

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Beginning of Heaven and Earth

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

³ Then God said ...

Genesis 1:1-3a

The most important verse in the Bible ... why?

Elohim is introduced as the _____!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

His sovereignty demands _____, for all of creation is subject to Him!

How does Genesis 1 repudiate the many false philosophies of the world?

It presumes His _____, repudiating _____.

It reveals that all that exists had a _____, repudiating _____.

It reveals a singular, _____ God, repudiating _____.

It shows God _____ of that which He created, repudiating _____.

It demonstrates the _____ power and genius of God, repudiating _____.

It _____ God, repudiating _____.

Elohim creates ("bārā'") _____!

_____ may make ('āsâ), form (yāsar), or build (bānâ); however, only _____ can "bārā'".

What did *Elohim* create?

"The heavens and the earth"

⁶ The heavens were made by the word of the Lord, and all the stars, by the breath of his mouth.

⁹ For he spoke, and it came into being; he commanded, and it came into existence. (Psalm 33)

³ **All things** were created through him, and **apart from him not one thing was created** that has been created. (John 1:3)

³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was **made from things that are not visible**. (Heb 11:3)

¹⁶ For **everything** was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the **visible** and the **invisible**, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)

- There are 2 created realities ... (see: Deut 29:29)
- There is much we can and much we cannot see ...
- There is in creation “signals of transcendence” (Berger’s *A Rumour of Angels*)
- Nothing in either “world” exists without God.
- Both worlds exist for _____.

Two (primary) ways we can **interpret Genesis 1:1-2** ..

- 1) A _____ statement followed by _____ details ...
 - a. There is no verse in scripture that speaks of an *earlier* creation.
 - b. All that God made was declared “good”.
 - c. Exodus 20:11 summarizes creation to include *everything*.
- 2) An act of _____ and redemptive _____ ...
 - a. There was *chaos* and *void* that required transformation. (Jer. 4:23, Isa. 34:11)
 - b. There was “*darkness*” representing evil and death.
 - c. The first state was not like the 2nd state (Isaiah 45:18)
 - d. The word “was” in verse 2 should be translated “became”.
 - e. The fall of Satan took place during this period. (Ezekiel 28)

Is Genesis incompatible with science?

“Because the created world is the way God has created it, both believers and unbelievers can and have made true observations about it. Of course, unbelievers couch any true observations they make within an unbiblical philosophical framework, but the observations, as far as they go, may be true. As John Calvin observed, unbelievers can know truths about “earthly things,” although with regard to “heavenly things,” they are “blind as moles” (Institutes 2.2.12–21).

Believers have nothing to fear from science understood as the study of God’s created works. *The works of God’s hands are astounding and amazing, and Christians can rejoice and praise their Creator every time something true about these works is discovered regardless of who made the discovery. It is not science as such that is the problem. It is only false philosophies masquerading as science that must be rejected.”* (Keith A. Mathison, *Are The Bible and Science Incompatible?*)

Is there room for *legitimate disagreement* among Christians regarding the science of Genesis?

From Francis Schaeffer's *No Final Conflict*:

1. There is a possibility that God created a " _____ " universe.
2. There is the possibility of a _____ between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 or between 1:2 and 1:3.
3. There is the possibility of a " _____ " in Genesis 1
4. There is a possibility that the _____ affected the geological data.
5. The use of words " _____ " in Genesis 1 may be quite broad.
6. There is the possibility of the death of _____ before the Fall.
7. Where the Hebrew "bara" is not used, there is the possibility of _____ from previously existing things.

Some positions *incompatible* or *inconsistent* with Scripture:

1. " _____ " theories (e.g. "Big Bang")
2. _____ evolution ...
 - a. There is _____ in God's work of creation, not _____.
 - b. Acts of creation in scripture bring _____ response. (Psalm 33:6,9)
 - c. God created reproduction "according to their _____".
 - d. God's present, _____ role in creation
 - e. The special creation of _____
 - f. Incompatible with a _____ and inconsistent with secular evolutionary theory.

(Louis Berkhof calls it a "child of embarrassment ...")

Critical theology revealed in Genesis 1 (a summary):

- 1) God transcends _____, _____, and _____.
- 2) God created _____ out of _____.
- 3) Creation is _____ from God, yet _____ on God.
- 4) What God made was _____.
- 5) Science ultimately will not conflict with _____ for God is _____.
- 6) Any theory that denies God as _____ is incompatible with the Bible and Christianity.
- 7) A beginning presupposes an "ending". God is sovereign over both.