning to our current study in Genesis.
2. So let me invite you to take your Bibles and turn with me to Genesis chapter 1.
3. For the past two weeks we have looked at verse 1 which states that God created the heavens and earth as opposed to the theory that the earth exploded into existence by a “Big Bang.”
4. “The Big Bang” is a theory proposed by evolutionists that states “that about 13.7 billion years ago all the matter in the Universe was concentrated into a single

incredibly tiny point. This began to enlarge rapidly in a hot explosion.”<sup>1</sup>

5. Of course the question raised is where did this matter come from?
6. Genesis answers that question in verse 1.
7. That’s what we see on the first day of creation.
8. As we begin our study of “Day One of Creation,” let me invite you to follow as I read Genesis 1:1-5.
9. Genesis 1:1-5 gives us the first day of creation.
10. It says, “Genesis 1:1-5 (NASB) In the beginning God created the heavens and

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/ocr\\_gateway/energy\\_resources/big\\_bangrev1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/ocr_gateway/energy_resources/big_bangrev1.shtml)

the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day."

11. From 1581-1656 lived an archbishop by the name of James Ussher.
12. He was a scholar of his time who wrote a very important work called "Annals of the World," which contains over 12,000 footnotes from secular sources and another 2,000 references from the Bible

and the Apocrypha.

13. Now evolutionists say the universe is about 15 billion years old, and the earth is about 4.6 billion years old.<sup>2</sup>
14. But according to Ussher's work and others, Creationists say it is much younger, thousands not billions of years.
15. In fact, Ussher gives the date of creation at 4004 B.C.
16. The biblical data that he uses to arrive at this date is found in the Old Testament.
17. For example, Genesis 1 gives the time from the creation of the universe to the creation of man.

---

<sup>2</sup> Mike Riddle, Creation/Evolution: Does It Matter What We Believe? Answers in Genesis.

18. Genesis 5 contains chronological data from the time of the first man to the great Flood.
19. Genesis 11 summarizes the chronology from the Flood to Abraham, the founder of the Hebrew nation.
20. The historical books of the Old Testament (especially Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles) contain chronological data of the nation of Israel from the time of Abraham to the captivity.
21. The chronology of the captivity and restoration is obtained from certain of the prophetic books (especially Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel) and the postcaptivity historical books (Ezra and

Nehemiah).<sup>3</sup>

22. Ussher is not the only one to come up with a date of creation.
23. Many other dates have been computed.
24. Listen to the following dates, all in B.C.:
25. Jewish, 3760; Septuagint, 5270;  
Josephus, 5555; Kepler, 3993;  
Melanchthon, 3964; Luther, 3961;  
Lightfoot, 3960; Hales, 5402; Playfair,  
4008; Lipman, 3916; and others.<sup>4</sup>
26. Bodie Hodge of Answers in Genesis says,  
“The earth is 6000 years old.”<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Morris, Henry M. The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976. Print.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., Morris.

<sup>5</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/age-of-the-earth/how-old-is-the-earth/>

27. He further says, “The age of the earth can be estimated by taking the first five days of creation (from earth’s creation to Adam), then following the genealogies from Adam to Abraham in Genesis 5 and 11, then adding in the time from Abraham to today.

28. Adam was created on day 6, so there were five days before him. If we add up the dates from Adam to Abraham, we get about 2,000 years, using the Masoretic Hebrew text of Genesis 5 and 11.3 Whether Christian or secular, most scholars would agree that Abraham lived about 2,000 B.C. (4,000 years ago).

29. So a simple calculation is:

$$5 \text{ days} + 2,000 \text{ years} + 4,000 \text{ years} = 6,000 \text{ years}^6$$

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., Hodge.

30. Cultures throughout the world have kept track of history as well.
31. Historian Bill Cooper's research in "After the Flood" provides intriguing dates from several ancient cultures.
32. He says, "The first is that of the Anglo-Saxons, whose history has 5,200 years from creation to Christ, according to the Laud and Parker Chronicles.
33. Cooper's research also indicated that Nennius's record of the ancient British history has 5,228 years from creation to Christ.
34. The Irish chronology has a date of about 4000 B.C. for creation, which is



surprisingly close to Ussher and Jones!

35. Even the Mayans had a date for the Flood of 3113 B.C.<sup>7</sup>
36. The point is the earth is thousands not billions of years old.
37. Even John MacArthur in his popular study Bible says, “Scripture does not support a creation date earlier than about 10,000 years ago.”<sup>8</sup>
38. So the earth is between 6,000 and 10,000 years old and it was created by God.
39. Let’s begin a closer look at the first day of creation.

---

<sup>7</sup> Bill Cooper, *After the Flood* (UK: New Wine Press, 1995), p. 122–129.

<sup>8</sup> MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

40. In Genesis 1:1, we learn that...

## **LESSON**

### **I. God Created Everything Out of Nothing (v.1)**

“In the beginning God *created* the heavens and the earth.”

#### **A. It was Ex Nihilo**

The Hebrew word for “created” (bara sheith) means to create out of nothing

John 1:3 (NASB) All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

## B. It was Everything

1. God created “the heavens and the earth” is a way of saying God created everything in the universe
2. Everything that exists, whether you’re talking about galaxies or nebulae or solar systems, or those things that are at the farthest reaches of the universe in space, or whether you’re talking about the smallest grain of sand or whether you’re talking about a bacterial microbe on the planet earth, absolutely everything was created by God.

3. He is the creator of all things visible and invisible
  - a) All things means everything, from various ranks of angels, every form of life from whales and elephants to viruses, everything
  - b) All things include every form of energy, every form of matter, the speed of light, nuclear structure, electromagnetism, gravity, every law by which nature operates was created within the framework of this creation.<sup>9</sup>

## **II. God Created By Divine Fiat**

A. Genesis 1:3, “Then God *said*.”

B. Genesis 1:6, “Then God *said*.”

---

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., MacArthur. <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-211/the-how-why-and-when-of-creation-part-1>

- C. Genesis 1:9, “Then God *said*.”
- D. Genesis 1:11, “Then God *said*.”
- E. Genesis 1:14, “Then God *said*.”
- F. Genesis 1:20, “Then God *said*.”
- G. Genesis 1:24, “Then God *said*.”
- H. Genesis 1:26, “Then God *said*.”

I. Psalms 33:6-9 (NASB) By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.  
7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

### **III. God Created the Earth Without Form (v.2)**

As day one emerges from eternity, we find the earth in a dark and barren condition.

3 phrases are used in verse 2 to describe the state of the earth: it was “formless and void,” and “darkness was over the surface of the deep,” and “the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”

#### **A. The Earth was Formless and Void (v.2a)**

1. This is the Hebrew expression *tohu wa bohu*
2. *Tohu* says earth was a wasteland, a desolate place

3. Bohu means “empty”
4. The earth was an empty place of utter desolation
5. Jeremiah uses both of these words while he is lamenting the doom of Israel in Jeremiah 4:23 (NASB) I looked on the earth, and behold, it was formless (tohu) and void (bohu); and to the heavens, and they had no light.
6. This is how he describes the condition of Judah under the devastating destruction that was brought upon it by the judgment of God. What was once a fruitful land had become a wilderness (v.26).

7. It was a wasted, devastated place without any inhabitants. It had lost its former beauty. It didn't have any form. It didn't have any beauty. It had reverted to a state of barrenness that reminded Jeremiah of the state of the earth in the beginning, before God's creative work had formed it into something beautiful.<sup>10</sup>

## B. The Earth was Covered in Darkness and Water (v.2b)

1. According to Scripture, it all began in total darkness. Not only was the universe barren and utterly uninhabited; it was also engulfed in total, absolute darkness. God had not yet created light. Verse 2 says,

---

<sup>10</sup> MacArthur, John. [\*The Battle for the Beginning: The Bible on Creation and the Fall of Adam\*](#). Nashville, TN: W Pub. Group, 2001. Print.



“darkness was on the face of the deep.”

2. The word *deep* in Scripture is an expression used for the sea (cf. Isaiah 51:10).
3. And the phrase in Genesis 1:2 is followed by a parallelism: “The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”
4. This suggests the earth’s surface *was* water.
5. It was a vast ocean—the deep—a global, primordial ocean that covered the entire planet. And it was all engulfed in the blackness of a

universal darkness.<sup>11</sup>

### C. The Holy Spirit was the Creative Agent (v.2c)

“And the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.”

1. Since the universe was everywhere in need of activation, that person of the Godhead who is both omnipresent and energizing is appropriately mentioned as working in the creation at this point.
2. This activity of the Holy Spirit is called that of “moving” in the presence of the waters. The word “moved” (Hebrew rachaph) occurs only three times in the Old

---

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., MacArthur. p.76.

Testament, the other two being translated “shake” (Jeremiah 23:9) and “fluttereth” (Deuteronomy 32:11), respectively. Some commentators relate the word particularly to the hovering of a mother hen over her chicks. In any case, the idea seems to be mainly that of a rapid back and forth motion.

3. In modern scientific terminology, the best translation would probably be “vibrated.” If the universe is to be energized, there must be an Energizer. If it is to be set in motion, there must be a Prime Mover.<sup>12</sup>

## D. God Created Light (v.3)

---

<sup>12</sup> Morris, Henry M. *The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976. Print.

“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.”

Science cannot understand light, much less explain how it came about.

This verse simply says it was created by an order from God.

The One who is uncreated light brought created light into existence.

The One who dwells in unapproachable light illuminated His creation with a brilliant object lesson about His glory.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., MacArthur. p.79.

Various suggestions have been made about what this light might have been.

Could it have been a mass of glowing matter that was later shaped into the sun?

Or (as seems more likely) could it have been a disembodied light, an ethereal temporary brilliance decreed by God to illuminate His creation until permanent lights were set in place?

The nature of this light is not described.

We are simply told that light existed because God told it to exist.

And it should not be difficult for us to believe that One whose glory is

described as pure light could command light to appear even before there were any stars or sun to embody that light.<sup>14</sup>

## 1. God Separated the Light from the Darkness (v.4)

- a) Verse 3 is the first record of God speaking in the Bible. “And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.” The Word of God brings light!
  
- b) The Father is the source of all things (verse 1), the Spirit is the energizer of all things (verse 2), the Word is the revealer of all things (verse 3).

---

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., MacArthur, p.80.

- c) “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6). Jesus Christ, the living Word of God (John 1:1, 14) is the “light of the world” (John 8:12), and “in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).
- d) When light appeared, “God divided the light from the darkness.” Darkness was not removed completely, so far as the earth was concerned, but only separated from the light.<sup>15</sup>

## 2. God Called the Light Day and the Darkness He Called Night (v.5a)

---

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., Morris.

God carefully defined His terms! The very first time He used the word “day” (Hebrew yom), He defined it as the “light,” to distinguish it from the “darkness” called “night.”<sup>16</sup>

3. This was the first day (v.5b)

“And there was evening and there was morning, one day.”

That’s a literal translation of the Hebrew word order. It doesn’t describe a billion–year–long process; it describes one day—one cycle of light and dark—evening and morning. And thus the work of creation is underway.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., Morris.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., MacArthur.



## CONCLUSION

1. God is the Creator
2. He created everything in six 24 hour days
3. He created it all out of nothing and by divine fiat
4. This is how it all began
5. Just as there is a beginning of all things here in the creating of the world, there is also a new beginning awaiting the one who repents and trusts in Christ for salvation
6. Come to Him now and experience this new beginning called the new birth
7. Let's pray.