

Creation Week 1

Without doubt the Bible is the most important Book ever written, AND Genesis is the foundational book of the Bible: With that in mind, Genesis 1:1 would be the foundational verse upon which the whole of the Word of God rests:

- Genesis 1:1 **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**

Henry Morris: Genesis 1:1, is the foundation of all foundations and is thus the most important verse in the Bible. It undoubtedly contains the first words ever written, and since it is the opening statement of the world's most often printed book, these are surely the most widely read words ever written."

The word Genesis means "Origin." This is a fitting title since the book provides vital information concerning the origin and meaning of all things.

The first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis provide us with:

1. The origin of the universe
 - Said to be "created" by God (BARA – the word is only used of the work of God and depicts the initiation, creation or commencement a forming)
 - This is where the Latin phrases EX NIHILO – out of nothing.
 - Evolutionists (Big Bang) in the beginning all matter / size of period.
2. The origin of the atmosphere and the hydrosphere
 - The waters above and below, the Bible clearly points to the evaporation and condensation designed by God to water the ground.
3. The origin of all biological life
 - 3rd day – vegetation, plants and trees, 5th day – the waters swarmed with sea creatures and the skies filled with every kind of bird. 6th Day – the land animals arrived.
4. The origin of man
 - Uniquely created in the image of God, designed for communion with God.
5. The origin of marriage and family
 - Established and arranged by God himself as the vital union of one man and one woman.
6. The origin of evil
 - The entrance of sin into the world through the lie of the serpent and the decree of God's righteous judgment which followed.
7. The origin of government
 - The rule of a plurality of elders governing the affairs of men, to uphold justice and punish the wicked.
8. The origin of culture
 - Such as urbanization, metallurgy, music, agriculture and animal husbandry.
9. The origin of the revelation of God's sovereignty
 - Securing and preserving a people of his own choosing through whom the Messiah would eventually come.
10. The first communication of God's plan of salvation
 - The removal of wrath through the death of a substitutionary sacrifice.

No other book of the Bible is quoted more frequently throughout the Bible than the book of Genesis. In the New Testament there are at least 165 passages either directly quoted or strongly referred to from the book of Genesis. 100 of these quotes come from the first 11 chapters.

- Every one of the New Testament authors refers to Genesis chapters 1 -11 at some place in their writing.
- Jesus himself confirmed both the historicity and literal nature of the writings in the book of Genesis when he referred to it during his public ministry.

In our day when the overwhelming majority of the population has been indoctrinated with evolutionary dogma in public schools and universities, the Biblical account of creation has been relegated to the realm of mythology.

In an effort to align Biblical Christianity with evolutionary theory we have seen the rise of what has become known as “Theistic Evolution,” adding evolutionary processes to the 6 days of God’s work of creation.

- The motivation behind this strange union of Biblical truth and evolutionary theory can be seen in this quote from Timothy Keller.

Quote Timothy Keller:

“Many believers in western culture see the medical and technological advances achieved through science and are grateful for them. They have a very positive view of science. How then, can they reconcile what science seems to tell them about evolution with their traditional theological beliefs? Seekers and inquirers about Christianity can be even more perplexed. They may be drawn to many things about the Christian faith, but, they say, “I don’t see how I can believe the Bible if that means I have to reject science.”

In my opinion it is not a question of “Science” it is a question of FAITH. The quality of scientific research supporting a divine creator is actually stronger than the research supporting the theory of Evolution.

When it comes down to it the theory of Evolution requires as much faith to believe as the Biblical account of Creation.

Theistic Evolutionists are attempting to reconcile evolutionary theory with Biblical Christianity by re-interpreting the book of Genesis in a non literal way.

Timothy Keller:

“In my estimation what current science tells us about evolution presents four main difficulties for orthodox Protestants. The first is in the area of Biblical authority. To account for evolution we must see at least Genesis 1 as non-literal. The questions come along these lines: what does that mean (*reinterpreting Genesis 1*) for the idea that the Bible has final authority? If we refuse to take one part of the Bible literally, why take any parts of it literally? Aren’t we really allowing science to sit in judgment on our understanding of the Bible rather than vica versa?”

Keller rightly admits that “*To account for evolution we must see at least Genesis 1 as non-literal.*”

- Bending the normal rules of biblical interpretation Theistic Evolutionists teach that the First Chapter of Genesis is Hebrew Poetry rather than historic narrative.

They say that it should be read like the song of Miriam after the crossing of the Red Sea:

Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

3 The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. 4 “Pharaoh’s chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

- Theistic Evolutionists say that Genesis 1 is the song of Creation. (not literal)
- Even though the song of Miriam (Exodus 15) is recorded in poetic form NO ONE argues with the fact that it also communicates a literal historic event.
- Text of Genesis (*not in poetic form*) clearly details the historic account of divine activity which takes place over a definite period of 6 days,
- They would ask: How do we know that the six days of creation were normal 24 hour days and not six extended periods of time
 - The Hebrew word YOM can legitimately be used both for a literal 24 hour day or an indefinite period of time.
 - Consider the use of the word “day” in this sentence:

In my Father’s Day it would take 8 days to drive across the country, driving only in the day.

- 3 different meanings for the word “Day.” How do we know what is being communicated? The context helps us understand the meaning.
- My father’s ERA, 8 – 24 hour periods, driving only when the sun is shining.
- In Genesis chapter 1, what is a “DAY?”
- The word “YOM” is “DAY” when it is combined with a number (1st, 2nd, 3rd) and when it is described as “evening and morning” it ALWAYS refers to a literal 24 hour period.
- 2301 times “YOM” is used in the Bible the only controversy is here in Genesis 1.
- I would submit to you that the controversy comes NOT from the lack of clarity concerning the word “YOM” but from the attempt to alter the normal process of interpretation.
- There are no arguments about the other 2295 times “YOM” is used because no one is trying to FORCE an evolutionary process into the context.
- WHERE did our 7 day week come from anyway??
- The 24 hour day is based on the time it takes for the earth make a complete rotation on its axis.
- The 365 day year is based on the time it takes for the earth to orbit the sun,
- The 7 day week comes directly from the Genesis account. It is affirmed in the book of Exodus.

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

- The days of creation are the foundation for our 7 day week.
- A clear and literal understanding of the book of Genesis effects how we view ourselves and our fellow man.

Consider how evolutionary thinking has diminished the Biblical dignity of man.

- Evolutionists would have us believe that Man came into being through a long series of incremental changes and variations of species, evolving from a lower form of creature to a higher form of creature over billions of years.
- In this way man shares an intimate connection with the animal kingdom.
 - Holding this viewpoint it shouldn't surprise us when man chooses to live a bestial lifestyle, driven by his animalistic instincts.
 - In reality man was uniquely created to walk with God.

Genesis 1:26 portrays man NOT in the likeness of a lower form of animal but the highest form, divinely created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26 **Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."**

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2: 7 **then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.**

- Note here in Genesis 2:7 that God formed man (yatsar – like a potter fashions clay) with his own hands and breathed the breath of life into him.
- From this we see man was created to live in face to face communion with God
- The creation of man is a separate act, differing from the creation of the land animals. To man he assigned dominion and authority over all of the lesser creatures.

Psalms 8:3 **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,**

4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,

- The very creation of man sets him in a unique position: The Psalmist connects man "UPWARD" to the heavenly beings and NOT downward with the animals.
- Since man was created in the image of God, even after the fall, he possesses a remnant of dignity that is to be honored. (Permitted kill and eat animals not man)

When you believe that man has ascended from the lower animals and like them is evolving through the survival of the fittest it doesn't take long before the different races are competing with one another.

- Hitler used the theory of evolution to promote his ungodly agenda:

(Taken from CREDO Magazine)

1) Racial inequality:

Hitler believed that different races had formed through evolutionary processes and were at different evolutionary levels. He thought the Aryan or Nordic race (these terms were used

synonymously by Nazis) was the most advanced. These views were not idiosyncratic, (unique) but were common among German evolutionary biologists during the early twentieth century.

2) History as a racial struggle for existence:

Hitler thought that races were locked in an inescapable racial struggle. He promoted policies that favored the Aryans and disadvantaged other allegedly inferior races, especially the Jews, in order to help the Aryans win the struggle for existence. Of course, those losing the struggle would eventually be eliminated, one way or another, as the Aryans took over the globe.

- I am not saying that all Evolutionists are Nazis what I am saying is that the ERROR of evolutionary thought depicting a variety of races arising from a variety of evolutionary strands into a godless world that is ruled by the survival of the fittest is a breeding ground for racial unrest.

A literal reading of the Book of Genesis tells us that we are ALL members of one race, the human race, having one common set of parents.

- Created in the image and likeness of God.
- Given dominion by the creator himself to rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and the beasts of the field.

The question often comes, (Creation / Evolution) “Does it really matter?”

- Does it matter how long it took God to create the universe as long as we agree that God created it?
- If we choose to explain away the literal nature of Genesis 1 to appease the Evolutionists we have to ask WHEN does the Bible then become literal and who makes that decision?

WAS Adam a literal man? How about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob? Was the Fall of man into sin a historic event or just a good moral story.

- If Adam was not a literal human being, and his fall into sin simply a moral story about making bad choices; can we then gain God’s approval and eternal life simply by making good choices?

You see, how we interpret Genesis significantly affects our eternal destiny.

- GOSPEL: Man – created in the image of God, FELL into sin, and the wrath of God brought death to ALL men, BUT God, for his glory, as an expression of his boundless love sent his one and only Son to be the substitutionary sacrifice for sin.
- All who repent of their sin, believe on the Lord Jesus will be saved.