

Genesis 1:6-2:3

1:6-8 — Day 2: Firmament / Atmosphere

raqia (רָקִיעַ) = expanse; atmosphere

-God separates the waters (of atoms) above the earth from those with which He would form the earth.

-Not a hard shell (contra flat earth claims) -Firm in the sense that space does not leak in and atmosphere does not leak out.

1 Verse to Respond to Flat Earthers:

-Luke 17:34-36 — I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. Two women grinding together... two men in the field...

-Night, Morning, & Day; all simultaneous

Heavens — 3 uses in Hebrew:

-1) atmosphere (birds fly in the heavens)

-2) outer space (rockets into the heavens)

-3) God's dwelling (the heavens above the heavens)

-2 Corinthians 12:2 — Paul references "the third heaven"

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1:9-10 — Day 3: Dry Land and Seas

"Let the waters... be gathered together... let the dry land appear"

-Land masses formed from existing atoms -Seas gathered

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1:11-13 — Day 3: Plant Life

"according to its kind" — repeated refrain -Reproduction within kinds

-Variation within kinds, but kinds only produce their own kind

God's taxonomy of plant life (3 categories):

-deshe (דְּשֵׁא) = grass / ground-cover plants

-esev (עֵשֶׂב) = herbs / shrubs / bushes

-ets (עֵץ) = trees

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1:14-19 — Day 4: Sun, Moon, Stars

"lights" = me'orot (מְאֹרוֹת) light-bearers / luminaries

-Not light itself, but things that carry/show light

“the greater light” / “the lesser light”

- Hebrew term relates to size, not just brightness
- Ancient cultures often believed the moon was larger than the sun
- Moses recorded the sun as greater — scientifically accurate before it was known

Earth’s moon — uniquely proportioned -Largest moon-to-planet ratio of any known planet

- Enables solar eclipses (moon can exactly block the sun)
- Enables lunar phases useful for signs, seasons, days, years
- Earth uniquely placed in galaxy for observing the cosmos
- Moon gods prominent in ancient cultures (Islam’s crescent moon traces to pre-Allah moon worship)

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“He made the stars also.”

Plants created before sun (day 3 before day 4)

- Not a problem if days are literal 24-hour periods
- God works outward from the center of His creation (earth → universe)

Starlight and age of universe objection:

- God creates the star with the light already in motion
- Not difficult for a God who speaks the universe into existence

“So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”

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1:20-23 — Day 5: Sea Creatures and Birds

- bara (אֵרָא) returns — first use since v1
- Living creatures = a new category of creation (not merely reshaping matter)
- Plants = not living in the biblical sense (no breath of life)
- Animals have spirit/personality (good dogs and bad dogs) but no eternal soul

Do all dogs go to heaven?

- By what standard would animals go to heaven?

About 20 quadrillion ants are alive on Earth right now.

- 20,000,000,000,000,000 ants
- If you calculate how many ants will live over 7,000 years, and if all went to heaven, there will be approximately 28 billions ants per every person in heaven.

-Do you want to know the math for spiders?

- 21 billion spiders per person.

-And since it is the eternal state, they'll be invincible!!!

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“great sea creatures” = tanin (תַּנִּין)

-Used 28× in the OT

-21 of those = translated “dragon” (KJV)

-Only here rendered “whale” or “sea creature” -Describes dragon-like / dinosaur-like creatures

“according to its kind”

“So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.”

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1:24-25 — Day 6: Land Animals

Land animals — God’s taxonomy (3 categories):

-behemah (בְּהֵמָה) = cattle / domesticated animals

-remes (רֶמֶשׂ) = creeping things / small creatures

-chayyah (חַיָּה) = beasts of the earth / wild animals

“according to its kind” — again

-Variation within kinds (many kinds of dogs, but dog is a kind)

-Modern taxonomy ≠ biblical taxonomy

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ANIMALS AGAINST EVOLUTION

*Giraffe1

*Giraffe2- Maintains blood flow to a brain nearly 2 meters above the heart using extremely high blood pressure and specialized valve systems preventing brain hemorrhage when lowering its head.

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*Pacific Golden Plover- Flies 2500-3000 miles from Hawaii to Alaska, no navigation system. Loses over half its bodyweight. Lays eggs, & leaves!

*Bar-tailed Godwit- It does it from New Zealand! 7-8k miles!

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**Bombardier Beetle (video)

**Bombardier beetle- hydrogen peroxide & hydroquinone

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1:26-28 “Let Us make man in Our image”

-Plural → Trinitarian language

Trinity visible together elsewhere:

-Jesus’ baptism — Father speaks, Spirit descends as dove, Son present (Matt 3:16-17)

-Isaiah 48:16 — [the Messiah speaking] “I was there from the beginning... the Father and His Spirit have sent Me”

Man made in God’s Trinitarian image:

-Body (like Jesus came in flesh)

-Spirit (brought to life at new birth)

-Soul (the eternal part)

1 Thessalonians 5:23 — Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:5 — You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Hebrews 4:12 — For the word of God is living and powerful... piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Matthew 26:41 — Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 10:28 — And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

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“male and female He created them”

“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.”

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1:29-30

“I have given you every herb... for food”

-All food = plants (for both man and animals) -Vegetarian creation

-No death before sin

-Eating plants ≠ killing (plants not “living” in biblical sense — no breath of life)

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.

Theistic evolution conflicts here: evolution requires death before the fall

Note: God says for food, not to smoke...

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1:31 “indeed it was very good”

-Days 1-5 = “good”

-Day 6 after man = “very good”

-Man is the focus and pinnacle of all creation

Days 1–3 = God forms realms

-Days 4–6 = God fills those realms

-Day 1 — Light / darkness

-Day 4 — Sun, moon, stars fill the light system

-Day 2 — Sky / waters separated

-Day 5 — Birds and sea creatures fill sky and seas

-Day 3 — Land and vegetation

-Day 6 — Land animals and humans fill the land

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CHAPTER 2:1-3 (Continued...)

“the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.”

“on the seventh day God ended His work”

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shabat (שַׁבָּת) = to cease, desist, rest from an action

-God did not rest from exhaustion — He ceased creating

Psalms 121:4 — Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

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“God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it”

-”Sabbath predates the Mosaic Law”

-Sabbath commands appear in Exodus before Sinai

-Jews practiced Sabbath laws before the Law was given

But sacrifice also predates the Law → and sacrifice has been fulfilled in Christ

-Capital punishment also predates the Law (given to Noah)

-Things that predate the Law are not automatically binding in the Church age

-Jesus is our Sabbath rest

-Ezekiel speaks of future ceremonial Sabbaths and memorial sacrifices after this age

Hebrews 4:9-10 — There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

Hebrews 4:11 — Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.