

Genesis 1:1-5 In the Beginning

The Book of Beginnings

Everything starts here. If we lose Genesis, we lose the foundation of the entire Bible.

GENESIS

- Greek title (from the Septuagint) = "origin" or "beginning"
- Hebrew title = Bereshit (בְּרֵאשִׁית) = "In the beginning"
- The first word of the first verse of the first book

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

Genesis gives us the origin of:

- The universe
- Life
- Mankind
- Marriage
- Sin
- Death
- Sacrifice
- Languages
- Nations
- The seed promise
- Covenant
- Israel's family line

If you want to know WHY the world is the way it is, start here.

WHY GENESIS MATTERS

Without Genesis, you lose the foundation for:

- Creation
- The fall
- The curse
- Marriage
- Death
- Redemption
- Israel
- The need for Christ

TWO MAJOR DIVISIONS

- Chapters 1-11: The World (Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel, Humanity)
- Chapters 12-50: One Family (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)

-God narrows from all nations to one man through whom He will bless all nations

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THE SEED LINE

Genesis is tracking a promise.

Genesis 3:15 — And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel

From that point forward, Genesis answers one question: Which son carries the promise?

-Seth, not Cain

-Shem, not Ham

-Abraham, not Nahor

-Isaac, not Ishmael

-Jacob, not Esau

-Judah, not the other eleven

-Every generation narrows the line until it points straight to Jesus.

THE REST OF THE BIBLE TAKES GENESIS LITERALLY

-Jesus took Genesis literally

-Paul took Genesis literally

-The prophets took Genesis literally

-Revelation resolves what Genesis begins

Henry Morris – Biblical Creationism

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CREATION vs. EVOLUTION

-This is NOT science vs faith

-This argument lays the groundwork for Biblical interpretation

*Pick One

“Most doctrinal disagreements among Christians involve people arguing from Scripture, but disagreements about Genesis often come from people bringing ideas to Scripture from outside it.” -Ken Ham

*Insulting Monkeys

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.

1 Corinthians 15:22 — For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Evolution takes faith!!!

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Evolution & Racism

“At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilised races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace the savage races throughout the world... the Caucasian... instead of as now between the negro or Australian and the gorilla.” - Charles Darwin, (The Descent of Man, ch. 6)

“The Western nations of Europe... now so immeasurably surpass their former savage progenitors and stand at the summit of civilisation.”- Charles Darwin, (Descent of Man, ch. 21)

Herbert Spencer coined the phrase, “survival of the fittest”

-He said, “The whole effort of nature is to get rid of such, and to make room for better.”

-That wasn't about races, it was about the poor and lower social classes.

-He also said “The lowest races of men are little removed from the anthropoid apes.”

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Charles Lyell was the most influential geologist of the early 1800s and the author of the famous book “Principles of Geology.”

-His big idea was that the earth was shaped by slow natural processes over extremely long periods of time, rather than by catastrophic events like the biblical Flood.

The Geological Evidences of the Antiquity of Man:

“The numerous cases in which the races of men in a less advanced state of civilization have been displaced by others more advanced are well known. The Red Indian of North America and the aborigines of Australia are examples of tribes which have given way before the progress of European colonists.”

Francis Galton (Charles Darwin's cousin)

-He coined the term “eugenics.”

-Galton believed that if animals could be improved through selective breeding, human populations could also be improved the same way.

-“Eugenics is the science which deals with all influences that improve the inborn qualities of a race.”

-“What nature does blindly, slowly, and ruthlessly, man may do providently, quickly, and kindly.”

-“The average intellectual standard of the negro race is some two grades below our own.”

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Julian Huxley: one of the most influential promoters of evolutionary theory in the 20th century.

“The lowest strata are reproducing too fast... therefore birth control must be made available.”

“The idea of God as a supernatural being is no longer necessary... evolution provides a new framework for understanding the universe.”

Aldous Huxley (brother, novelist and philosopher)

“I suppose the reason we all jumped at the Origin of Species was because the idea of God interfered with our sexual mores.”

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More than 60,000 Americans were sterilized under eugenics programs from 1907-1979.

Those Targeted:

poor people

immigrants

prisoners

people in mental institutions

minority communities

Hitler's lawyers cited American eugenics laws when developing their own policies.

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Ernst Haeckel: one of the most influential popularizers of Darwin's theory in continental Europe in the late 1800s.

-“The different races of men... are of very different value, and must be regarded as being at very different stages of development. The mental life of the lowest savages stands immeasurably below that of the highest civilized men.”

“The life of savages is not essentially different from that of animals.”

“These lower races (such as the Veddahs of Ceylon [Sri Lankans] and the Australian Negroes) are psychologically nearer to the mammals—apes and dogs—than to civilized Europeans.”

*recapitulation theory- developed in late 1800s, still found in textbooks until the early 2000s

*Not Human

Joseph Fletcher

From *Morals and Medicine* (1954):
“The fetus is not yet a human being in the full sense.”

Peter Singer
From *Practical Ethics* (1979):
“The fetus is not a person... killing a fetus is not morally equivalent to killing a person.”

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Margaret Sanger: leading birth-control activist in the United States in the early 1900s and founder of Planned Parenthood.

“The most merciful thing that the large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it.”

In 1939 Sanger helped launch what was called the “Negro Project.”
-“We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members.”

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Genesis is not just the first book of the Bible.
It is the foundation for everything that follows.
If Genesis is wrong, then the rest of the Bible begins to unravel.

CHAPTER 1

The History of Creation

1:1

Likely the most read verse, if not sentence, of all time.

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ
B'reshéet bará Elohím et hashámayim ve'ét ha'áretz

B'resheet — In the beginning
bara — created
Elohim — God
et — (Hebrew direct-object marker, not translated)
hashamayim — the heavens
ve'et — and
ha'aretz — the earth

bara (בָּרָא) = to create out of nothing

-No man can bara

-Everything between day 1 and day 5 = asa (הִשָּׂא), to form/construct from existing material

-Plants = “just stuff” in God’s eyes (no breath of life)

THREE BARA’S IN GENESIS 1:

-1st bara → v1: the universe (time, space, matter out of nothing)

-2nd bara → v21: living creatures (animals = new category; have spirit/personality, but not eternal soul)

-3rd bara → v27: man (body + spirit + soul; the full Trinitarian image; intended for eternal life with God)

Colossians 1:16 — 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.

Albert Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity (1915)

-Einstein showed that space and time are not separate things — they form a single reality called spacetime.

-Every event in the universe requires two coordinates: where it happens (space) and when it happens (time).

-Matter and energy exist inside spacetime and interact with it.

-Matter tells spacetime how to curve, and spacetime tells matter how to move.

“In the beginning” = berē’ shîit (בְּרֵאשִׁית); the commencement of time; the starting point of all created reality.

-“Heavens” = shamayim (שָׁמַיִם); the spatial realm; the created expanse (height, width, length).

-“Earth” = ’erets (אֶרֶץ); the material realm; the substance of the physical world (solid, liquid, gas; the elements).

-(And if you’re patient, we might make it to Energy, “Let there be light.”)

Genesis 1:1 is the creation of time, space, and matter.

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**IVAN PANIN (1855-1942)

Russian immigrant, Harvard-educated mathematician

-~43,000 handwritten pages of mathematical analysis of the Bible

-Genesis 1:1 in Hebrew: 7 words

-28 letters (7 × 4)

-First 3 words = 14 letters (7 × 2)

-Last 4 words = 14 letters (7 × 2)

-3 nouns (God, heaven, earth) = 14 letters (7 × 2)

- Remaining words = 14 letters (7×2)
- Middle word = numerical value of 7
- First, middle, last letter of sentence = 133 (7×19)
- First and last letter of each word = 1393 (7×199)
- 30+ features, all multiples of 7
- Harvard math dept. challenged to replicate in English (400,000 words vs. 4,500 Hebrew words)
- Could not reproduce it
- Probability of verse 1 occurring by chance: 1 in 33 trillion

MORE MATH IN GENESIS 1:1

- Sum of all letters \times product of all letters \div (sum of all words \times product of all words) = 3.1415 (π to 4th decimal)
- Same formula applied to John 1:1 = e to 4th decimal

π describes circles, but e describes growth.

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1:2

“without form and void” \rightarrow formless state of matter

- All atoms exist, but unformed

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Gap theory — rejected

- Gap between v1 and v2 is typographical, not temporal

Weston Fields, Unformed and Unfilled — Key Arguments Against the Gap Theory

1. Genesis 1:2 is a circumstantial clause, not a sequential event

וְהָאָרֶץ (veha'aretz) “And the earth...”

waw + noun construction, not waw + verb

waw + verb = sequence

Example: “And God said... and God saw... and God called...”

A circumstantial clause describes something, it is not a new event in sequence.

“Now the earth was...” Not “And then the earth...”

2. “Was” (hayah) does not mean “became”

Gap theorists often argue:

-hayah = became

-hayah normally means “was”

-It can mean “became,” but requires clear context.

Example: Lot’s wife became a pillar of salt.

-We know she wasn’t salt before, thus she became salt.

-We would need evidence that the earth was completed back in v1 in order for hayah to mean become.

Total occurrences of hayah: ~3,560

-“was / is / be / exist” ≈ 95–98%

-“became / came to be” ≈ 2–5%

3. “Tohu wabohu” does not mean judgment or destruction

The phrase means: unformed, unfilled, uninhabitable

Biggest Theological Issue:

-Death before Adam contradicts Romans 5:12

Romans 5:12 — Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin...

The Gap theory usually places dinosaurs, fossils, and geological ages before Adam.

BONUS: On day 6 everything (every single thing) was good. This would imply that Satan had not yet fallen.

Conclusion: Creation began with unformed matter, which God then structured and filled during the six days.

-No gap. No catastrophe.

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1:3-4 — Day 1: Light / Energy

“Let there be light” → energizing of matter

-1st law of thermodynamics — energy exists, cannot be created or destroyed

-2nd law of thermodynamics (entropy) — energy goes from order to disorder

-All energy must have a beginning/source → points to a Creator

“God divided the light from the darkness” -light = day; darkness = night

John 3:19-20 — “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

1 John 1:6-7 NKJV — If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

When God created the light, He already had this illustration planned.

Ephesians 5:32 — This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

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1:5

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

WHAT IS A “DAY”? (YOM)

“Day” = yōm (יֹמִי)

Basic meaning: a normal day or the daylight portion of a day, depending on context.

WHEN IS A DAY A NORMAL DAY?

- Yom paired with a number — Genesis 1:5; Genesis 1:8; Genesis 1:13
- Evening and morning attached — Genesis 1:5
- Part of historical narrative — Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:3
- Pattern for the human work week — Exodus 20:11

WHEN “DAY” IS NOT A NORMAL DAY

- General time period
- Genesis 2:4 — In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.
- Future era of judgment
- Isaiah 13:6 — Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand!
- Daylight portion of a day
- Genesis 1:5 — God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.

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What is the age of the earth?

- Solomon died / kingdom divided — 931 BC (1 Kings 11:42–43; 1 Kings 12:1)
- Solomon reigned 40 years — Solomon began to reign in 971 BC (1 Kings 11:42)
- Temple construction began in Solomon’s 4th year — 967 BC (1 Kings 6:1)
- Exodus occurred 480 years before the temple — 1446 BC (1 Kings 6:1)

-430 years from Abraham entering Canaan to the Exodus — Abraham entered Canaan in 1876 BC (Exodus 12:40–41; Galatians 3:17; Genesis 12:4)

-Abraham was 75 when he entered Canaan — Abraham born in 1951 BC (Genesis 12:4)

-Flood to Abraham's birth = 352 years — Flood in 2303 BC (Genesis 11:10–26; Acts 7:4)

-Creation to Flood = 1656 years — Creation in 3959 BC (Genesis 5; Genesis 7:11)

-3959+2026 = 5985

Epistle of Barnabas (late 1st–early 2nd century), Chapter 15

Therefore, children, in six days—that is, in six thousand years—everything will be finished. And He rested on the seventh day. This means: when His Son shall come... He will truly rest on the seventh day.”

Irenaeus (AD ~180), Against Heresies 5.28.3

“For in as many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years shall it be concluded... For the day of the Lord is as a thousand years... and in six days created things were completed; it is evident, therefore, that they will come to an end at the six-thousandth year.”

Hippolytus (AD ~200), Commentary on Daniel 2.4

“For since in six days God made all things, it follows that six thousand years must be fulfilled. And they are not yet fulfilled, as John says: ‘five are fallen; one is; the other is not yet come.’”

*People Get Ready VIDEO WITH SOUND