

“The Seven Days of Creation” Genesis 1:1-2:3

Introduction: Notice the contrast between creation and redemption. It was nothing for God to create; to create He had only to speak. But to redeem, He had to suffer. That is the perspective of the Bible. There are fifty chapters in the Bible on the Tabernacle and its structure, but only one on creation. God is more interested in people than He is in planets, more interested in souls than in stars. However, let us look at this one chapter on creation.

1. There are three books of the Bible that opens with the “beginning”:
 - a. Genesis 1:1- *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*
 - b. Mark 1:1- *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God”*
 - c. John 1:1- *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*
2. Thirty-two times in this chapter [Genesis 1], this creative God is called *Elohim*, a Hebrew word that emphasizes His majesty and power. [See also other phrases in notes]
 - a. *Elohim* is a plural noun that is consistently used in connection with singular verbs and adjectives.
 - b. It is a hint that God exists in three Persons.
 - c. Therefore, we see that the Trinity was involved in creation. This is also proved in the Scriptures.
 - (1) God the Father Acts 4:24- *“And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is”*
Revelation 4:11- *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”*
 - (2) God the Son John 1:1-3- *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”*
Colossians 1:16- *“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him”*
 - (3) God the Holy Spirit Psalms 104:30- *“Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.”*
3. There’s a pattern to God’s activities during the Creation week: first He *formed* and then He *filled*. He made three spheres of activity: the heavens, the landmasses, and the waters; and then He filled them with appropriate forms of life.
 - a. God Creates Genesis 1:1-2
 - b. God Forms Genesis 1:3-13
 - c. God Fills Genesis 1:14-27, 2:7

Body: Let us look at the days of creation in succession.

- I. The First Day Genesis 1:1-5
- A. The word *heaven* [v. 1] is plural in the Hebrew. There are three heavens mentioned in the Bible. God created all three.
1. The First Heaven—Home of the Birds and Clouds Daniel 4:12- “...and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof...”
Matthew 6:26- “Behold the fowls of the air...”
 2. The Second Heaven—Home of the Sun, Moon, and Stars Psalms 19:1- “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
 3. The Third Heaven—Home of the Angels and Departed Saints II Corinthians 12:2- “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.”
- B. The Holy Spirit moved [v. 2] upon the earth. This moving created a vibrating energy source which began to flow our energy waves—waves of heat and sound magnetism. Thus, the created universe was energized. Both energy and matter were now present in the space, mass, time framework. The three basic types of force fields were now in effect.
1. gravitational—the force between two objects
 2. electro-magnetic—the force between the electron and the nucleus of an atom
 3. nuclear—the force between the proton and neutron within the atom
- C. II Corinthians 4:6- “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness...”
- D. Nobody, even today, can tell us what light is. We know what light does, but not what light is. It is one of the most mysterious entities in the universe.
- E. God commanded the light to shine and then separated the light from the darkness [vs. 3-4]. But how could there be light when the light-bearers aren’t mentioned until the fourth day [v. 16]? Since we aren’t told that this light came from any of the luminaries God created, it probably came from God Himself who is light [I John 1:5]. The eternal city will enjoy endless light without the help of the sun or moon [Revelation 22:5], so why couldn’t there be light at the beginning of time before the luminaries were made?
- F. In Scripture, light is associated with Christ, the Word of God, God’s people, and God’s blessing, while darkness is associated with Satan, sin, death, spiritual ignorance, and divine judgment.
1. From the very first day of Creation, God established the principle of separation. Not only did He separate the light from the darkness and the day from the night, but later He also separated the waters above from the waters beneath, and the land from the waters.
 2. This explains why God separated the light from the darkness, for the two have nothing in common.
- II. The Second Day Genesis 1:6-8
- A. God separated the waters. This water [v. 7] was in two forms:

1. regular land-based water in shallow ocean, river, and lake beds
 2. atmospheric water—in the form of invisible translucent vapor
- B. It seems that these waters [v. 7] were a vaporous “blanket” that covered the original creative mass.
- C. The amount of vapor continually suspended in the air above us is estimated at 54 trillion, 460 billion tons. Water is 773 times the weight of air, so that gives some idea of the power required to separate the waters from the waters.
- D. The annual precipitation, in the form of rain and snow that falls upon the earth is the equivalent of 186,000 cubic miles—enough to cover the entire earth to a depth of three feet.
- III. The Third Day Genesis 1:9-13
- A. God gathered the waters [vs. 9-10] and caused the dry land to appear, thus making earth and seas.
- B. The critics once declared Moses to be a simpleton for making such a statement [v. 9- “...*Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place...*”]. We now know that, although the continents are divided, the seas occupy one bed.
- C. Notice in v. 11 how Moses catalogues the earth’s vegetation by a simple, natural division, using as his guide the structure of plants and their seeds.
- (1) In the first plant, the seed is not particularly noted because it is not obvious to the eye.
 - (2) In the second the seed is the marked feature.
 - (3) In the third the characteristic mark is the fruit in which is its seed.
- D. It is estimated that there are more than one hundred thousand species of plant life on the globe, and that there are more than five thousand different forms of grass alone.
- E. God also caused plant life to appear on the earth. God decreed that each would reproduce after its kind [this phrase appears ten times in chapter one], which helps to make possible order in nature. God has set reproductive limits for both plants and animals (Gen. 1:21) because He is the Lord of Creation. There’s no suggestion here of any kind of evolution. God was preparing the earth for a habitation for humans and for animals, and the plants would help to provide their food.
- IV. The Fourth Day Genesis 1:14-19
- A. God has now created three special spaces: the land, the seas, and the expanse of the sky. During the next three creative days, He will fill these spaces.
- B. Psalm 104:24- “*O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.*”
- C. On the first day God created physical light. He now creates special light sources [v. 14]. These heavenly bodies were to function in a threefold manner:
1. As signs—they teach and remind men of God’s creative work. Psalm 8:3- “*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained*”

2. As seasons—they function as a calendar, dividing seasons, days, and years, enabling men to accurately plan their work.
 - a. Israel would need the help of the heavenly bodies to direct their activities.
 - b. Because of their religious observances, the Jews needed to know the times and the seasons, when the Sabbath arrived and ended, when it was a new month, and when it was time to celebrate their annual feasts.
 - c. Before the invention of the clock and the compass, the activities of human life were closely linked to nature's cycles; and navigators depended on the stars to direct them.
 - d. When we bow at meals to thank Him for the food He provides [Timothy 4:4], when we see the sunshine and the rain provided at no expense to us, and when we watch the progress of the seasons, we should lift our hearts to praise the Creator for His faithfulness and generosity.
3. As lights—they replace the temporary light source of the early days.
 - a. The sunlight consists of three rays:
 - (1) Heat Rays—Type of the Spirit—We can feel Him
 - (2) Light Rays—Type of the Son—We can see Him
 - (3) Actinic Rays—Type of the Father—We can neither see Him nor feel Him, but He is the source of all life
 - (4) Malachi 4:2- "*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings...*"
 - b. It may be asked why God created the earth on the first day, but waited until the fourth day before establishing the sun, stars, and moon. Two possible reasons are suggested for this, one dealing with *priority*, the other with *prevention*.
 - c. That of priority. God created the earth first because it was the most important in his mind. It was upon *planet earth* that he planned to create on the sixth day a creature made in his own image. This creature, man, would live on earth, and not the moon. Then, plans had already been made in the fullness of time for the second person in the Trinity to wrap human flesh and bone about him and come to planet earth. Finally, it will be upon the earth, not Pluto or Venus that the King of kings shall someday touch down upon the Mount of Olives to establish his millennial Kingdom.
 - d. That of prevention. Almost without exception every ancient civilization has worshiped the sun. But God wanted his people to worship its Creator, namely, himself. Thus, he informs us that life and light existed before the sun, and that every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights.
- D. Notice how in v. 16 Moses knew that the sun was bigger than the moon. The sun is so big that it could contain six million moons.
- E. Notice in v. 16 that God made the stars also. Just a simple five words, but notice the extent of these five words. The star Antares is so large that it could

swallow up 64 million suns the size of ours. In the Auriga constellation the star Epsilon is so vast that its diameter is 3,000 times that of our sun and its volume some 27 billion times our sun's.

- V. The Fifth Day Genesis 1:20-23
- A. God had created the sky and the waters, and now He filled them abundantly with living creatures. He made birds to fly in the sky and aquatic creatures to frolic in the seas.
 - B. Psalm 104:26- *“There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.”*
 - C. The seas were filled with fish and the skies were filled with fowl—an interesting combination. Fish and fowl have a lot in common.
 - (1) Both have streamlined forms to help them move swiftly through their habitat
 - (2) Both are covered with shingle-like layers whether it be scales or feathers
 - (3) Both have hollow, light bones
 - (4) Both lay eggs
 - (5) Both migrate
 - D. God said in v. 20 that the waters were to bring forth abundantly. Even a drop of ditch water can hold 500 million microscopic creatures so small that a teaspoonful of water would be to them what the Atlantic is to us.
 - E. Half a billion *infusoria* can live in a single drop. They appear in a thousand species, some are herbivorous, some carnivorous, some have shells, and some have none. They possess mouths, teeth, muscles, nerves, and glands. Some species have between one to two hundred sacks or stomachs, connected by an intestinal canal. The thickness of the membranes that line those stomachs have been estimated to be one fifty-millionth part of an inch.
 - F. What a contrast is seen here [v. 21], from the tiny hummingbird to the massive blue sperm whale. The blue sperm whale is longer and heavier than a modern 737 Boeing jet passenger plane. It can reach a length of 110 feet, and weigh 150 tons.
 - G. A new element is added to God's work on this day: He not only called His work “good,” but He blessed the creatures He had made [vs. 21-22]. God's blessing enabled the creatures and the fowl to reproduce abundantly.
 - H. Psalm 104:25- *“So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.”*
- VI. The Sixth Day Genesis 1:24-31
- A. God had formed the sky and filled it with flying birds. He had formed the seas and filled the waters with aquatic creatures. Creation reaches its climax when on the sixth day He filled the land with animal life and then created the first man who, with his wife, would have dominion over the earth and its creatures.
 - B. In vs. 24-25, God created the vertebrates and the creeping things. Moses gives a threefold classification of these.
 - (1) He refers to the cattle as the four-footed domestic animals.
 - (2) He refers to the creeping things as creatures that move along the ground.

- (3) He refers to the beasts as wild animals.
- C. Scientists have classified millions of different species of animals:
- (1) There are more than 800,000 different kinds of insects
 - (2) There are about 30,000 different kinds of fish
 - (3) There are about 9,000 kinds of birds
 - (4) There are about 6,000 kinds of reptiles
 - (5) There are about 3,000 kinds of amphibians
 - (6) There are about 5,000 kinds of mammals
 - (7) Keep in mind that they all produce after their kind. v. 25
- D. Like the first man [2:7], the animals were formed out of the dust of the ground [1:24], which explains why the bodies of both humans and animals go back to the dust after death.
- E. Ecclesiastes 3:19-20- *“For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.”*
- F. The verb “formed” suggests the potter making a work of art in his skilled hands. The human body is indeed a work of art; an amazingly complex organism that only the wisdom of God could design and the power of God create.
- G. This is [v. 26] the first strong evidence of the Trinity in the Old Testament.
- H. Who was God talking to when He said “our”? God couldn’t have been talking with the angels about His plans because angels weren’t made in God’s image and angels had nothing to do with the creation of Adam. It must be the Trinity.
- I. Man becomes the highlight of this day and of the entire creation week. He was made in the image of God and possessed the highest kind of life. Hebrews 2:6-8
1. Plant life possessed *unconscious* life.
 2. Animal life possessed *conscious* life.
 3. Man alone possessed *self-conscious* life.
- J. Man is in no way related to the beasts. What animal can transmit accumulated achievements from one generation to another? What animal experiences a true sense of guilt when it does wrong or has a developed consciousness of judgment to come? What animal shows any desire to worship? What animal has hope of immortality beyond the grave? What beast can exercise abstract moral judgment or show appreciation of the beauties of nature? (When did we ever see a dog admiring a sunset or a horse standing breathless before the rugged grandeur of a mountain range?) What animal ever learned to read and write? What animal ever learned to cook its food, to cut cloth and make clothes, or invent elaborate tools? What animal has the gift for speech? Man stands alone. *Physically*, he alone walks upright. *Mentally*, he alone has the ability to communicate in a sophisticated manner. *Spiritually*, he alone has the capacity to know the mind and will of God.

K. It was man that was to have dominion [Genesis 1:26]. Notice the example of Jesus Christ, the second Adam. He had mastery over the fish of the sea, whether over a school of fish (when the disciples took a draught of fish) or over a single fish (when Peter took up the fish with the coin in its mouth). He had dominion over the wild animals (at His temptation in Mark 1:13) and over the domesticated animal (when He rode a colt into Jerusalem). He had mastery over the fowl, as when He told Peter that a cock would crow at the precise moment he finished denying his Lord for the third time. He had dominion over all the earth, so that devils, disease, and death fled at His word. He walked upon the waves, stilled the angry deep, multiplied loaves and fishes, and caused the water to turn into wine.

VII. The Seventh Day Genesis 2:1-3

- A. Obviously the God, who can create more universes than man can count, and who can lock up within the tiny breast of the atom enough energy to obliterate an island, cannot possibly grow tired.
- B. The rest of God tells us that creation was complete. 2:1
- C. These words rang out at the close of creation and redemption. It is a finished work.
- D. God extended His Sabbath to Israel. Exodus 20:8-11

Conclusion: When God surveyed His creation, He saw that it was very good (Gen. 1:31). Contrary to what some religions and philosophies teach, Creation is not evil and it isn't a sin to enjoy the good gifts God shares with us.

- Psalm 24:1- *"The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."*
- James 1:17- *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*
- I Timothy 6:17- *"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy"*
- Revelation 4:11- *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*