

CONCERNING THE WAY

January 10, 2008



LESSON 8: GENESIS 1:1 – 2:3

Introduction - The Creation Week

Many who read Genesis through in a cursory fashion do not realize that this brief text is like a computer program that has been highly compacted and compressed and must be unpacked. That's what we're going to do in our verse-by-verse study.

It has always been obvious to me that God created the universe. What hasn't always been obvious is how He did it. There have been times in my younger life that I bought into ideas such as theistic evolution or the gap theory, or wondered if it really mattered how it happened. After years of studying and researching I became convinced that, first and foremost, we must accept what God has revealed in His word. If you don't accept what God says clearly in the first book, then you will question what He has said in other books of the Bible.

The wonderful thing is that this is not blind faith! There are thousands of real scientists who hold to a literal six day creation, and there is much good evidence for a young earth. Also, careful analysis of molecules to man evolution shows that evidence for this theory is sorely lacking. We do not have to apologize for believing what God says He did in Genesis!

We will focus on what the verses say in this study. If you would like more in-depth discussions of scientific evidence for a young earth, I will provide links toward the end to a couple of excellent web sites with a wealth of solid information.

Some of you may accept popular scientific theories of millions of years of evolution as fact. As we go through these verses, remember that these theories are NOT proven, and have many problems. They are based on assumptions, not provable science. Me, I prefer to believe what God says, not in man's speculations.

- *Dusty Rhodes*

It is no slight exaggeration to say that there are no writings more important for the proper understanding of history and man than the first chapters of Genesis. Here is hidden the secret of man's sinfulness, that terrible mystery of evil and darkness which continually confronts us in this modern world. In this section is the key to the relationship of the sexes, the proper place of man and woman in marriage, the solution to the problem of mounting divorce rates, and other marital issues that abound in modern society.

Here, also, is the explanation for the struggle of life, and here great light is thrown on the problems of work and leisure. In these chapters is the first and fundamental revelation of the meaning of divine redemption and grace, and here the essential groundwork is laid for the understanding of the cross of Jesus Christ. This whole section is unprecedented in its importance.

Ray Stedman

A Word about Creation Science:

It might be necessary to clear up the term "creation science." Science is science. Lab work is lab work and field work is field work. Science, in its purest form, deals with what can be tested and worked with. It does not matter, when adding materials to a Petri dish, when excavating fossils, when operating the spacecraft, whether the person or people involved are atheistic, deistic, agnostic, New Age, or however else they might consider themselves. The technical aspects are not part of the belief systems of the men and women involved.

The adjectives "creation" and "evolution" get added to the term "science" when the matter of presuppositions and conclusions are dealt with. There is no scientist anywhere in the world who does not hold to some kind of presuppositional truth in his own life. That which he considers true will invariably color his understanding of the science he is involved with. Thus, those who believe evolution to be true will see their work in terms of evolution theory. Those who believe creation to be true will see their work in terms of creation theory. Each will form conclusions based on what they consider true in the first place. The data can be exactly the same and the conclusions can be radically different because of this. Thus, "creation science" is not a separate science itself, but a way of looking at science through the eyes of those who believe, in whatever form, that the universe and all life was the result of creation by some kind of deity. It is the extremely rare scientist who is willing to look at data pertaining to any philosophical position and not look at that data through the lens of that particular philosophical position. When any man and woman in science allows data to speak for itself apart from presuppositions, we need to sit up and take notice. (Helen Setterfield)

Verse 1 – *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

- It is noteworthy that the Gospel of John also begins with the words "In the beginning..." *"In the beginning was the word [logos] and the word was with God and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and apart from him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:1-3)*
Now the word became flesh and took up residence among us. (John 1:14)
- The "beginning referred to in John is an earlier beginning than that of Genesis 1:1, since John's gospel describes the conditions that existed within the Godhead prior to the work of creation. The Biblical picture of God and creation begins with the assumption that before the universe was created, God was. God is outside of time, He is the Creator of what we call time.
- God is inherently complete and whole, perfect in His Being, all-powerful, infinite. Therefore the entire creation adds nothing to who He is. The creation was not a whimsical action of God because He had nothing else to do, (see Is. 45:18). God had in mind a grand plan for everything including man. This plan is unfolded for all who are willing to see, through the course of the Bible, so as to reveal many levels of meaning, beauty, and splendor in God's manifold plan for His creation.
- When God spoke things into existence He did so through His eternal Son, the Word according to these opening words of the gospel of John (John 1:1-3,14). The design of the universe was conceived in the Mind of the Father. This plan was executed by the Son. The universe is powered and energized by the Spirit, who also gives life. Jesus is said to be "the heir of all things" as well--the universe was created *for* him as well as through him.
- Colossians 1:14-17 - all creation is held together by Christ - the power that keep the atoms from exploding is Christ, also Ephesians 3:9 and Hebrew 1:1-2

- This means the created beings crucified their creator!
- The first time God is mentioned in Genesis the Hebrew name of God, **Elohim** is used. This uni-plural noun is used 2750 times in the OT and 32 times in Genesis One. **El** (God as "great, strong, mighty") is singular, **Eloah** is the dual form (uncommon in Hebrew usage) and Elohim is three or more persons. Elohim usually takes a singular verb. The word "Allah" is the Arabic equivalent of El, however Allah of the Moslems is derived from a pagan deity known in the Babylonian Mystery religion. The attributes of Allah as revealed in the Koran and in the traditions of Islam show clearly that he is not at all the same being as the God of Israel.
- In verse one of Genesis we also encounter the phrase "**The heavens and the earth.**" Heavens, (*shemayim*, is plural, and is equivalent to the New Testament term "heavenly places," or "the heavenlies.") The lowest heaven is the atmosphere where the birds fly, the intermediate heavens is stellar space where the stars and galaxies are found. The third heaven is the spiritual realm where God and the angels dwell. (See 2 Cor. 12:2 for Paul's experience of being caught up into this third heaven). The created universe consists of a physical, material world and an invisible spiritual world. The latter is permanent and enduring, the former is fading away (Heb. 11:3, 2 Cor. 4:18, 5:7). The visible and invisible realms are coupled together and interrelated. Science does not have a means to deal with the spiritual world, nor with the question of origins!
- Immediately the Bible assumes God's existence, it doesn't try to prove it, it is obvious!
- Design is obvious in creation, and you have to have a designer to have design
- God created the heavens and the earth - ex nihilo - something out of nothing - God didn't use pre-existing matter to create the universe. (John 1:3) God spoke, and the heavens and the earth came into existence. Other creation account (pagan) are not ex nihilo - something always existed before
- The use of the Hebrew word "bara" (**create**) in this verse means he created something that didn't exist before in any detectable form. He uses "bara" only twice more during creation week on days five and six. This implies that he did not create anything else from nothing until after day four. In other words, the whole physical universe God made in the first four days of creation he transformed from the raw material included in his initial words **heavens and earth.**
- God is communicating to Israel His uniqueness in comparison to all the pagan deities of the rest of the world
- "Heavens and Earth" is a "merism", which is used to include the first word, the second word, and everything in-between. It is a figure of speech to mean "everything"
- Refutes men's philosophies in the very first verse
 - Atheism
 - Pantheism - God and nature the same
 - Polytheism (many Gods)
 - Materialism - matter has always existed
 - Dualism - God is in competition with something else, like Satan
 - Humanism - Man is the center of all things
 - Evolution - everything came about naturally
- After this time-zero event there are three items or raw materials that exist and can be physically measured: time, three-dimensional finite space (heavens), and primordial matter-energy (earth). What didn't exist, because God had not made them yet, are the physical laws and finished substances that will be established in the next four days and are still observed in nature today.

Verse 2 – *“Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water.”*

- Original creation view - nothing existed before Genesis 1:1. Verse 2 just expanding on verse 1. This verse refers to what exists at the beginning of the created-world timeline immediately after creation. The word "now" introduces the physical concept of a scene that a hypothetical observer could observe after the miracle of creation (if he could 'observe' without light). What it would look like is a **formless** (no structure or shape - blob, as yet unformed) and **empty** (not ready to support life - inert) body of primordial matter-energy (earth).
- Some take this verse to explain a “Gap Theory”, whereby there may have been a great amount of time between verse 1 and 2 in which something cataclysmic (perhaps Satan’s fall) took place to reduce the original creation to chaos. Verse 3 then begins a re-creation. Problems:
 - There’s a conjunction in verse 2, which connects it to the previous verse (Now)
 - Exodus 20:8-11 says God made everything in 6 days
 - “waste and void” in some translations sounds kind of negative, like something has happened to make it that way. The Hebrew words here cannot mean chaos in this context.
 - Scripture traces all chaos from Adam’s sin (Romans 8, 5:12), not from before that
 - The Gap Theory is a late 18th century attempt to explain the fossil record as then known to science.
- So far, the earth in verse 2 is unfilled and unformed.

The filling and forming begin

Verse 3 - *“God said, “Let there be light! And there was light!”*

- Here is God's first command to the universe to bring forth something different from the basic three items he created.
- This was not the light of the sun, which is created later. Revelation 21:23, 22:5 show that in the new earth there will be no need of sun or moon, that the glory of God will light the earth.

Verse 4 - *“God saw that the light was good, so God separated the light from the darkness.”*

- God's first evaluation of what he has transformed from the primordial fluid is that the light was **good**. The word "good" as used in the creation account several times refers to the result of the transformations completed up to that point in time. Here it means that the light formed was complete and perfect and he did not need to modify it later. Man to this day has not found any way to improve on this part of creation nor does he fully understand it. Light as a form of energy has characteristics that are unique.

Technical Stuff: Included in the first miracle most likely as a simultaneous action, **he separated light from darkness**. The division of light and darkness occurs in the universe today at what modern astronomers call the horizon of a black hole. In fact, astronomers have deduced there is a super-massive black hole at the center of our Milky Way galaxy. A black hole is formed when gravity within it is strong enough to prevent light from escaping its volume. Some astronomers believe black holes are in the center of most galaxies. This could enhance our interpretation of Job 38:19 and Isaiah 45:7 in that darkness is a created physical entity (black hole) and resides at some locations in our universe.

Verse 5 - *“God called the light “day” and the darkness “night”. There was evening, and there was morning, marking the first day.”*

Technical Stuff: Following the separation of light from darkness in the transformation process God calls the presence of visible light **day** (i.e. daylight) and the darkness **night**. The words used here for day and night are all inclusive terms because he has not related them to our planet Earth at this time. He uses them here to define his universal time interval standard with the statement: **“And there was evening and there was morning - the first day”**.

It should be noted here that God did not define "day" and "night" relative to the Sun and the planet Earth since he has not made them yet. He will later synchronize the Earth's rotation on its axis in sunlight to this universal time standard, so that humans on the surface of the Earth have a means to keep this same time interval. With the statement "and there was evening and there was morning - a day" God implies he has timed his transforming acts to fit into this basic unit of time where nighttime and daylight comprise a whole day. Other verses in the Bible (e.g. Exodus 20:11) confirm, by drawing a parallel between creation week and man's work week, that a day still remains the same amount of time

- How do we know these are six literal days?
 - It is the normal reading of the text
 - A numerical ordinal modifier (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) is attached to the Hebrew word “yom” (day). Every time this occurs in the Old Testament it always refers to ordinary days (359 times)
 - It says there was evening and then morning, also always means literal days when used with “yom”
 - Exodus 20:8-11 - God used 6 days deliberately setting an example to the Israelites for the work week
 - Age of Adam (Genesis 5:5) was only 930 years
- Those who hold to the Day/Age theory believe each of these days to be ages, each consisting of millions of years
 - This is an accommodation approach
 - Reading something into the text that is not there
 - There is much good scientific evidence for a young earth, it is not necessary to accommodate to the latest scientific opinions, we must start with what the Bible says!
 - If Moses would have wanted to communicate ages instead of days, he could have said that, but he did not.
- “Days of Revelation” - a view that God showed Moses what He did, but showed him creating everything in six days, even though it may have taken Him much longer
- If we compromise on what the first chapter says, the rest of the Bible is ludicrous and makes no sense
- In the first 3 days of creation, God is shaping the world. In the last three days He is populating the world

Day Two

Verse 6 - *“God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters and let it separate water from water.”*

- Day Two - Here is the second time God uses a miracle to transform the blob into something new from what he had created and transformed previously. The command **let there be an expanse** refers to putting distance between two objects here referred to as **waters**. God divides up the great fluid blob into at least two, but most likely many more fluid blobs. He

then moves them apart placing the **expanse** (i.e. space) between them.

- Logical speculation would have God using the radiation and matter plus the black holes formed earlier to divide the blob into galaxy-sized blobs governed by the law of gravity. The empty spaces between the galaxy-sized blobs (i.e. the galaxies when completed) will form with the blobs what is now called the large-scale structure of the universe. This is the spider-web-like structure of galaxies and galaxy clusters that make up the universe which astronomers observe today.

During the same time these galaxy-sized blobs are separated from each other, they themselves could separate into smaller blobs that later will become star systems (1 to 3 stars and/or planets, moons, etc.). Our solar system is made up of one star, at least nine planets, an asteroid belt, many moons, and planetary rings. At this time in creation week all of these remain in fluid form, are dark, and are not recognizable until God completes further transformations later in the week.

Technical Stuff: The physical concept just described includes all these smaller blobs forming their own gravity wells then being separated from each other by expanses governed by gravity. There are 13 references in the remainder of the bible confirming that God stretched (Job 9:8, Psa.104:2, Isa.40:22, 42:5, 44:24, 45:12, 51:13, Jer.10:12, 51:15, Zec.12:1) the heavens or spread out (Job 26:7, 37:18, Isa.48:13) the heavens and/or the earth [5]. The stretching implies the expanding of the gravitational fields between the masses (blobs) as they are spread throughout the universe.

Logical speculation implies this stretching may have been recorded in the sky and may be observed by astronomers today. The evidence could include the cosmic microwave background radiation that is measured in every direction from earth and the redshifts measured on light coming from all the other galaxies. The microwave background radiation could have been caused by the stretching of radiation with the expanse.

The galactic redshifts could have been caused by a high separation velocity inducing a Doppler shift in wavelength of their light. The redshifts most likely occurring on day four after the stars light up and before they are fixed in position. Due to possible accelerated processes (God is not limited by the speed of light) and/or use of miracles during creation week, it may look like events are happening long ages ago, if present rates and no miracles are assumed.

Verse 7 - *“So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. It was so.”*

- God formed the **expanse**, which term is all-inclusive and refers to all the expanded physical heavens. He separated **water under** from **water above the expanse**. Again, an all-inclusive action, that refers to the placing of space between all the blobs, each blob having formed their own gravity well (below the expanse). The expanse separates it from all the other blobs outside that gravity well (above the expanse). The phrase **it was so** refers to the fact that everything was transformed as God directed and the results established for all time, or until God decides to change them.
- God separated galaxy-sized blobs from the single original blob and formed the large-scale structure of the universe. He probably also separated all stellar system-sized blobs from each other within each galaxy. These stellar system-sized blobs were further separated into blobs that will form stars, planets, moons, etc. God's main purpose for creation is a place where humans can live.

It is logical then that he would turn his focus to the single small blob within the future Milky Way galaxy and our future solar system that will form the planet Earth.

Technical Stuff: After a night of separating all the fluid blobs, God adds a new physical concept to the separated fluid blobs. Dawn of the second day could be explained by the visible light generating ability of controlled thermonuclear fusion and fission processes. The planet-sized blob, possibly still made up of some original fluid mixed in with the radiation, elementary particles, and some atomic elements, first separates from other blobs in the solar system. God then causes the blob's own gravity to compress what most likely is a gaseous fluid. During compression the temperature would quickly rise above 1500 degrees Kelvin, and the mass of fluid would begin to give off visible light.

The temperature of the blob has to reach extremes over 10 billion degrees in localized volumes to drive some fusion and fission processes for building atomic elements from which the earth is formed. By this process the Intelligent Designer could have built up the periodic table of elements at this time.

Logical speculation would predict that Earth is the only planet in the universe with the full spectrum of elements and in their unique proportions, just because God is taking such a special interest in this particular blob of matter. So far, no other planet has been found with the same mass and distance from a star like the Sun and Moon to duplicate Earth's gravitational environment that would have affected these formation processes.

It should be noted here that, while this was happening on the blob that forms Earth it could be happening all over the universe to blobs that are too small to form stars including planets and some moons. These blobs would have had limited thermonuclear processes producing their atomic elements, but not identical to the future Earth.

Stars will take another miracle to complete due their large size and special function as light sources. The long distances for the light to escape from their on-going inner fusion reactions will prevent the stars from giving off light for a long time. Estimates based on evolutionary assumptions for Sun-sized stars say that the stars remain in proto-star form for 100,000 years before they become visible stars. Planets and all other smaller heavenly bodies are illuminated by stars and reflect visible light only after their star provides that light and that does not happen until day four.

Verse 8 - *“God called the expanse “sky”. There was evening, and there was morning, a second day.”*

- This is the second time God names something new that he has just transformed from the original fluid. This **expanse** he has just established above the planet-sized blob separating it from the rest of the universe he calls **sky** (or heavens). Here he distinguishes this sky as different from the all-inclusive word heavens in Genesis 1:1 by not using it in the merism. God restricts the word to name the stretched and expanded heavens he has just transformed. These heavens now include all the masses and gravitational fields that form the large-scale structure of the universe.
- God doesn't tell us what the partially transformed earth looks like at the end of day two. This may be because he has not finished transforming it.
- The cooling of the earth-sized blob at the end of day two continues into day three until the planet now called Earth is formed. It is not stated explicitly in the text, but this would be the time that the foundations of the Earth are laid. That this event took place during creation week is confirmed by frequent references to it in the Bible (e.g. 1 Sam. 2:8, Job 38:4-6, Psa.102:25, 104:5, Pro.3:19, Isa.45:18, 48:13, 51:13, Jer.10:12, 33:2, Zec.12:1, Heb.1:10). Logically the foundations laid down during creation week are the same as found in the present day planet. This could mean that the core and mantle are completed at this time. It also would include the establishment of Earth's magnetic field.

Technical Stuff: The planet that has formed would have cooled rapidly to bring back darkness for the beginning of day three. Logical speculation implies this rapid cooling would leave evidence in the solids of the planet. Such evidence has been found in radiation halos in granite rock of the Earth's crust. These halos are formed by radioactive decay of elements in the solid rock. These elements had to be present in the molten rock but could only produce the halos after the rock solidified. The short half-lives of some of these elements indicate how fast the molten rock must have solidified to leave the halo record.

Day Three - Land and Vegetation

Verse 9 - *God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place and let dry ground appear." It was so.*

- God commands the waters under the sky to collect in one place. This command first collects the waters in one place and continues by separating the surface of the planet into seas and at least one area of dry land. The words "and it was so" are used again to signify that God's direction was followed and the results were established for all time.
- At some point during the nighttime portion of day three the surface of the planet is covered by actual water and at a temperature where it is liquid. The command goes further and makes the dry land appear above the surface of the water. The physical concept is at least one land mass rising out of the water. There is no record of how many continents of dry land were formed at this time because of the Flood (II Pet.3:6). A good description of the surface conditions on day three before and after the appearance of dry land can be found in Job 38:4-12.

Technical Stuff: The physical mechanisms in the transformation of the Earth's surface could involve processes such as volcanism, tectonic plate uplift and subduction, and could also result in giant tsunami wave action. All these processes could have been driven by the thermal energy stored in the crust during formation or created by accelerated radiogenic processes heating the crust. These radiogenic processes would give off large amounts of alpha and beta particles that could produce a tremendous amount of heat. The giant tsunami waves caused by land mass uplift would have moved a lot of earth and rock, forming sedimentary layers over all the land surfaces. Rocks and dirt would also have been in the run-off water and settled to the bottom of the seas.

Verse 10 - *God called the dry ground "land" and the gathered waters He called "seas". God saw that it was good.*

- Here God repeats for the third time his pattern of bringing forth something new and then giving it a name. He calls the dry ground just formed "land" (earth). It can now be distinguished from the word "earth" as used to describe the primordial matter-energy of the previous days. He calls the waters gathered together on the surface of the earth seas which signifies it is now understood that they are made of actual water and minerals like they are today.
- Next God evaluates again what he has created and transformed so far and finds it to be good. This signifies that the Earth's surface is now a habitable place for plants and ready for the next step in God's grand design. Man is still not able to improve upon anything that God has established during creation week although God and man have changed the surface of the earth since then.

Verses 11-13 - *God said, "Let the land produce vegetation; plants yielding seeds according to their kinds, and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." It was so.*

- God commands the dry land to bring forth vegetation. Here vegetation is all-inclusive and refers to all plant life. The physical concept here is a miracle where one moment the land

is bare and the next mature plants cover the dry land. The variety of plant life he created was enormous and each reproduces its own **kind** with its **seed**.

Technical Stuff: God's focus now, still on day three, narrows even further to the dry land. This most likely takes place sometime close to evening on the third day when light still illuminates the surface of the earth. Logically there would be a lot of water vapor, carbon dioxide and other molecules having been produced by the chemical burning in the atmosphere during the day. These could provide the correct mixture of gases in the atmosphere for the plants to thrive.

The plants will then prepare further the atmosphere for the animal life that will be created on days five and six. From the time it takes to grow mature trees and other vegetation today there is still the implication that God is controlling the transformation processes even of life to fit his daily time structure.

Day Four - Sun, Moon, and Stars

Verses 14-19 *God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs to indicate seasons and days and years, and let them serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." It was so. God made two great lights – the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night. He made the stars also. God placed the lights in the expanse of the sky to shine on the earth, to preside over the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. There was evening, and there was morning, a fourth day.*

- Why did God wait until day 4 to create the Sun, Stars, and Moon?
- He knew that man would eventually worship the heavenly bodies
- He is saying that they are created things, He is the author of light, not the sun.
Deut. 4:19
- Some believe that the sun existed before Day 4, but was only revealed on the fourth day, this cannot be supported from the text
- God commands **let there be lights in the expanse** and the lights are in the sky. The word **lights** as used here is different from the all-inclusive word light used in verse three. Here the word means light source or provider. These light sources are all the lights observed in the sky including the Sun (**greater light**) and the Moon (**lesser light**) and the **stars**.
- It should be noted here that the remainder of verse 14 through verse 18a is written in a special Hebrew construct. The construct is repetitive for emphasis while providing God's directions to man on how to make proper use of the heavens he has created. The purposes for the luminaries are: (1) **to provide light** (including heat), (2) **to divide day and night on Earth** (universal time standard), consistent with the original definition of "day", (3) **to serve as special signs** from God, and (4) **to serve as a calendar to mark events** (grouped stars visible at different times of the year).
- After transforming dry land into plant life on the Earth at the end of day three, God now focuses on sustaining this life with the continuous source of light and heat plants require even to this day. The physical concept here is transforming star-sized blobs of fluid not producing light into stars and especially the Sun to provide light on the planet Earth. Once the stars provide the light all the other objects in the universe such as planets, asteroids, and moons reflect that light and also become luminaries. This miracle is the final step in God's preparation of the universe for providing the optimum habitat for humans and all the other animals.
- The stars that result from the command are arranged in galaxies, clusters, and constellations for visual signs. Humans observe them to measure time (e.g. days, months,

years). God uses them to announce special events (e.g. Christmas star) and set dates for seasonal rituals (spring and fall festivals). Different constellations are visible (at one particular location) at night depending on where the Earth is located in its orbit around the Sun. The Sun now governs the day and sets the universal time interval since night now includes the light of the Moon and stars.

Technical Stuff: The setting of the luminaries could explicitly refer to the positioning (including relativity and time dilation) of all the heavenly objects in their time and space and limiting their movement with respect to Earth. Most likely it also refers to the stopping of the stretching. Job 37:18 captures both these concepts in one verse. Other references in the Bible confirm God's act of setting the luminaries in their locations in the sky (e.g. Psa.8:3, 148:6, Pro. 3:19, 8:27, Isa.51:16).

- In verse 18, God evaluates the newly created lights and pronounces them **good**. This signifies that God has completed the physical transformation of "the heavens and the earth" up to the point where they will provide a very good habitat for animals and man. Man still cannot improve on the things that God has created during days one through four.
- God ends the fourth day reiterating again to emphasize the concept that the cycle of nighttime and daylight forms a day and numbers it a **fourth day**. The length of the time interval remains the same, but now it has been tied to a location on Earth and the periods the Sun is visible or not from that location.
- The creation account in Genesis 1:1-19 is the only record humans have of physical events in the universe prior to creation of fish, birds, animals, and man. If close attention is paid to what God reports in those verses, the whole story of creation on days one through four unfolds.
- **The miracles that happen at God's command need to take their prominent place in man's concepts involving the origins of the universe.** With use of a designed sequence of miracles and accelerated processes, God created the initial raw materials on day one and transformed them into the entire physical universe by the end of day four, except for animals and man.

Day 5 - Sea creatures and birds

Verses 20-23 *God said, "Let the water swarm with swarms of living creatures and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." God created the great sea creatures and every living and moving thing with which the water swarmed, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." There was evening, and there was morning, a fifth day.*

Day 6 - Land Animals and Man

Verses 24-31 *God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals, each according to its kind." It was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the cattle according to their kinds, and all the creatures that creep along the ground according to their kinds. God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth." God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created*

them, male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it! Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I now give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the entire earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the animals of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to all the creatures that move on the ground — everything that has the breath of life in it — I give every green plant for food." It was so. God saw all that he had made — and it was very good! There was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.

- Verse 26 is the first indication of the Trinity spoken of, the plurality of the Godhead, not fully revealed until the New Testament (*Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness*)
- Both man and woman are made in God's image
 - They have equal value
 - This is why God is redeeming mankind
 - It takes both male and female perspectives to adequately convey God's image in the human race. Although God is called "He" in Scripture all the characteristics of the feminine are found in His Being. Yet God is not a sexual Being as most of the pagan deities are
 - There is something in mankind that has worth, that separates us from the animal kingdom
 - This is unique in all of God's creation, including the angels
- This indicates that man has some intrinsic value
- God created mankind to be theocratic administrators (vs. 26), to rule the earth on God's behalf
 - This gets lost in Gen. 3 - the whole storyline of the Bible is how that gets restored (Rev. 22:5)
- **No evil in the universe at the end of Creation Week!** Note verse 31. Everything God had created is said to be "very good." The angels ("the host of heaven") are in existence, but none of the angels has yet fallen. Man, nature and God are in perfect harmony. No sin, no death, no Second Law of Thermodynamics!

Day 7 - God rested

Chap 2:1-3 *The heavens and the earth were completed with everything that was in them. By the seventh day God finished the work that he had been doing, and he ceased on the seventh day all the work that he had been doing. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it he ceased all the work that he had been doing in creation.*

- Why did He rest?
- Because His work was complete, creation was finished
- He is still working in His creation, sustaining the universe and redeeming man
- Some say we're still in the 7th day of creation
 - Again, that numerical modifier indicates a real day
 - Doesn't say God is resting, but that He rested on the 7th day
 - This day was blessed - are we living in a blessed age today? No, we are living in a cursed age (Gen. 3:17-19, Romans 8:19-22)

Perspectives on Genesis 1					
	Recent Creationism	Progressive Creationism		Religious Only	Gap Theory
		Day-Age	Intermittent Day		
Main Objective of Genesis 1	Cosmology Anthropology	Cosmology Anthropology	Cosmology Anthropology	Teaching religious truth	Regeneration Anthropology
God's Creative Activity	By command only	By command and natural processes	By command only	No comment	By command only
Six Days of Genesis 1	Literal 24-hour, solar days	Indefinite periods of time (ages)	24-hour days with geologic ages between	Literary days Logical order, not chronological	24-hour days
Age of Earth	10,000-50,000 years	Several billion years	Several billion years	No comment	Several billion years
Origin of Life and Man	By command creation	Most fiat creation Some theistic evolution	By command only	No comment	Fiat only
Evolution	Microevolution only	Microevolution and theistic evolution	Microevolution only	No comment	Microevolution only
Origin of Current Land Forms	Noah's flood	Current geological processes	Current geological processes	No comment	Noah's flood
Origin of Rock Strata and Fossils	Upper part— Noah's flood Lower part— original creation	Progressive deposition through billion-year history	Progressive deposition through billion-year history	No comment	Upper part— Noah's flood Lower part— destruction from Satan's fall
Dinosaurs	Taken on Noah's ark; extinction after the Flood	Extinction in sixth day/age before man's creation or evolution	Extinction in geologic age before sixth day, when man was created	No comment	Part of the original creation which persisted when Satan fell

When were the angels created?

The creation of the angels was probably on Day One. The angels seem to be observers of the creation work of God (Job 38:7). Not all Bible scholars believe the angels were created on Day One. Some think they were created on Day Four when the sun, moon and stars were formed. But in either case, the angels were in existence by the end of the creation week (see Gen. 2:1). The angels, both fallen and unfallen, play an important role in the behind-the-scenes-government of the created universe. (See Heb. 2:5 which says that the age to come will be under the dominion of man, however the clear implication of this verse is that angels are now ruling the present age as instruments of God in His governmental system of the universe). When Jesus calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee, He evidently spoke to an angel who was in charge of the winds and waves. The angels inhabit the heavenly places (which were created on Day One). They are created spirit beings. The fall of one group of the angels brought about a major disruption to the physical universe, in addition to leading to the fall of man. Fallen and unfallen angels are constantly at war in the unseen world.

The entire Universe as a "House"

In the Upper Room Discourse, His last intimate teaching time with his disciples before the Cross, Jesus said, *"There are many dwelling places in my Father's house. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going away to make ready a place for you. And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that where I am you may be too."* (John 14:2, 3)

In Isaiah 66:1 the Lord declares,

"The heavens are my throne and the earth is my footstool. Where then is the house you will build for me? Where is the place where I will rest?"

Here we are told that the earth is a mere footstool and all the stars and galaxies in our presently known universe are but one chair in God's "house"---the universe. This symbolism suggests that the ultimate universe contains not only additional items of "furniture" but other "rooms" as well!

The universe was built in stages, or modules. The raw material was first brought into being, then these materials were formed, sculpted, molded and shaped into a finished universe. The program was not unlike the way we would build a house today.

First an architect designs the house. Next the worksite is prepared and cement, lumber, tools and material are brought to the lot. The foundation and walls of the house are built first, then finished with outer and inner walls and utilities built in. Lastly the house is decorated and furnished and the occupants move in. The house is not a functioning entity until the new owners have set up residence in the completed dwelling. Neither was the universe a functioning entity until the Seventh Day. In the case of the universe, God the Father was the architect. The Son of God was the building contractor, speaking the materials into existence and then building the universe "like a wise master-builder" (see Proverbs 8:22-31). God the Holy Spirit energizes and imparts life to the universe.

The creation week was a unique period of time during which the normal laws of physics would have been suspended. We can not understand this Week by extrapolating back from the present. There is clearly a major discontinuity on the Seventh Day when God stopped creating and set everything into motion. This is because we live in a UNI-verse, a packaged, finally-tuned, interlinked unit which can operate properly only after it is fully assembled and activated.

The universe has also been drastically altered subsequent to the creation week by the fall of one-third of the angels under the leadership of the Angelic Prime Minister Lucifer. The fall of man has further disrupted nature and the cosmos.

Excellent Creation Science web sites - a wealth of resources here!

<http://answersingenesis.org/>
<http://www.icr.org/>

Theistic Evolution - God used evolutionary process to create the universe

- Evolution and the Genesis account are not compatible

EVOLUTION	GENESIS 1 CREATION
Naturalistic	Miraculous
Says Genesis is a myth	Says Genesis is history
No distinction between creation and the creator	God created something out of nothing
There was light before the earth	There was earth before the light
Took billions of years	Took 7 days
Luminaries existed before the earth	Earth existed before the luminaries
Moves from hot to cold - big bang to things cooling off	Moves from cold to hot - (2 Peter 3:10)
Land before the ocean	Ocean before the land
Present is the key to the past	God worked miraculously in the past
Early rain on the earth	No rain until the flood
Microscopic animals	Complex animals
Plant life before the atmosphere	Atmosphere before plant life
Sun before plant life	Plant life before sun
Continuity among all life - man from animals	Each produces only after it's own kind
Sea life before land life	Land life before sea life
Reptiles and dinosaurs before birds	Birds before reptiles
Fish before birds and trees	Trees before fish, fish with the birds
Early animals were meat eaters	Early animals were plant eaters
Females before males	Males before females
Creation is continuing	Creation is complete
Suffering is natural	Suffering is unnatural, did not exist before Gen. 3
Death before Adam	Death not until Adam
Man is an evolved animal	Man is created higher than the animals
Man exists long after history (we showed up very late)	Man existed in the beginning
Man evolved from animals	Man created from dust of the earth
Fossils before man	Fossils came after man was created
Man related to the animals	Man not related to animals, but made in image of God
Man's geology is ancient	Man's geology is recent
Early men were meat eaters	Early men were plant eaters
Marriage is an evolved custom	Marriage was instituted by God
Man developed units of time	God implemented units of time
7 day week developed	God implemented 7 day week
People reached the age of 100	People reached the age of 900
Early man was primitive, and we have advanced	Early man was advanced, and we degenerated
Language evolved slowly	Man was created with speaking ability
Things are improving, get better and better	Things started out perfect, and have deteriorated
Thorns evolved with the plants	Sin caused the thorns
Animalistic nature causes man's evil	Evil caused by sin nature
Suffering precedes man	Suffering follows man
Man is improving	Man is failing

The two do not go together, **Theistic evolution does not work!**

Is there anywhere in the Bible that teaches (or even suggests) that God used evolution as part of His creative process? **NO**

- If not, then why do you suppose so many people believe God used evolution?

- Some people believe that scientists have proven evolution to be true. This occurs mostly because of the education system, which teaches evolution as a fact. In most school systems the textbooks used have censored out any scientific information refuting evolution.
- Some people do not want to be ridiculed because of a belief in creation therefore they adopt a worldview based on evolution.
- Peer pressure. Christians who work in the education system (especially universities) will adopt an evolutionary worldview to keep their job or remain in good standing with their peers.
- Lack of knowledge. Sometimes Christians are unwilling to even investigate the evidence for creation.
- *Many in the church are too intimidated or too embarrassed to affirm the literal truth of the biblical account of creation. They are confused by a chorus of authoritative-sounding voices who insist that it is possible, and even necessary to reconcile Scripture with the latest theories of the naturalists. (John MacArthur)*

The Bible is not directly intended to be a book about natural science, yet it never contradicts the real facts of nature (once they are fully understood); and in many things has been found to be a truly marvelous anticipation of the most remarkable discoveries of modern science. Even the statements and allusions which at one time were criticized by science as incorrect and ignorant have been found by latter discoveries to be in real accord with the constitution of nature, although opposed to what was once supposed to be scientific truth. (A.B. Simpson)

Closing comments:

I hope you can see that creation as God describes what He did in Genesis 1 is logical and orderly, and there were reasons why He did it all in 6 days, not 6 million years or even 6 seconds (which He could have done). We have also shown why millions of years evolutionary theory is not compatible with God's account of creation.

Join us for the next lesson as we study Genesis Chapter 2 where the Bible goes into more detail about what happened on day 6!

In Christ,
Dusty Rhodes