

God's Perfect Order in Creation

Genesis 1

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Title: God's Perfect Order in Creation [Genesis 1]

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

"Our science of evolution won its greatest triumph when, at the beginning of the twentieth century, its powerful opponents, the churches, became reconciled to it, and endeavored to bring their dogmas into line with it."

atheist Ernst Haeckel

"Last Word on Evolution," 1906

... this grace was given, to proclaim to the Gentiles the good news of the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for all what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden **in God who created all things;** (Eph 3:8-9)

Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge? 3 Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you make Me know! 4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you know understanding, 5 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? 6 On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,... (Job 38:2-6)

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created – when the LORD God made earth and heaven. (Gen 2:4) (NET)

2:4	generations of the heavens and the earth	[2:4-4:26]
5:1	generations of Adam	[5:1-6:8]
6:9	generations of Noah	[6:9-9:29]
10:1	generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth	[10:1-11:9]
11:10	generations of Shem	[11:10-26]
11:27	generations of Terah	[11:27-25:11]

25:12	generations of Ishmael	[25:12-18]
25:19	generations of Isaac	[25:19-35:29]
36:1 / 36:9	generations of Esau	[36:1-8; 36:9-37:1]
37:2	generations of Jacob.	[37:2-50:26]

I. The Work of Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen 1:1)

a. A Supernatural Work

By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made,
 And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
 7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
 He lays up the deeps in storehouses.
 8 Let all the earth fear Yahweh; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
 9 For He spoke, and it was; He commanded, and it stood.
 (Psalm 33:6-9)

"In the beginning God created...

Then, over & over again... And God said ... and God saw... and God separated... God called. So God created...

V3-5 And God said ... and God saw... and God separated... God called.

V6-8 And God said... And God made... And God called

V9-13 And God said..., God called... And God saw... And God said... And God saw

V14-19 And God said... and God made... And God set... And God saw...

V20-23 And God said... So God created... And God saw... And God blessed them

V24-31 And God said... And God made... And God saw... Then God said... So God created... And God blessed... And God said... And God said... And God saw...

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness. (Gen 1:26a)

b. A Trinitarian Work

...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him. (1 Cor 8:6)

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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**
(John 1:1-2)

And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God was hovering** over the surface of the waters. (Gen 1:2)

c. A Good Work

In v4, God saw that the light **was good.**"

In v10, God saw that the gathering of waters to reveal dry land **was good.**

In v18, God saw that [the making of the sun and the moon] **was good.**

In v25, God saw that bringing forth living creatures **was good.**

Yahweh **by wisdom** founded the earth, By discernment He established the heavens. (Proverbs 3:19)

When He established the heavens, I [wisdom] was there, When He marked out a circle on the face of the deep, **28**
When He made firm the skies above, When the springs of the deep became strong, **29** When He set for the sea its
boundary So that the water would not pass over His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth; **30**
Then I was beside Him, as a master workman;...

(Proverbs 8:27-30a)

For since, in the wisdom of God, **the world through its wisdom did not come to know God**, God was well-pleased,
through the foolishness of the message preached, to save those who believe. (1 Cor 1:21)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of **men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**,¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.²⁰ **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made,** so that they are without excuse.

(Rom 1:18-20)

d. A Purposed Work

For thus says Yahweh, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it; He established it and did not create it a formless place, but **formed it to be inhabited**), "I am Yahweh, and there is none else."
(Isaiah 45:18)

Note that in Genesis 1, the heavens and earth were spoken into existence, created out of nothing, without form and void. That is to say, . . . empty and yet to be crafted. In the context of Isa 45:18, we could paraphrase, "the heavens and earth were spoken into existence, at first, unformed, yet to be filled, and uninhabited."

*But then, over the course of six days, differentiation took place; He **filled** it and **formed** it . . . in time we could say, "He **ordered it**" → . . . **formed light** and the light separated from the darkness (v4)*

... **formed** the expanse separating the waters below from the waters above (v7)

... **formed** the land by gathering of waters (v9)

... **filled** ... the land with vegetation, plants yielding seed, fruit trees bearing fruit (v11)

... **filled**. . . the heavens with two great lights, sun & moon, (and the stars), separating day and night (vv14-16)

... **filled**. . . the Earth with conscious and unconscious life (vv20-21); water creatures, air creatures, land creatures

... created life and procreated life (vv22-25)

e. A Sustained Work

For in Him [Christ] **all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, And in Him **all things hold together**. (Col 1:16-17)

[God] in these last days spoke to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds,³ who is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and **upholds all things by the word of His power**; who, having accomplished cleansing for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, . . . (Heb 1:2-3)

φέρων (*pherōn*), translated “upholds” or “sustains” implies *carrying something forward toward an intended goal*. It is an active, continuous movement, not a static holding.

II. The Crown of Creation

a. Bearing the image of God

Then God said, “**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”²⁷ And **God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them**. (Genesis 1:26-27)

With [the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse **men, who have been made in the likeness of God**. (James 3:9)

Then Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and so the man became a living being. (Gen 2:7)

We know that we have an understanding in us; a substance we cannot see, but we know it by its operations; as thinking, reasoning, willing, rememberings, and as operating about things that are invisible and remote from sense. . . . Stephen Charnock, The Existence of God

b. Charged with Dominion

And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, **“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that creeps on the earth.” (Gen 1:27-28)

Then Yahweh God took the man and set him in the garden of Eden **to cultivate it and keep it.** (Gen 2:15)

What is man that You remember him, And the son of man that You care for him? 5 Yet You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You crown him with glory and majesty! 6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, . . . (Psalm 8:4-6)

III. From Creation to Re-creation

For your husband is **your Maker**, Whose name is Yahweh of hosts; And **your Redeemer** is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. (Is 54:5)

Thus says the God, Yahweh, **Who created** the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, **Who gives breath** to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it, 6 “I am Yahweh, I have called You in righteousness; I will also take hold of You by the hand and guard You, And **I will give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon** And those who inhabit darkness from the prison. (Is 42:5-7)

Thus says Yahweh, **your Redeemer**, and the one who formed you from the womb,
“I, Yahweh, am **the maker of all things**,
Stretching out the heavens by Myself
And spreading out the earth all alone, . . .

(Isa 44:24)

[His Son . . . who] upholds all things by the word of His power; who **having accomplished cleansing for sins**, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Heb 1:3)

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, And the heavens are the work of Your hands; 11 They will perish, but You remain; . . .” (Heb 1:10-11a)

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; (2 Cor 5:17)

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Eph 2:8-10)

The living Word of God (John 1:1,14) in Whom was life (John 1:4) is the “light of the world” (John 8:12), and “in Him is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5)

For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Cor 4:6)

“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” (Rev 4:11)