

God, Word, Faith, Creation

(Genesis 1:1 – 2:3)

Genesis: origin

Genesis 1:1, *In the beginning* . . . (Ps.90:2)

Passage assumes God's –

- a. Existence (God creates). 35x
- b. Eternity (He is before all things)
- c. Omnipotence (creates universe...)
- d. Absolute freedom
- e. Infinite wisdom (cosmos)
- f. Goodness (no evil)

God

- Plural: one Godhead; plurality of Persons
- Herbert Spencer: Five ultimate ideas: encompass all that exists in universe –
 1. Time
 2. Force
 3. Action
 4. Space
 5. Matter

God

- Plural: one Godhead; plurality of Persons
- Herbert Spencer: Five ultimate ideas: encompass all that exists in universe –
 1. **Time** – ‘in the beginning’
 2. **Force** – ‘God’
 3. **Action** – ‘Created’
 4. **Space** – ‘Heavens’
 5. **Matter** – ‘Earth’
- No scientist itemized list until 19th Century

Created

- Universe is not eternal
- Gn.1 affirms:
 - Before time...
 - God began His creative work...
 - Not from pre-existing materials...
 - But out of nothing
- “Create”: describes something that only God does.

Verse 2 describes earth of v.1

- **Without form:** formlessness, emptiness, as Jer.4:23
- **Void:** emptiness, as Jer.4:23
 - Earth immediately after creation was unproductive and uninhabited
 - God's making and filling (days 4-6) removed the emptiness

Verse 2 describes earth of v.1

- Darkness
- Deep: waters over earth's surface (9-10)
- Spirit of God: Dt.32:11. Mt.3:16

Let there be light (3)

- “God said” (ten times, Gn.1)
 - Spoke masterpiece into existence
 - Connection between creation by a word, and Christ the Word (Creator) Jn.1:1-3
- “Let there be light” – first creative words
- “And there was light” – not evolved...

Light ... good (4)

- “Good” (seven times, Gn.1)
- Divided light from darkness (alternation / succession of one to other)
 - Without light, no life (wind, water cycle, ocean waves cease, etc.)

Light ... day, darkness ... night (5)

- Light precedes sun. 1 Jn.1:5
- “Day” – two senses
 - Light portion of 24 hour period
 - Entire 24 hours
- Evening concludes the day; morning concludes the night . . . (six days)

‘The interpretation of *yom* as aeon, a favorite resource of harmonists of science and revelation, is opposed to the plain sense of the passage and has no warrant in Hebrew usage’ – John Skinner

Firmament (6-7)

- Expanse

- LXX: firm, solid structure
- Vulgate: firmamentum
- KJV: firmament
 - Used interchangeably of . . .

1. Open expanse of heavens where birds fly, atmosphere, 6-7, 20.
2. Place where God put lights of heaven, 14, 17.

Firmament (6-7)

- Expanse
 - 6: divide ... waters from waters (7)
 - 7: “made” (different from v.1).
- “And it was so”
- “Heaven” – root, to heave



Waters, dry land (9-10)

- Waters under heavens 'gathered'
- Dry ground ... earth (2 Pt.3:5)

Waters, dry land (11-13)

- Earth ... grass
- “According to its kind” (nine times, Gn.1)
- “And it was so” (six times, Gn.1)

Lights (14-19)

- “Let there be” – not merely appear (9)
- Lights in firmament (expanse) (6).
 - Earth existed before sun, moon, stars
 - Sun radiates light
 - Moon reflects light
 - Divide day | night
 - For signs | seasons
 - For days | years

Lights (14-19)

- Signs: banner; wonder, mighty act of God (Ex.4:8). Mt.16:3.
- Seasons: appointed time (Lv.23:4). Jer.8:7. Ac.14:17.
- Days and years
- Lights (15) in firmament
 - Greater, lesser (16)
- “And it was so” not “started to become so”

Lights (17-19)

- Some claim long periods for starlight to show
 - Gn.1 deals with the miraculous
 - He spoke universe into existence...
 - Grown man / woman
 - Trees bearing fruit (11, 29-30)
- Evening, morning... (19)



Living creatures (20-23)

- As earth brought forth plants (11-12) . . .
 - Living creatures populate waters(20)
 - Winged creatures populate expanse
 - Cancels 'void' (2)
 - Grown birds: ability to fly
- Great sea creatures (21); sea monsters
- “According to its kind” (nine times, Gn.1)
 - Reproduction, not change into other kinds
- “Good” – instantaneous, not eons of time
- “Fruitful...multiply”

Living creatures (24-25)

- Cattle, livestock – domestic animals
- Creeping things
- Beasts – wild animals, game

Man (26-27)

- Let 'US' ... 'OUR' image ... 'OUR' likeness
 - Plural
 - Godhead (1:2; Jn.1:1-3)
- **Make man** (5:2; Dt.4:32)
- In our image. Ja.3:9. Unique fellowship.
 - No animal can evolve into God's likeness
- Dominion. Ps.8:5-7

Man (26-27)

- Created male / female (27)
- Blessed (28) – gifts, purpose (22; 2:3).
 - Fruitful: powers of reproduction; marriage
 - Subdue... dominion over animals

God said (29-31)

- God said...and it was so
- Food (29-30). All creatures depend on plants
- Very good (31)

Finished (2:1)

- Host: of angels, stars (probably here)
- Finished: come to an end, put stop to

God ended (2:2)

- Ended His work (creative process). Hb.1:3
- Rested
 - Not tired; retired, but task is completed (Hb.4:10, ...ceased)
 - Ceased, Gn.2:2. No revisions necessary.
 - Contrast Deism. Jn.5:17
- Threefold emphasis (1-3): finished, ended, rested

God blessed (2:3)

- Did not command people to observe seventh day until Ex.20
- Created and made (synonyms)
 - NOT: 'simple organisms progressed through natural processes into more complex species

I. Genesis 1 Contradicts Errors

- A. Polytheism. Ac.17:...23, unknown God
- B. Eternity of matter. Ac.17:24, made world
- C. Gnosticism (evil matter). Ac.17:24-25
- D. Theistic evolution (dirt and rocks created).
(Ac.17:26-28)

II. It's About Time

Geo. Wald, Harvard neurobiologist, acknowledged the absurdity that chance created universe: “One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible...”

“Yet here we are – as a result, I believe of spontaneous generation.” How?

“Time is in fact the hero of the plot... Given so much time, the ‘impossible’ becomes possible...time itself performs the miracles”

II. It's About Time

Accounts of origin of life in other religions are trivial, silly.

There is nothing childish or silly in Bible.

“If we say, as was said long ago, ‘In the beginning was mind,’ we may be expressing or trying to express a great truth, but we have gone BEHIND SCIENCE in the two words”

– J. Arthur Thomson, The Outline of Science.