

"OUR AWESOME BIBLE"

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**GENESIS 1 -- THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE EARTH'S RENOVATION****Preface**

Before beginning this series that will go through the entire Bible using the different fields of science as they relate to the subjects at hand, it is important to note it is intended as a Bible Study for the spiritual edification of the local church and is not reviewed at the level of an official Church publication.

Also, please remember our understanding is incomplete, as Paul mentioned, "For *we know in part* and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away...For *now we see in a mirror, dimly*, but then face to face" (1 Cor. 13:9-12). So what you will receive is the accumulated knowledge available to the pastor up to the present time. Much more will be known later. This series does not pretend to be the last word on any of these subjects.

Genesis 1:1-2 --Time – "In the beginning"

This first majestic verse encompasses the four key factors of the Universe—*time, space, matter, and Spirit*. Regarding *time*, the Hebrew term *bereshith* indicates, by how it is used in other parts of the Bible, of *a beginning as it relates to a another time period* (see Job 42:12). Clearly, God did not create the Universe in disorder (1 Cor. 14:33; Is. 45:18). The scholar Arthur Custance translates the first two verses according to the sense in Hebrew as: "*Originally* God brought into being and set *in perfect order* the heavens and the earth. But the earth *had become a ruin and a desolation* and a pall of darkness hung over *this scene of disaster* and the spirit of God moved mightily over the face of the waters" (*The Hidden Things of God*, p. 4, www.custance.org).

Is there physical evidence that the Universe had a beginning? Yes, in 1964, two U.S. scientists, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson, measured the sonar radiation coming from all of space -- the "echo" of that initial explosion that astronomers call "The Big Bang." For their discovery, they received the Nobel prize. Now scientists realize all the Universe came into being from one tiny spot, where nothing had previously existed. God's Word reveals the same truth: "...the *things which are seen were not made of things which are visible*" (Hebrews 11:3). Not only had God the Father been involved, but the Being called the Word and who became Jesus Christ. The Scriptures explain: "God...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" (Hebrews 1:1-2). God the Father gave the order and Christ carried it out.

Space and matter

How vast is the Universe? Astronomers have discovered some **200 billion galaxies**, of which each one consists of about **200 billion stars**. That is a lot of future real estate. God's Word says, "...we are children of God, and if children, then *heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ*....For the earnest expectation of *the creation* eagerly waits for the revealing of *the sons of God*" (Rom. 8:19).

An analogy given by a former head of NASA, Robert Jastrow will help to see how large the Universe is. "If the Sun could be reduced to the size of an orange, then the Earth would be the size of a grain of sand circling 10 yards away. Jupiter, the giant planet 11 times as large as the Earth, would be the size of a pea, orbiting 70 yards away (or a city block). Pluto, the farthest of planets, would be a speck of sand 10 blocks away. Then, Alfa Centaurus, the nearest star, would be as another orange **1,500 miles away!** From Los Angeles, this would mean the next orange would be in the state of Washington! Then, the average distance between each star in our galaxy is 2,000 miles. Such is the vastness and magnitude of space."

Yet, is God impressed? No, for the Scriptures reveal He is much greater, and has "measured heaven with a span [of His arms]....Who brings out their host [the stars] by number; He calls them all by name" (Is. 40:12, 26).

Spirit – what is it and who is God?

What is God made of? John 4:24 answers, "God is Spirit." Spirit is not made of atoms, is invisible to us, never decays and is eternal. God the Father and Jesus Christ comprise the *Elohim*, literally in Hebrew, "the Powers that be." John 1:1-3 reveals both God the Father and the Word have always existed and took part in the creation of the Universe.

Romans 1:19-20 shows the biggest proof of God's existence is the Creation itself. "Because what is known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 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 [that includes Jesus Christ], so that *they are without excuse*."

Three Heavens

Why is "heavens" in plural? It is because the Bible reveals there are **three** heavens. The "first" heaven is described in Gen. 1:20 and is where birds fly, or *our atmosphere*. The "second" heaven is found in Gen. 1:15 where there are planets and stars, or *outer space*. The "third" heaven is

mentioned in 2 Cor. 12:2, and is where God dwells. No human being has ever gone up to this heaven, except Jesus Christ, the Son of God (John 3:13). God did allow in visions for some of His servants to see how it is.

The Earth becomes disordered

Scholars are divided on whether the earth “was” or “became” disordered. The NIV version has in its margin, “became” and recognizes it is a legitimate rendering. Arthur Custance, who dedicated 30 years and several books and articles on the subject, concluded: “To me, this issue is important, and after studying the problem for some thirty years and after reading everything I could lay my hands on pro and con and after accumulating in my own library some 300 commentaries on Genesis, the earliest dated 1670, I am persuaded that there is, on the basis of the evidence, far more reason to translate Gen. 1:2 as, ‘But the earth *had become a ruin and a desolation*, etc.’ than there is in any conventional translation in our modern versions” (*Without Form and Void*, p. 7).

From all we know, the geological record of fossil life, that is approximately one mile deep around the earth, shows there was a previous period before man, called Pre-Adamic, filled with many strange and dangerous creatures, such as the dinosaurs. Fossils of such beings are found around the world, but at a strata level far below any human remains. It is known that the coal beds consist of prehistoric forests that were quickly buried and that oil comes from the compressed remains of creatures such as dinosaurs that were entombed. Scientists have found evidence of a massive destruction at that time from huge meteors or asteroids that left the trace of iridium, an element scarce on the earth, but abundant in objects from space.

In geology, life on Earth is divided into three main sections, the **Paleozoic**, or Old Age, consisting mainly of marine life; the **Mesozoic**, or Middle Age, with the predominance of huge reptiles and the **Cenozoic**, or New Age, where mammal life and fruit bearing plants come to prominence.

Since angels were created before man existed (Job. 38:4-7), and Lucifer’s rebellion took place from the Earth (Ez. 28:13; Is. 14:13-15; Lk. 10:18), it appears the Earth became devastated because of this violent revolt as they attempted to overthrow God. Lucifer and his angels were cast down again to the Earth, where he became Satan, and was already in this state when Adam and Eve were created and came in contact with him (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9).

If the biblical pattern of how God administrates things holds for the angels on Earth (Lk. 16:10), they were first placed here to administrate and learn to maintain the simplest forms of life as if they were

in a classroom. Then, as they progressed in learning and experience, higher and more complex forms of life were created, and the challenge increased of maintaining everything in order. The Bible reveals at a given time, Lucifer became vain and began to do things his way, instead of God’s (Ez. 28:14-17). Everything gradually became chaotic, and finally, God had to intervene. This brought on discontentment among these angels and eventually their uprising took place. It appears God was very longsuffering, and gave them many opportunities to correct their ways, even while He administered discipline and erased the errors here on Earth, possibly in successive stages. Perhaps the alteration and creation of flesh-eating monsters called dinosaurs was done through genetic engineering.

Whatever way it occurred, what we do know is by the time God created mankind, all these monstrous creatures had been wiped out, and we find in the Garden of Eden the types of animals and plants that are basically the same ones we have now.

The Bible reveals God did **renew** the Earth. “You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and **You renew the face of the earth**” (Psalm 104:30). And so our “modern, or renewed” Earth, from Adam to our day, is approximately 6,000 years old. This fits the archaeological history of mankind. Whatever creatures, including the so-called hominids, existed before Adam, they were not around when God began everything anew. So, the Bible focuses primarily on “our” age, and God does not give us the details before that period of time. He will one day fill us in on those details.

The First Day: bringing of light and day’s length

The description of creation is narrated from the perspective of someone standing on the Earth. There is darkness from a huge cloud covering that does not permit light to get through. God then acts to dispel the clouds and bring the light in. Clearly, according to verse one, the Sun and the stars were already created. But in the ensuing chaos, the Earth was devastated. Once light shines through, heat and photosynthesis can take place. God then regulates the Earth’s spin so the day becomes 24 hours long, composed of some 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness. The day is counted from evening to evening. In other words, the day ends at sunset, and a new day begins with nightfall. Also we note the rotation of the day is **perfect** for life, for it acts as a rotisserie, preventing the Earth from becoming either too hot or overly cold.

The Second Day – raising up of continents

After the Sun is shining again on the Earth’s surface, now God raises the continents so life on the

land can be created, including mankind. There is some geological evidence that the continents were once united, and scientists call this great continent "Pangea," meaning "all of earth." Through measuring the polarity of the rocks, it seems to show Africa and South America, Europe and North America, as well as Australia and Asia, were all once landlocked. There is today "continental drift," so perhaps this was more so in the remote past. Nevertheless, the verse we are studying just says God raised up the dry land above the seas, not whether it was just one solid mass or several pieces.

The Third Day – creation of plant life

Once the land is in place, now God begins to decorate it with the simplest forms of life – the plants. They are the most essential types of life, since they provide oxygen, food and shelter for the rest of the living creatures.

The Bible reveals there are *five* types of life forms: (1) **Plant life** (including many micro-organisms). (2) **Animal life** (3) **Human life** (4) **Angelic life**. (5) **Divine life**.

It is interesting to note two possible changes in this order. First, we know One with Divine life, the Word, became a human being (John 1:1-3,12-14; Phil. 2:5-9) and later returned to the fifth level. Secondly, through the sacrifice of this Divine being and having faith in Him, it is possible for human beings at the third level to eventually transcend to the fifth level and become part of the God family, now consisting of the Father and the Son.

The Fourth Day – Positioning of celestial bodies

Before going further, now the Sun, the Moon and the stars are positioned in their precise locations so God's calendar can be established. He did this rearranging "for signs and seasons, and for days and years." The tilting of the Earth in 23° produces the four seasons and doubles the cultivating surface. Without this tilt, the continents would be covered with ice for five months and then, as the ice melted, for five months there would be huge floods. Also noteworthy is the size and volume of the Earth and the distance to the Sun are exactly what are needed to sustain life. All of these measures were taken to make the Earth habitable (Is. 45:18).

The Fifth Day – creation of marine life & birds

Now that the Earth is in order, God begins to populate it with the simplest of creatures, first filling the oceans and the skies. Scientists calculate there are presently over a million species on Earth and all are perfectly formed and adaptable to their environment. God explains each creature would reproduce according to its kind. He established genetic laws to prevent species to mutate into

another kind of species. He wisely programmed each creature to be able to adapt to the changing climates and habitats and thus survive, a process called "**microevolution**." But dogs would remain dogs and cats -- cats. Although there is an enormous variety within each animal kind, such as the dog kind, from the Chihuahua to the Saint Bernard, they could never turn into a tiger or a bear. If they could it would be called "**macroevolution**" but no evidence of this process exists in nature. The solid barriers in the DNA prevent the species from ever departing from its basic animal kind, and thus prove the Theory of Evolution is wrong.

The Sixth Day: land animals & humans created

Now, God creates the most complex animals and the primary purpose of creation -- human beings.

Each animal has its function, and now the Earth appears as a gigantic zoo, ready to receive its new administrators—mankind. Just as He did with the angels, God now gives man and woman the capacity to care for the Earth and learn to be either faithful or unfaithful to His laws. They would begin by first taking care of the Garden of Eden, and as they progressed, more responsibilities would be given.

God shows there is more than one Divine Being present when He says, "Let **us** make Man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness." Humans would possess in a limited, physical level what God enjoys in a complete and far superior, spiritual level. The ultimate purpose would be for mankind to choose God's way of life, develop spiritual character, and one day, be raised to the level of spiritual and eternal life in the family of God (John 3:16).

The Seventh Day – establishing the Sabbath

Although technically the Seventh Day account begins in chapter 2, it belongs in the first chapter. Remember, the chapters in the Bible appeared in the 16th century and are not part of the original Bible.

God completed His creation at the end of the sixth day, and "rested," which means in Hebrew "ceasing to work." So He quit creating on the seventh day and saw everything created was "very good." He established the seventh day as a memorial of this creation week, and made it into one of His commandments for man to obey (Ex. 20:8-11). Christ said the Sabbath **was made for man** (Mr. 2:27). It wasn't made for God's benefit since He never tires nor needs to rest (Is. 40:28). The Sabbath commandment was the first given by God to man, and sadly, it is still the one most broken. Most humans do not obey this initial commandment and have either substituted the day with another or have ignored it. Nevertheless, it constitutes transgressing God's law and is sin, although most disobey out of ignorance.

The next study covers what happened when the first couple were placed in the Garden of Eden.