



Genesis 1:1-31

GOD ACCORDING TO GOD

This first chapter of our Holy Bible is written in the simplest and plainest language, and yet it contains the greatest and at the same time the most difficult themes. Therefore the Jews, as Jerome testifies, were forbidden to read it or hear it read before they were thirty years of age. The Jews required that all the other Scriptures be well known by every one before they were permitted to approach this chapter. Their Rabbis however accomplished little good by this... Nor has any one yet in the church to the present day explained all these momentous things correctly and satisfactorily in every respect. For interpreters have confused and entangled everything with such a variety, diversity and infinity of questions that it is very clear that God reserved to himself the majesty of this wisdom, and the correct understanding of this chapter, leaving to us only the general ideas that the world had a beginning and was created by God out of nothing. This general knowledge may clearly be taken from the text. But with respect to the particulars, there is so much that one cannot be clear about and hence innumerable questions have continually been raised in commentaries.

—Martin Luther (1483-1546)

WHAT IS THE DATE OF CREATION?

Bishop James Ussher (1581-1656) _____

Modern Materialistic Science _____

A face value reading of Scripture indicates that the creation of the universe and humanity is recent in time, somewhere between 4000 to 10,000 BC, depending on potential gaps in the genealogies of Genesis (Luke 3:35 w/Gen. 11:12; cf. Matt. 1:8 w/1 Chr. 3:10-11). Other considerations, such as potential gaps in time in Gen. 1:1-2 and the very nature of time itself, should give us a sense of humility and grace as we approach these issues. However, we should also be firm in our commitment to the authority and veracity of Scripture as we stand in the face of materialistic scientism which denies God and also ignores the catastrophic implications of a worldwide flood.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF CREATION?

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Light | 4 Sun, Moon, Stars |
| 2 Sky | 5 Birds and Fish |
| 3 Land
Plants | 6 Animals
Humanity |
| 7 Sabbath (Day of Rest) | |

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|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 <i>And God said...</i> | 4 <i>God made/divided...</i> |
| 2 <i>"Let there be..."</i> | 5 <i>God called/blessed...</i> |
| 3 <i>And it was so.</i> | 6 <i>God saw that it was good.</i> |
| 7 Evening and morning, the _____ day. | |

For an educated man in the 17th or even 18th century, any suggestion that the human past extended back further than 6000 years was a vain and foolish speculation.

—Dr. Colin Renfrew
Prof. of Archaeology, Univ. of Cambridge

The number "7" permeates the creation account. There are 7 days of creation as well as 7 recurring patterns in each day. 1:1 has 7 words in Hebrew. 1:2 has 14 words. 2:1-3 has 35 words. God is mentioned 35x, earth 21x, heaven 21x, and "it was so" 7x.

There is an ominous, uncomfortable tone [in 1:2]. The clauses describe not the results of divine creation but a chaos at the earliest stage of this world. It is not the purpose of Genesis to tell the reader how the chaos came about.

—Allen Ross

Formless and void. Heb., *tohu & bohu* (Jer. 4:23; Isa. 40:17; 45:18).

There can be little doubt that here [in Gen. 1] "day" [Hebrew, yom] has its basic sense of a 24-hour period.

—Gordon J. Wenham

WHO IS THE GOD OF CREATION?

- 1. He is the God who _____ (1:1, 21, 27).
- 2. He is the God who _____ (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24).
- 3. He is the God who _____ (1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25).
- 4. He is the God who _____ (1:4, 7).
- 5. He is the God who _____ (1:5, 8, 10).
- 6. He is the God who _____ (1:22, 28).
- 7. He is the God who _____ (1:17, 29-30).

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL APPLICATION OF CREATION?

I am created by God.	I am in darkness, because of sin.	I am made alive by the Word of God.
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The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. —2 Corinthians 4:4-6

The first subject of Genesis and the Bible is God. —Otto Procksch

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. —A. W. Tozer

God, who in Ex. 3:14 is known as "I Am" (Yahweh), says "Let there be (yehi), "and there was" (wayhi). —Allen Ross

The Life Force, being only a blind force, with no morals and no mind, will never interfere with you like that troublesome God we learned about when we were children. The Life Force is a sort of tame God. You can switch it on when you want, but it will not bother you. All the thrills of religion and none of the cost. —C. S. Lewis

The starting point to the answers of life, as with metaphysics, is the fact that God is there and he is not silent. —Francis Schaeffer

"After its kind." This phrase [mentioned 10x in Genesis 1] precludes transmutation of one kind into another. The 'seed' was programmed for stable reproduction of each kind through a remarkable system known today as the 'genetic code,' the complex information program in the DNA molecule. —Henry M. Morris

God named things as well as creating them. Having a name equals having existence, in biblical thought, and the act of giving a name meant the exercise of a sovereign right (cf. 41:45; 2 Kings 24:17; Dan. 1:7). In this chapter naming or blessing follows some act of creation seven times. —Thomas Constable