

GENESIS 1:1-19

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Genesis chapter 1, as we begin our study once again through the Bible.

We spent some 15 years going from Genesis through Revelation and here we are once again, at the book of beginnings!

The Hebrew title of this book, ***BERESHITH***, is taken out of the first verse, “**In the beginning.**” Our English title is taken out of the Greek translation or the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Old Testament, and it means “*beginnings*” or “*origins.*”

Now you may be wondering, “*The beginnings or origins of what?*”

That is a great question, but before I answer that let me share with you some of the things that we see in our world today. And I don’t think I have to tell you this, but it is a mess and the reason for this mess, you will see.

The first thing I want to mention is that of ***MORAL RELATIVISM.***

And I believe that this is one of the main reasons we see so much immorality in our nation. We decide what is right and what is wrong and really, there is nothing that is wrong as long as you feel it is right. And that has led to the following issues.

We have lost respect for the ***SANCTITY OF LIFE!***

We see that murder in the womb or what they call abortion, is seen as doing the right thing, moral relativism.

Did you know that 629,898 abortions were reported in America to the CDC in 2019, and the abortion rate was 11.4 per 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 44. That year, 56% of the reported abortions were surgical and about 44% were through the abortion pill!

The report also showed about 18% of all pregnancies in the U.S. ended in abortion.

And look at the rate of murders, abuse, the trafficking of women, the abuse of children to sexual crimes, and the list goes on because we have lost the sanctity of life!

Another issue we see is that our ***RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IS BEING ATTACKED!***

Think about this. A nation that was founded upon Christ is now being censored if you speak things that are in opposition to the sins that people are doing!

And what I mean by that is this. Try posting something against homosexuality or transgenderism and see what Facebook and the other social media outlets will do with you. You will be censored for speaking the truths of God found in the Word of God!

And look at what has happened to ***MARRIAGE!***

God said that marriage is between one man and one woman and look at the perversion of that today. We see homosexuality, transgenderism, men marrying men and women marrying women!

And from that, we don't even know what a man or woman or a boy or a girl is –

TRANSGENDERISM!

You can decide for yourself what you want to be. And what they are doing is ignoring what the Bible says, and ignoring what science says, and, because of moral relativism they are doing whatever they want, and it gets more and more and more perverse!

And then there is the ***MEDIA!***

I know you are well aware that the news is not the news anymore, it is commentaries on what they believe is right and wrong, moral relativism. News is just to report the facts, not alter the facts to make them say what you want them to say. That is not news, that is deception!

Social Media also promotes their views and tries to silence anything that would go against them, as I have said.

And look at where we are at as a nation. We are fighting amongst each other, and we stand up for all kinds of immorality and try to silence those who are standing up for righteousness!

And I can go on, but I think you understand how immorality is growing in our nation.

And as much as people say we were never a Christian nation, listen to what George Washington said in his farewell address as President of the United States of America. This is what he said, ***“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”***

And he was speaking of the Christian faith, apart from that our nation will decay and we see that before our eyes today!

And just to give you one more from our recent past, Ronald Regan, President of the United States of America said, ***“Without God, there is no virtue because there’s no prompting of the conscience. And without God, democracy will not and cannot endure. If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”***

Once again we need to understand that he was not speaking of all the religions out there or the so-called gods out there, but the Christian faith and Jesus Christ. Apart from Him and His Word, we are a nation facing destruction!

Why am I speaking so much about these things as we begin the book of Genesis?

Because the attack against this book is growing and growing. And if you negate the book of Genesis, you are in trouble, especially the first 11 chapters!

We attack today, as Christians, issues like abortion, homosexuality, drug abuse and so on and these are really not the issue.

Now you may be shocked by that but those things, as well as many others are just the symptoms.

The problem is man has rejected Genesis and thus, he does as he pleases because there is no foundation. And the reason for that is he rejects God! We need to bring them back to Genesis, back to God creating the heavens and the earth and then sin entering this world to bring them to Jesus. But, again, we attack the symptoms instead of bringing them to the solution, Jesus and we see all this immorality continue on in our nation and many times, in the church!

That is what has happened and is happening today. The foundation of our faith is being attacked and once that is destroyed, so too will our faith be destroyed and we will do as we please, moral relativism!

Let me share this with you and you will see that all the important doctrines and teachings of the Bible have their *FOUNDATION* in the book of Genesis!

Sin, the fall, redemption, justification.

The promise of the Messiah and Jesus Christ.

The personality and personhood of God.

The kingdom of God.

The origin of the universe and how we see order and complexity in life and in our solar system. We see the origin of life, of man and woman, of marriage. We see that there is good and evil that has come into this world. We see the formation of language, government, culture, nations, religion.

Thus, if this foundation is destroyed, the first 11 chapters of Genesis, we then see people abandoned the truth of Genesis and our society has come into disarray!

Genesis is important to the New Testament. There are at least 165 passages in Genesis either directly quoted or clearly referred to in the New Testament; many of these are quoted more than once, so there are at least 200 quotations or allusions to Genesis in the New Testament.

Jesus quoted or referred to each of the first 7 chapters of Genesis as being historical and divinely inspired!

Folk's, that is good enough for me but if it is not for you, we will see that nature itself declares the glory of God and that to me is the final nail in the coffin for those who don't believe the book of Genesis and believe in evolution, a very poor theory as we will see!

W. H. Griffith wrote, *"The first book of the Bible is for several reasons one of the most interesting and fascinating portions of Scripture. Its place in the Canon, its relation to the rest of the Bible, and the varied and striking character of its contents combine to make it one of the most prominent in Holy Writ. It is with a real spiritual insight, therefore, that the people of God in all ages have fastened upon this book, and given it their earnest attention."*

Some 100 years ago, there was a great German philosopher named Arthur Schopenhauer. By habit, he usually dressed like a vagrant, and one day he sat on a park bench in Berlin, deep in thought. His appearance made a policeman suspicious, so the policeman asked the philosopher *"Who are you?"* Schopenhauer answered, *"I would to God I knew."*

The only way we can ever really find out who we are is from God. The best place to find out begins in Genesis.

Again, this is why the Devil hates this book so much because to refute the book of Genesis you then will compromise the rest of the Bible because Genesis is what the other books in the Bible are built upon!

Remember what the David said in Psalm 11:3, **“If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”**

Exactly. You destroy the foundation of our faith and everything else will crumble before us!

And like I have said, and what is alarming to me, is not that the unsaved don't believe in the book of Genesis, but many so-called Christians don't believe the literal interpretation of this book, especially the first 11 chapters.

Some see this as nothing more than stories, allegories that have certain moral and spiritual values to them. They do not believe this is a historical book, a book to be taken literally, especially the account of creation!

Let me make this as simple and clear as possible and I don't mean to offend any of you, but this is just the way it is.

If you can't trust the book of Genesis, then how can you possibly trust any other book of the Bible?

You see, if the foundation of your faith is weak, then it won't stand! Paul tells us in the New Testament book of I Corinthians 15:21-22, **“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”**

In other words, if the first Adam was only an allegory, then so must be the second Adam or Jesus Christ!

Do you see how foundational this book is to us? I hope you do!

Think about it.

If there was not creation, then there is no Adam and Eve.

If there is no Adam and Eve, then there is no original sin.

If there is no original sin, then we have no need of a Savior to save us from our sin.

If there is no need for a Savior, then why would Jesus even have to come, to save us from what?

And you have destroyed your faith because there is no need for a Savior, I hope you see how important this is.

The Pentateuch or the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Torah, are:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy and I believe Moses wrote these books.

Not only does tradition support that, but so does the Scriptures. I know, there are those who hold to the Documentary Hypothesis that says several people wrote Genesis and there are many theories out there, but the Word of God speaks for itself.

In Luke chapter 24 we are told, **“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. . . . Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’”** Luke 24:27, 44.

Thus, I may not have a PhD. hanging on my wall, but I do know that Moses wrote the Pentateuch, God said so!

Also, the Pentateuch was probably written sometime after the Exodus from Egypt or the latest it could be written was forty years after the Exodus, prior to the death of Moses.

Thus, this evening we are going to begin our journey through the Bible starting in the book of Genesis and going through the book of Revelation, Lord willing, in less than fifteen years this time!

And we will see that the Paradise that was lost in Genesis will be restored in Revelation as God creates a new heaven and a new earth with a new Jerusalem. It is then that all sin and its affects will be done away with, the eternal state with the Lord.

And, as Francis Schaeffer wrote regarding the history of the Scriptures and Genesis, that it can be trusted, he wrote, *“The mentality of the whole Scripture . . . is that creation is as historically real as the history of the Jews and our present moment of time. Both the Old and the New Testament deliberately root themselves back into the early chapters of Genesis, insisting that they are a record of historical events.”* Exactly!

So with that said, let’s begin reading in Genesis chapter 1, starting in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we begin our journey once again through the Word of God, the Bible!

GENESIS 1

VERSE 1

I believe this is the most important verse in the Bible. I know, some of you, maybe all of you may disagree with me.

But think about it. If you can believe this verse, the rest of the Bible is a piece of cake. If you can't believe this verse, you will stumble with the rest of the Scriptures, what they are saying. For example, Jonah and the Great Fish swallowing Jonah. If you can believe Genesis 1:1, then you can believe that Jonah was swallowed by a Great Fish. That is just one example!

Henry Morris tells us,

The first verse of the Bible is the most important and basic of all. ***“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*** When one really believes this verse, he will have little difficulty believing all the rest of God's Word. This single verse refutes all the various false theories about origins the men have invented.

The verse refutes atheism (“the doctrine of no God”) because it starts with God. Pantheism (“all God”) is refuted because it shows that God existed before the universe. Polytheism (“many gods”) is false because the universe which was created was not a “poly-universe” and it was created by one God. Dualism, the doctrine of two eternal gods, one good and one evil, is merely a special form of polytheism. Evolutionism is rejected because it says that God created.

Actually, all these false philosophies are essentially the same. All theories of origins – other than the true account in the Bible – teach that the present ***“cosmos”*** came into existence by the operation of the ***“gods”*** or the forces of nature or some mystical principle acting upon the previously existing material ***“stuff”*** of the earlier ***“chaos.”***

This idea is no less prevalent in ancient paganism than in modern scientism. The revelation of the special creation of all things by an eternal and almighty personal God is essentially unique to the Bible!

Thus all other explanations of origins, whether religious or philosophical or scientific, are basically only different forms of the concept of evolution.

- Henry Morris, *The Beginning of The World*, pp. 10-11

I will deal more with this idea of evolution as we move on, but first I need to deal with this verse a little more because we miss in our English translation a very important point.

You see, the Hebrew word that is used for God is not *EL*, which means one God, but *ELOHIM* and it is in the pleural form meaning more than two.

Thus, you can read this verse like this, ***“In the beginning Gods created the heavens and the earth.”***

Now that sounds like polytheism, but it is not. You see, the pleural noun **“God’s”** is attached to a singular verb, **“created.”**

What is my point?

My point is this and it is amazing. You see, what we see here is a hint at the Trinity being actively involved in the creation process.

Now, the big question is, ***“Do we see this in the rest of the Scriptures?”***

You bet we do. Yes, the word Trinity you will not find in the Scriptures, but the concept is there, beginning right here in Genesis!

In Hebrews 11:3 we see God the Father involved in creation, **“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”**

In Genesis 1:2b we see the Holy Spirit involved in creation, **“... And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”**

And in Colossians 1:16-17 we see God the Son involved in creation, **“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”**

Thus, it is very clear to me that the Triune God, one God manifested in three distinct persons, were involved in creation.

It is as Clarke said, *“He must be strangely prejudiced indeed who cannot see that the doctrine of a Trinity. And of a Trinity in unity is expressed in the above words.”*

And Leupold, quoting Luther on Elohim said, *“But we have clear testimony that Moses aimed to indicate the Trinity or the three persons in the one divine nature.”*

Also, the word **“created”** is important for us to understand here. It is the Hebrew word **BARA** and it means to bring into existence something out of nothing and only God can do that.

Man can **“make”** things or **ASAH** in Hebrew, or **“form”** things or **YATSAR** in Hebrew, but he can’t make the materials out of nothing and bring them together to form something, only God can do that.

Man can take and form existing materials into more complex things but that is as far as it can go.

So, in the beginning God created out of nothing all the material for the heavens and the earth and He will assemble them together.

Now the worldview, and what is held by many today, is that of evolution. This is taught in schools across this country, and it is no longer a theory, but it is a fact, according to them. Folk’s, it is not even a good theory, and it is not a fact, evolution is – **FAKE NEWS!** Sorry!

Now don't get mad at me, I will share with you what they believe, and you tell me if this is science or a fairy tale!

They believe that in the beginning nothing, absolutely nothing, produced everything all by itself!

I tried that with my bank account. I had absolutely nothing and I waited and waited, and you know what? That nothing did not amount to lots of money, it amounted to nothing, because, as the song goes, "*Nothin' from nothin' leaves nothin'*" and I like to change it to *nothing from nothing comes nothing!*

We will see how this all plays out as we see all that God created and how complex life really is!

And let me add this one point before we move on because in just this one verse, way back in the very beginning, we have something that took Herbert Spencer to come up with back in the late 1800's. And keep in mind that Herbert Spencer was one of Darwin's earliest and most enthusiastic followers.

What did He come up with?

He outlined five ultimate scientific ideas – *TIME, FORCE, ACTION, SPACE,* and *MATTER!*

What I want to show you is that in Genesis 1:1 God already established these things. Let me show you what I mean.

"In the beginning" – *that speaks of time!*

"God" – *that speaks of force!*

"Created" – *that speaks of action!*

"The heavens" – *that speaks of space!*

“And the earth” – *that speaks of matter!*

In the first verse of the Bible God laid out plainly and simply what no scientist discovered until the nineteenth century!

VERSE 2

Now as some read this verse, they believe that there was a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:3. This teaching is known as the Gap Theory!

What is this all about and is it Scriptural?

The Gap theory says that God created the heavens and the earth and the angels, including Lucifer and he inhabited the earth until he rebelled against God and took 1/3 of the angels with him. And everything was perfect.

And let me say this. I don't believe that the Gap theory has any merit, the Scriptures don't support it, and I will show you why.

So after this perfect creation in Genesis 1:1, then that the earth became without form and void. Thus, within this period of time they say there was death and destruction, which explains the fossil record, this period of time could have been millions and millions of years!

I disagree. There was no death and destruction before Adam sinned. Paul makes that point in Romans 5:12, **“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”**

The reason some believe in this gap theory is because the phrase **“the earth was without form and void”** they believe should be translated, **“the earth became without form and void.”**

Keep in mind that in the over 1500 occurrences of this word in the Old Testament, only 25 times is it translated **“became.”**

They also point to Isaiah 45:18 which says, **“For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: ‘I am the LORD, and there is no other.’”**

The rational, according to those who adhere to the Gap theory, is that God did not, would not create the earth without form or void, it became that way.

It is the same Hebrew words used here in Genesis 1:2 and thus, it must fit.

I don't read that verse like that. I see it as God did not create the heavens and the earth to be void but to be inhabited and thus, God is putting everything together. Right now it is a watery matrix of elements that will be assembled together. So I just see this part of God's creative work and I don't see the Gap theory fit, I don't believe it is Scriptural!

When did Satan fall?

Did Satan fall between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2?

I don't believe so and I will show you why.

In Job chapter 38 God is rebuking Job and asking him where he was when God created the heavens and the earth. And then, speaking of creation and what the angels did, we are told in Job 38:7, **“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”**

God is asking Job if he was around when the earth was created. The angels were and they shouted for joy at what God had done. But Job was not around.

Now here is the thing and I think it is important because people want to know not only when the angels were created but when Satan fell. As we have seen they were created before the earth was created.

But also notice that it says “**all the sons of God shouted for joy**” when God created the heavens and the earth.

That tells me that Lucifer or Satan fell from his position as the anointed cherub sometime after God created the heavens and the earth.

When exactly we don't know but it was before Genesis chapter 3 and the fall of man!

Henry Morris gives us this insight into what this is saying here in Genesis 1:2. He wrote, “*The essential meaning, therefore, is: ‘In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth [or space and matter], and the matter so created was at first unformed and uninhabited.’*”

Keep in mind that the universe was formed but not yet energized yet and light is a form of energy.

Again, Henry Morris gives us his perspective of what is being referenced in Genesis 1:2. He wrote, “*Initially . . . the earth had no form; and similarly, this state must apply to the waters also. The picture presented is one of all the basic material elements sustained in a pervasive watery matrix throughout the darkness of space.*”

Think of a potter. He gets the clay, and it is without form and void. And He is going to mold and shape that clay into something beautiful. That is what God is doing here.

And what we see here is that the Holy Spirit is moving or the Hebrew word, **RACHAPH**, which can be translated “**shake**” (Jeremiah 23:9) or “**fluttereth**” (Deuteronomy 32:11).

Think of the Holy Spirit moving, vibrating or pouring out energy into the creation!

That is what I see here, the universe needs to be energized and the Holy Spirit is the one doing it.

Leupold picks up on this idea of the Spirit of God hovering. He wrote, *“The verb . . . signifies a vibrant moving, a protective hovering . . . His was the preparatory work for leading over from the inorganic to the organic.”*

VERSES 3-5

Notice, God spoke and there was light! I want you to understand that this was not really hard for God. In fact, listen to what Spurgeon tells us about God speaking and then there was light. He wrote, *“I must have you notice that this light came instantaneously. The Hebrew suggests this far better than our translation - it is sublimely brief. ‘Light be: light was.’”*

Now there is this problem. How can there be light when the sun and moon are not formed until the fourth day?

We don’t know what this light is for sure. We do know that God is light and in the New Heavens and New Earth there is no sun or moon, everything is lit by the glory of God shining forth.

I like what the late Dr. John Whitcomb wrote about this. He believed that the light that was created for the first three days of creation was some type of proto-sun and that was done away with on the fourth day when God created the sun and the moon.

This is what he wrote,

God created a fixed and localized light source in the heaven in reference to which the rotating earth passed through the same kind of day/night cycle as it has since the creation of the sun. . . . The second heaven of outer space was totally empty and therefore dark until a temporary localized astronomic light was created to begin the day/night cycle.

- Dr. John Whitcomb, *The Early Earth*, pp. 31, 39

Whatever the source here, we do know the earth is now moving on its axis, rotating for there is evening and morning! Thus, this is a 24-hour day.

Another question is how long was a day?

Some see here that the word “**day**” or *YOM* in Hebrew represents long periods of time, anywhere from thousands to millions of years or geological periods of time.

Dr. Hugh Ross, a Christian and also a progressive creationist who believes in the Big Bang theory occurring some 16 million years ago, that there was death and blood shed before Adam was around.

That not only goes contrary to the Scriptures, but it is a dangerous way to look at these verses.

Why?

Because if the first Adam was not real, then the second Adam, Christ is not. If we can't trust what God says in Genesis, or we have to interpret it to fit into our theology or way of thinking, then how can we believe anything else that God has said?

You see, you open up a Pandora's box with that kind of thinking.

How can I believe that this is speaking of a literal 24-hour day?

If you look what is said in this verse, God makes it very clear when He says, “**evening and morning were the first day**” and as we see in the other days of creation.

The problem is not in what God has said, but we just choose to disagree with the obvious because it doesn't fit what we want to believe. That is very foolish, and I believe it is dangerous and Hugh Ross has a huge following as he is indoctrinating people into this false doctrine!

Here's the thing. Every time the word *YOM* is used, and it is attached to a number or phrase like “**evening and morning**” or just one of those words, it is a literal day.

Thus, in Exodus 20:8-11 we are told, **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”**

Also, in Exodus 31:17 we are told, **“It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”**

If it were not six literal days, then why would God say that?

If it were not six literal days, then is God lying?

Of course not, God is truth! Thus, this is not speaking of thousands or millions of years, but six literal days and God rested on the seventh.

And if you think about it, God tells the children of Israel that they are to rest on the Sabbath day or the seventh day. If this was millions of years, that would mean man would work for 6 thousand or million years and rest on the seventh, for thousands or millions of years! I don't think we are in the rest period! Folks, that is just foolish to believe that. And think about it. Why is a day just a day when it is speaking to the children of Israel in Exodus, and it is thousands or millions of years in Genesis? You see, you have to make it fit what you want it to say instead of just reading the text as it is!

Thus, each day is a literal day, 24 hours.

Also, with the creation of mass we have entered time as we know it!

So how old is the earth? Is it billions of years old?

No, it is not. It is less than 10,000 years and probably about 6,000 years old. And let me say this, it can't be billions of years old or even hundreds of thousands of years old. Let me explain.

A while back, Dr. Barnes at the University of East Texas did a study on the earth's electromagnetic field, which surrounds the earth.

He looked back at a Dutch Scientist, over 170 years ago, who first measured this field and since that time scientists have been measuring this electromagnetic field.

What they have found is that there is a decay of this field that has had a steady rate of decay.

What Dr. Barnes did as he examined this data was to go backwards in time and see how strong this field was.

So he started at 25,000 years and what he found was that this field would be so strong that it would have heated up the surface of the earth to some 240 degrees Fahrenheit, which would have evaporated all of the earth's water into the atmosphere. Not a good thing and that was just 25,000 years ago.

Then he went back to 100,000 years ago, not even billions of years, and he found out that the electromagnetic field would have been so strong that the surface of the earth would have been in a molten state.

When he shared this information with other scientists, that the earth couldn't be billions of years old, they came up with an explanation.

They said that every 10,000 years the electromagnetic field dies down and then recharges itself. There is no evidence for that and yet, to believe in evolution, that the earth is billions of years old, that is what they came up with.

Now some like to say, ***“When you look at radiometric dating it proves without a doubt that the earth is billions of years old.”***

It does not! Radiometric dating methods have been proven to be unreliable!

Let me give you a few examples to show you what I mean.

- When they used the potassium-argon dating method to date the basalt (lava rock), it dated to 45 million years old. When they used carbon dating to date the wood, it dated to 45,000-year-old. 45,000-year-old wood in 45-million-year-old basalt – there’s a problem.
- If something is millions of years old, you shouldn't find carbon-14 in it, but actually, we do. We find it in dinosaur bones and coal deposits and so on, said to be millions of years old.
- There are numerous examples of young rocks of known age giving dates of millions of years old.
- A tree that was hit by lightning and petrified immediately dated millions of years old when tested with radiometric dating methods . . . and on and on.

I hope that clears that up for you. The earth is not billions of years old; it is probably some 6,000 years old as I have said. Again, evening and morning was the first day, a literal 24-hour day!

VERSES 7-8

On the second day of creation God is dividing the waters above the firmament from the waters below the firmament.

This water that was above was probably a water vapor or blanket, you couldn't see it, and light just passed through it. That would bring about uniform temperatures throughout the world, there would be no wind, no storms, no rain as a mist came up and watered the earth. Every place would be very tropical, lush in vegetation, this water canopy would filter out any harmful radiation, cosmic rays. It would be very beneficial.

But this water canopy was different than we think. Brain Young explains it like this,

An interesting characteristic of most metals is that they are clear in their pure form. In fact, when man went to the moon the visors on their helmets had a thin layer of pure, transparent, gold (*National Geographic*, 1969).

Water is H₂O, meaning two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. When pure H₂O is compressed in experiments today, under extremely cold conditions the oxygen appears bluish, but the two parts of hydrogen are crystallized.

At first the crystals appear transparent (can see through) and later they become opaque (can't see through).

Since *raqiya* [firmament] means to flatten or compress together and spread out, the water (H₂O) may have reacted in a similar way as seen in the above experiment, creating a firmament with hydrogen crystals (Baugh, Symphony).

Taking this a step further, microscopic examination of this crystalline, metallic hydrogen shows that a vast majority is transparent, allowing light to shine through.

However, also present in smaller amounts are areas of opaque metallic hydrogen that are superconductive (*Popular Science*, 1989).

This is important for two reasons. First, light would shine through only those “veins” in the firmament which were transparent (Mao, p. 1463). But most importantly, the opaque, superconductive material would serve as a means to hold the firmament in place.

- Brian Young

Think about that for a minute. Without great temperature variations, there would be no significant winds, and the water-rain cycle could not form. There would be no rain, as we know it today.

Thus, there would be lush, tropical-like vegetation all over the world, fed not by rain, but by a rich evaporation and condensation cycle, resulting in heavy dew or ground-fog.

Not only that, but the vapor blanket would filter out ultraviolet radiation, cosmic rays, and other destructive energies bombarding the planet. These are known to be the cause of mutations, which decrease human longevity. Human and animal lifespans would be greatly increased.

Do we have evidence for that?

You bet we do!

The fossil record does seem to support this as we find fossil evidence of lush vegetation all over the world. Even in Antarctica we find vegetation deep in the ice, so it must have been warm there at one time!

But this did change after the flood, and we will see that when we get to that section of Genesis.

We find fossilized asparagus ferns 50 feet tall, moss that grew over two to three feet and today it is only a few inches, horsetail reeds reached heights of 50 feet and yet today, only 5 or 6 feet! That is what the waters above the firmament caused!

Now the waters that were below the firmament or expanse were nothing more than a shoreless ocean. You see, there were no landmasses at this time. Thus, we have evening and the morning, the second day of creation!

VERSES 9-13

We now come to the third day of creation, and we see God divide the land from the sea and create all types of vegetation.

Now, was this once a large land mass?

I believe so and science does seem to support this. Back in 1912 a scientist; a German geologist by the name of Alfred Wegener was the first to put forth the idea of a continental drift or the separating of one land mass. And this land mass is called – *PANGEA!*

It is possible that this occurred after the flood, after the tower of Babel in Genesis chapter 10 we are told, **“To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided . . .”** Genesis 10:25.

Not everyone agrees with that, that the earth was divided in the days of Peleg, but we do know that after the flood, after God divided the people, I believe the earth was also divided and today we see evidence of a continental drift of this once large landmass that was separated!

Also, on this third day God created all plant life, all vegetation. Now if a day represented thousands or millions of years and the sun was not created till the fourth day, how could the plants survive? They couldn't!

And I love what God tells us here, it is so important. Inside each one of these plants is the ability to reproduce after their own kind! Thus, an apple tree will not propagate an orange tree, or a kernel of corn will not produce a redwood tree!

Yes, the Bible is not a science book, but as you will see, when it speaks about science, it is 100% correct!

Henry Morris said this regarding seeds. They are ***“Programmed to enable the continuing replication of that type of organism. Each type of organism has its own unique structure of DNA and can only reproduce of its own kind – there is a great deal of horizontal variation but no vertical changes.”***

That is to say that there is a variety of different kinds of apples, but apple seeds produce apple trees, nothing else! There are no vertical changes that take place or that something changes into something completely different! There are a variety of apples, but they are still apples that come from apple trees!

And folks, not only are Christians aware of this, that there are no transitional forms of plant life or the evolution of plants, but so are some evolutionists.

A professor of tropical botany wrote, ***“The theory of evolution is not merely the theory of the origin of the species, but the only explanation of the fact that organisms can be classified into this hierarchy of natural affinity. Much evidence can be adduced in favor of the theory of evolution – from biology, biogeography and paleontology, but I still think that, to the unprejudiced, the fossil record of plants is in favor of special creation. . . . Can you imagine how an orchid, a duckweed, a palm have come from the same ancestry, and have we any evidence for this assumption? The evolutionist must be prepared with an answer, but I think that most would break down before an inquisition.”***

Because they do not want to believe in special creation, that there is a God, they choose to believe a fairy tale that has no support, there is no evidence.

Nature is crying out that there is a creator, there is a designer, there is a God who on the third day of creation created the dry land and the billions of plants that cover our earth, and it was very good!

VERSES 14-19

Here we are at day four of creation.

Now the light spoken of in Genesis 1:3 is the Hebrew word **OR**, which is more of an intrinsic light and not dependent upon external circumstances. This matrix, which God brought together, shined brightly.

Now God speaks of lights, Genesis 1:14, and the Hebrew word is **MA-OR** or light holders or generators of light. Thus, God created the sun, the moon and the stars on this fourth day of creation.

The sun is some 814,000 miles in diameter and contains 335 quadrillion cubic miles of violently hot gases that weigh more than 2 octillion tons. The core temperature of the sun is 27 million degrees Fahrenheit.

The earth is some 93 million miles from the sun or 92,900,000 miles away and the sun's surface temperature is 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Thus, we are at just the right distance from the sun, with just the right amount of heat that we don't burn up, we don't freeze up, but it can support life.

Let me put that into perspective on how precise that really is. And, as you will see, it could not be a random chance occurrence.

The moon is only 239,000 miles away from us and has a variable temperature each lunar day (15 earth days) from 214 degrees above zero to 243 degrees below zero! Talk about not knowing how to dress! And folks, we think the earth is here just by random chance!

And let me share this with you, it blew my mind. We don't know exactly how big our universe is, there are many ideas, and they keep changing, the universe seems to be getting bigger and we have better ways of measuring it now, so it does get updated many times.

It has been estimated that the diameter of the universe is some 46 billion light years, and some believe that it is 7 trillion light years across!

Keep in mind that a light year is the distance light will travel in one year and light travels at about 186,000 miles per second! (More accurately, it is 186,282 miles per second)

And, as we have read, God not only created the sun and the moon, but also the stars. To put that into perspective, a typical galaxy contains billions of individual stars. The closest galaxy to us is the Andromeda galaxy, which is some 12 million trillion miles away or 2 million light years away. Light travels at about 186,000 miles per second so that is the distance of this closest galaxy!

How many galaxies are out there? Well, let me put it to you like this. If you were to look at every patch of sky about the size of the moon, you would see about a million galaxies, with each one containing billions of stars!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

There are about 100 billion stars in the average galaxy, and there are at least one hundred million galaxies in known space. Einstein believed that we have scanned with our largest telescopes only one billionth of theoretical space. This means that there are probably something like 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars in space (ten octillion).

How many is that? 1,000 thousands = a million; 1,000 millions = a billion; 1,000 billions = a trillion; 1,000 trillions = a quadrillion; 1,000 quadrillions = quintillion; 1,000 quintillions = a sextillion; 1,000 sextillions = a septillion; 1,000 septillions = an octillion. So ten octillion is a 10 with twenty-seven zeros behind it. And Jesus created them all! [In fact, He knows them all by name, the stars He created!] Not only is he the Creator of the macrocosm of the universe, but also the microcosm in the inner universe of the atom.

- R. Kent Hughes, John – That You May Believe, p. 17

You see, not random chance happening here! It is as Isaiah 48:13 says, “**Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, They stand up together.**” This is a creative work of God and not random chance occurrences! And this was done for us to measure time, to get directions, as God has said. And God has named each and every star! He is God!

Meam Loez, a Jew, makes this interesting observation on this portion of Scripture. He wrote: “*The sun was created after the earth to dispel any notion that the creation of the earth was a natural result of the sun’s heat vaporizing the waters. Similarly, lest anyone contend that plant-life is a natural outgrowth of the earth (aided by the sun), God created the earth and all its properties on the third day, and only afterwards, on the fourth day, did He create the sun, to demonstrate unequivocally that everything materialized from God’s direct will.*”

I can’t agree more!

As you can see, we are not going to finish this chapter tonight and I am sorry for that. But this is so foundational to our faith that I want you to clearly see that what God has said, “**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth**” we do not need to be ashamed of because science supports it. In other words, science is just finding out how accurate the Bible is when it speaks of scientific things!

Remember, God, out of nothing created everything. Not like evolutionists claim that everything came out of nothing.

We have a Designer, and we have a Creator we have a God and when you look at life you can see the beauty that God has created. From plants, to animals, to birds, to fish to us, look at the variety and look at the beauty.

We will finish this chapter up next time! If you take anything away from our study tonight, please take this and believe it - “**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**”