



Genesis – The Creation Week (Part #1) Genesis 1:1-2:3

The Repetition in Genesis 1:1-2:3:

- 1) The phrase “**God said**” occurs **ten times**.
- 2) The phrase “**according to its kind**” is mentioned **ten times** in the record. This is important and answers why we never find in the rock layers or in the living organisms any proof of one thing becoming another kind of thing, or two different things mating and creating a new kind of thing!
- 3) It was “**good**” is stated **6 times** culminating in “**it was very good**” (**time 7**) in verse 31 speaking of all that God had done.
- 4) Six times we read “**evening and morning**” were the Xth day for each of the six days of creation with the declaration in 2:2 that God **finished his work on the 7th day**.
- 5) In the first three verses of chapter 2, **five times** it is emphasized that God has “**finished**” or was “**done**” with His work of creation.
- 6) In the first three verses of chapter 2, **three times** it is emphasized that this included “**all**” His work.

1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Vs 1 - Here we have what many see as the **grand declaration of Scriptures**, the **overarching proclamation of the Scriptures**. I believe we are already being told what God created on day one.

Vs 1 – “**In the beginning...**” This is the **beginning of time**, this is the beginning of **matter, energy, time**, and possibly even the beginning of **space**. This is the **beginning our story and our history**.

This is **not God’s beginning**; **God does not have a beginning**. He is the one who **has always been and will always be**. Before there was **ever a beginning** for this **massive cosmos** or **for man**, there was God.

As we continue to **consider this verse**, it was **in the beginning** that, “**God**” ...

The word translated **God** is the Hebrew word אֱלֹהִים (‘elohiym). **Elohim is the name of God that stresses his majesty and omnipotence**. It is used throughout the first chapter of Genesis 1 (we will talk more about that in a second). **The *im* ending in the Hebrew is a plural ending. Thus this word can be translated as gods**. But here in the very first verse of the Bible, and it will be used an additional **35 times** in Gen 1:1 – 2:3. The **plural for God**, but it is used with a **singular verb**.

Thus it is here, in the **very first verse of the Bible** we find an **enigma** wrapped in a **mystery** that will not be fully explained (revealed) for **thousands of years**. **Namely the single God, has a triune nature. This is a “mystery” that will not be fully revealed until the New Testament.**

But here in the text we see a God who is one, yet more than one. Henry Morris in his commentary called it a “uni-plurality.”

Did you know Moses wrote a Psalm? As far as we can tell he only wrote one:

“1 « A Prayer of Moses, the man of God. » Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” (Ps 90:1-2 ESV)

Moses in this prayer is recognizing that God has always existed, but there was a time when he supernaturally created. The two names for God mentioned here are אֲדֹנָי ('Adonay) and אֱלֹהִים ('el).

Now I am not sure how the Israelite handled that Adonay is the one who did all this. Especially when you consider:

“« A Psalm of David. » The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”” (Ps 110:1 ESV)

But there is another issue that Moses touched upon that we need to pull the thread. **God’s eternity!**

We are often asked the supposed stumper: **Who created God?** We do not believe in a created God:

“2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 3 You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" 4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.” (Ps 90:2-4 ESV)

“4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.” (Joh 17:4-5 ESV)

“11 My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass. 12 ¶ But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; you are remembered throughout all generations.” (Ps 102:11-12 ESV)

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.” (Isa 40:28 ESV)

“"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”” (Re 1:8 ESV)

Vs 1 – The word translated **created** is the Hebrew word בָּרָא (bara’). It means to **shape** or **form**, it has the idea of God calling something into existence from nothing. He spoke and matter and energy were created.

Theology Break: As we think about God creating, as we think about God speaking into existence, we must bring in the New Testament to provide greater clarity, that we might miss without it:

“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.” (Joh 1:1-3 ESV)

“13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Col 1:13-17 ESV)

We will see this later here in Genesis chapter 1, but I want you to see it now, this happens during day 6:

“Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”” (Ge 1:26 ESV)

Thus, the declaration of Scriptures, in the beginning **God the Son** created the heavens and the earth!

Vs 1: The word translated **heavens** is שָׁמַיִם (shamayim). You will notice the “im” ending. It is another plural noun in Hebrew. It can mean heaven or heavens. It is a noun where the single and plural are spelled the same. It is used 420 times in the Bible and the context determines if you translate it plural or single.

If you see verse 1 as a summary statement (ESV translation) you will translate it plural. If you see it as a statement about what God is doing on day one (KJV translation) you will translate it singular:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Ge 1:1 ESV)

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Ge 1:1 KJV)

So does Moses mean the heaven around the planet as we will see in verse 8 or does he mean the heaven around the planet and the heaven which contains all of the stars and galaxies? **We cannot be sure.**

I would lean towards singular; I do not believe this is a summary statement, but the beginning of a description of what God created on day one.

The summary statement is in chapter 2:1:

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.” (Ge 2:1 ESV)

Equally, God is going to work on and further develop the heaven around our planet (our atmosphere) on day 2 and God is going to work on outer space on day 4.

In the Scripture we are presented with three different heavens:

- 1) The sky, our atmosphere (Gen 2:19, Gen 6:7, Gen 7:11, Ex 16:4)
- 2) Space (Gen 26:4, Ex 32:13, Deu 1:10)
- 3) God’s Throne (Gen 21:17, 22:15, 28:12)

Vs 2 - The earth was תְּהוֹ (tohuw) and בְּהוֹ (bohuw). The earth was **unformed** and **unfilled**. It was **incomplete** and **had no life**. It was **unfinished** and **unfurnished**.

Now there are some who make much of this phrase to imply it means a judgement fell upon an early earth and this is like a restart.

This is complete speculation. You do not get this idea from Genesis or the Bible for that matter.

What I believe Moses is explaining, is that when God the Son created the earth (out of nothing) it was תְּהוֹ (tohuw) and בְּהוֹ (bohuw). The earth was **unformed** and **unfilled**. The earth was unframed and empty.

Then Moses goes on to explain that is exactly what he means. So, the earth was **without form** and it was **totally uninhabited** and **darkness was over the face of the deep** (the seas).

The deep... Same word used, when at the flood the fountains of the great deep were broken up (Gen 7:11, 8:2). It is the deep that covered Pharaoh’s army (Ex 15:5, 15:8). The Psalmist says that God cleft the rock in the wilderness and gave them water to drink out of the deep (Ps 78:15). The sea creatures’ dwell in the deep (Ps 148:7). God dried up the “deep” when He dried up the Red Sea (Ps 106:9; Is 51:10).

Water was upon the face of the planet! The earth was a water covered sphere (that was **unformed and unfilled**), a water covered planet spinning in the **darkness of space**. **Imagine a sphere covered in water in the dark!**

AND... the spirit of God, the third person of the Godhead was **hovering**, (brooding) (fluttering) (vibrating) was **moving** over the face of the waters!

The Holy Spirit, brooding (vibrating) over His as yet unfinished and unfilled planet. **God's Spirit is brooding over this unshapen reality in eager anticipation for what the earth will become!**

Here we are told a piece of information we suspected, but the Word of God bears out.

Namely, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were there when God created all that we know out of nothing.

Now why is the Bible telling us this, what is this point? I cannot be sure, but I cannot help but wonder if we are being told that the Spirit of God, fluttering over this formless and unfished earth **activated** or **energized** it.

If so, the same Spirit that energized Jesus and raised him from the dead is the Spirit that originally energized our creation!

Vs 3-5 - It is here, as the Spirit of God, is hovering, fluttering, vibrating, over the face of the waters, that **God speaks "let there be light"** and there in the **darkness, instantly**, there is this amazing **creation of light**.

It does not appear that God has created the light givers (stars) yet, but he has created light! **He will not create the main light giver, our sun, until day four.**

A spinning unformed, water-covered planet and then there is light! **Now for some of us, this may be shocking to our senses.** I would remind you what John says about the new heaven and the new earth:

"22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day — and there will be no night there." (Re 21:22-25 ESV)

This is surprising, but quite possibly harkens back to day one, **light prior to the light givers.**

The glory of God is the initial light that is lighting the planet. I would remind you of John 1:

"1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (Joh 1:1-5 ESV)

Vs 4 - This is hard to fully understand, but it seems that light was created in the **midst of darkness** and God saw that light and he declared that it was **"good."**

You will see this repeated again in vs 10 (when dry land was formed), vs 12 (end of day 3), vs 18 (end of day 4), vs 21 (end of day 5), vs 25 (after land animals created on day 6), vs 31 end of day six and it was all **"very" or exceedingly good.**

Some believe the **sun was created here**, but it was shrouded and would not become visible until the fourth day. That is possible, but I believe that God created light, before the sun.

God separated light from darkness. **God called the light (day) and the darkness he called night.**

There was evening and there was morning, the first day.

I believe God is telling us that He created in six literal 24 hour days. **This is day one.**

There are of course different views about the days and some do not believe that these are literal 24 hour days (but long periods of time) and in once case a long period of time between verse 1 and 2.

Now, day or night or the passage of a day, is only relevant if you are here on earth. A day is a measurement of time, only relevant to us. If we were on some other planet, however we might measure a day, it would likely be different that our day on earth. I believe these are literal days:

The Hebrew word is: **יוֹם** (yowm). The normal usage is a literal day, but like our day it can mean other things. The context is critical!

It seems to me the way it is constructed here in Genesis with evening and morning, day and night, as well as the usage of a cardinal number, demands we understand this as literal days. But there are good, godly, faithful people who do not agree with me.

As you consider this, let's go back to the 10 commandments, that were given to Israel:

“8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Ex 20:8-11 ESV)

In Exodus 31, the event is retold and here is what Moses writes:

“15 Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. 16 Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. 17 It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed. 18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.” (Ex 31:15-18 ESV)

It is Funny, I cannot think of a single other example where (day) yowm is used with a number and we argue about the length of time!

How long did Joshua march around Jericho?
How long was Jonah in the belly of a big fish?
During the flood how long did it rain?
At what age were they to circumcise a Jewish boy?

Where do we get the ideas of a day, month, year, and a week?

So, on day one, God created the planet (matter and energy), He created time (planet is rotating), He likely energized his creation, and He created light. It is possible that here He also created space.

6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. 8 And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

Vs 6 - God speaks again, and he commands: So this expanse is to be **"in the midst of the waters."** This expanse is created in the midst of, or in the **middle of waters**.

Vs 7 – **So God created the expanse, this expanse that separated water from water.** Now if we are reading and understanding this correctly, the globe is covered by water, there is now this newly created expanse, and above the expanse is **water**.

Let's talk about our atmosphere as it exists today:

- 1) The **troposphere** is 5-9 miles thick depending on where you measure it. It is thinnest at the poles.
- 2) Above the troposphere is the **stratosphere**. There are no winds to mix this layer so cold heavy air is at the bottom and warmer air is at the top. It is about **22 miles thick** and contains the **ozone layer**.
- 3) Above the stratosphere we have the **mesosphere**. This is the highest level where gases are still mixed up. If you have ever seen a shooting star, that was debris burning up as it entered the mesosphere.
- 4) Above the mesosphere, is the **thermosphere**. The temperature in the thermosphere can reach **4500 degrees Fahrenheit!** There are not enough molecules in this level for sound to travel. This layer is **319 miles thick**.
- 5) Above the thermosphere is the **exosphere**. The exosphere is the outer layer of our atmosphere. This layer separates the other layers from outer space and is roughly **6,200 miles thick**.

That is what it looks like today. But what did it look like at creation? **Was there an ice or water vapor canopy?**

It is possible that water was suspended in our atmosphere, likely as a crystalline (thin) ice or a water vapor canopy. **But we cannot be sure! Please keep this in mind as we move forward.**

The actual process of separation was possibly implemented by converting a portion of the liquid water into a vapor state, though the use of heat. We simply do not know "how" God did this, only that he did.

This is an example where God tells us what He did, but the process we cannot even imagine!

It has been theorized that a thin ice or water vapor canopy would:

- 1) Act like a global greenhouse.
- 2) Air temperatures would be close to uniform around the globe.
- 3) With little global air circulation, the hydraulic cycle of our present world would not be activated.
- 4) With little global air circulation, the water vapor, even if it were lower in our atmosphere would be stable.
- 5) Ultraviolet radiation and cosmic rays would be more filtered than our current world.
- 6) A heavy water vapor canopy would increase atmospheric pressure.
- 7) O₂ Levels would likely be higher.

Vs 8 – Once again the Hebrew word is שָׁמַיִם (shamayim) plural. Here you can see the translators are thinking the heaven around our planet and translate it singular.

Here in context, it would seem that Moses is talking about the immediate expanse around our planet, our skies, what we would call our atmosphere. **At this point, the only question we have is; in the original creation were there 6 layers?**

Vs 8 - Then we read the same formula: *And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.*

On day two God created the expanse He called heaven, He did this in some method where, according to the text He separated water from water. Leaving what appears to be water (in some form) above our planet. In doing this he created the earth's primeval hydrosphere and our original atmosphere.

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

As we read verse 9 and 10, although we now have an atmosphere, and possibly a water vapor or ice canopy, the **"waters under the firmament" still formed a shoreless ocean that covered the entire face of the planet. Then, God speaks again...**

Now let's consider this very carefully, for this is not what we would have expected. **The earth has been spinning in space for two days.** God speaks again...

Once again, we cannot even **attempt to imagine the processes** that came into play to gather the water together that was covering the face of the ground into one place.

No doubt there were small reservoirs on top of the land, but it would seem the greatest reservoirs were **below ground**, in some type of **interconnected ocean under the crust of the planet.**

So, God called the waters together into one place and... dry ground appeared! **A few verses to consider:**

"1 « A Psalm of David. » The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers." (Ps 24:1-2 ESV)

"4 to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever; 5 to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever; 6 to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever; 7 to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;" (Ps 136:4-7 ESV)

"3 Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding." (Job 38:3-4 ESV)

"The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him:" (Zec 12:1 ESV)

For the moment I am going to ask you to tuck this away, until we get to the flood.

Vs 10 - Then God called the dry land **earth** and the **waters**, that He were gathered together at his command, he called **seas**.

The pre-flood oceans were probably much different than the oceans we see today. The catastrophe of the global flood would have changed everything!

And God saw that it was good. Continuing on day three...

11 And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Vs 11 – God speaks again or continues to speak or command. Let the earth, let the ground, **sprout** vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees, bearing fruit...

The Hebrew word is only used twice, but the idea seems to be that grasses, plants, and trees, sprouted and grew to various sizes across the globe. Again, we cannot even imagine the **mechanism** that God executed to make this happen, only that he did.

Discuss - This seems to imply that in a **fast forward movie** sort of way (maybe), God called, and the earth **busted forth with vegetation, trees sprouted and grew** as if they had been there for years in a **very short period of time**, fruit bearing trees burst forth and within seconds they are **covered in fruit**.

Can you imagine what this looked like. Notice, God said it and it was so! **This is the third time Moses wrote this!**

***** NOTE – When God creates Adam he is created as a full-grown man. He is able to talk, walk, and is very intelligent. Although one second old he appears 30 years old (as an example).**

Notice carefully the language the plants that grew out of the ground grew implanted with in each of these was a **“seed”** programmed to enable the continuing replication of this type of organism.

Each type of organism had and has its own unique structure of DNA and can only reproduce **“after its kind.”**

Get use to this, for this explains an important principle about all the life that God has created. It is after its kind...

Vs 12 - This is happening all over the ground, vegetation is sprouting from seed to plant, each according to their kind, including fruit trees that sprouted from the ground, grew up, and now are bearing fruit. **We have the third declaration that God saw that it was good!**

Vs 13 – Once again the model, “evening and morning” and the cardinal number and Hebrew “yowm.”

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16 And God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. 17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.
