

Anthropology and Hamartiology 2 The Origins of Man a study for the Bible Institute of
Gulf Coast Baptist Church Fall 2022 by Steve Thomas

Introduction

Secular Anthropology will not subscribe to the theory that a supreme being or divine intelligence was the originator of the universe, instead attributing it to “natural” causes. However, science (secular) cannot give evidence that order arises out of chaos, and that organization results from destruction. Science instead teaches that chaos (entropy) increases as energy is transferred from one form to another (2nd law of thermodynamics). The scripture teaches that man was the product of design and power. Christian theologians will disagree on some aspects of the creation account, but they will agree that the universe is the result of God’s plan, and has God’s purpose and power evident.

Theories Without Biblical Support

“The best-supported theory of our universe’s origin centers on an event known as the big bang.”¹ This theory originated in the 1920’s and is held to by most scientists today because other galaxies are moving away from our own at a great speed in all directions, just as if they had been propelled by an ancient explosive force. The big bang theory is without biblical support and not worthy of a believer’s allegiance. There are different theories as to how long ago this happened but it is between 13 and 14 billion years ago. The “evidence” for this is basically the measurable distance of the known universe and the fact that galaxies are speeding away from ours in all directions.

Two tangential theories to the big bang are the steady state universe, which hypothesizes that matter is continuously being created, and the eternal inflation saying that the big bang never stopped, it is continuously happening with the existence of the multiverse.² Neither of these theories have any support from scripture.

Some will concede the idea of intelligent design, but will look to the possibility that aliens planted life on earth. This theory does not solve the problem of who originated that alien civilization though, it just pushes the debate further down the road. Who created the aliens? Perhaps other aliens... and so on and so forth.

The Gap theory states that there was a large space of time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 where life evolved over millions and millions of years. This theory is sometimes called Theistic Evolution. This theory would not be supported by believers who have a literal interpretation of the Genesis account. Added into this theory might be the age-day theory which posits that each “day of creation” lasted an age, giving credence to the Theistic Evolution theory of creation. God used ages of time to create the universe.

¹ Gresheko, Michael and NG staff. **National Geographic**. *Origins of the Universe 101*. January 17, 2017, accessed September 16, 2022.

² Tate, Karl. **Space.com**. *Alternatives to the Big Bang Theory*. March 8, 2022, accessed September 16, 2022.

The Bible Account

Genesis is clear on the fact that God formed the physical universe before man.³ God formed the matter of the universe from the words of His mouth.⁴

There does seem to be a difference of opinion on if there is passage of time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. The use of certain Hebrew words gives a different state of things in the second verse as opposed to the first verse.

“tohû vābohû, “a waste and a void.” The two terms denote kindred ideas, and their combination marks emphasis. Besides the present passage בְּהוּ-bohû occurs in only two others Isa 34:11; Jer 4:23, and always in conjunction with תְּהוּ-tohû. If we may distinguish the two words, בְּהוּ-bohû refers to the matter, and תְּהוּ-tohû refers to the form, and therefore the phrase combining the two denotes a state of utter confusion and desolation, an absence of all that can furnish or people the land.”⁵

The Hebrew words used in verse 2 for “without form” and “void” are used when there has been a catastrophe or destruction. This is in sharp contrast to the word for create found in verse 1. God is not the author of confusion. There seems to be some sort of judgement that has taken place for the state of the universe to be in this form. There are several commentaries that would agree.

Scofield states: *“Jeremiah 4:23-27; Isaiah 24:1; Isaiah 45:18 clearly indicate that the earth had undergone a cataclysmic change as the result of divine judgement. The face of the earth bears everywhere the marks of such a catastrophe. There are not wanting imitations which connect it with a previous testing and fall of angels.”⁶*

“Before proceeding to translate this verse, it is to be observed that the state of an event may be described either definitely or indefinitely. It is described definitely by the three states of the Hebrew verb - the perfect, the current, and the imperfect. The latter two may be designated in common the imperfect state. A completed event is expressed by the former of the two states, or, as they are commonly called, tenses of the Hebrew verb; a current event, by the imperfect participle; an incipient event, by the second state or tense. An event is described indefinitely when there is neither verb nor participle in the sentence to determine its state. The first sentence of this verse is an example of the perfect state of an event, the second of the indefinite, and the third of the imperfect or continuous state.

³ Genesis 1:1-2

⁴ Psalm 33:6-9.

⁵ Barnes, Albert. Commentary on Genesis 1:2.

⁶ Scofield reference notes on Genesis 1:1-2.

After the undefined lapse of time from the first grand act of creation, the present verse describes the state of things on the land immediately antecedent to the creation of a new system of vegetable and animal life, and, in particular, of man, the intelligent inhabitant, for whom this fair scene was now to be prepared and replenished.”⁷

“The earth was without form and void - The original term תהו tohu and בהו bohu, which we translate without form and void, are of uncertain etymology; but in this place, and wherever else they are used, they convey the idea of confusion and disorder. From these terms it is probable that the ancient Syrians and Egyptians borrowed their gods, Theuth and Bau, and the Greeks their Chaos. God seems at first to have created the elementary principles of all things; and this formed the grand mass of matter, which in this state must be without arrangement, or any distinction of parts: a vast collection of indescribably confused materials, of nameless entities strangely mixed; and wonderfully well expressed by an ancient heathen poet: -The most ancient of the Greeks have spoken nearly in the same way of this crude, indigested state of the primitive chaotic mass.

When this congeries of elementary principles was brought together, God was pleased to spend six days in assimilating, assorting, and arranging the materials, out of which he built up, not only the earth, but the whole of the solar system.”⁸

This gap of time could exist for the creation of the spirit beings and the fall of Lucifer. The accounts of those events exist in Ezekiel and Isaiah. The scripture does teach that the angels were present at the creation/recreation of the universe.⁹ God answers Job saying that man was not there when he laid the corner of the earth, but the morning stars sang together, and “all the sons of God shouted for joy.” Sons of God in the Old Testament are indicative of the spirit beings (Seraphim, Cherubim, and Angels, etc.). While it is not the purpose of this class to explore these events in detail, the believer should be aware of them. This “gap” of time is not a way to explain away the fact that God spoke the universe into existence and formed it in 6 actual days. Clarke and Scofield use language showing that God rearranged the matter into what can be seen today. The earth as it can be seen today has existed for less than ten thousand years, more closely between six and seven thousand years.¹⁰

Adam and Eve were created by fiat - ***an authoritative decree, sanction, order.***¹¹ The word “bara” is used to note Adam’s creation, the word “banah” was used to note Eve’s creation. The word used for Adam means “*to bring into being; to produce, put in form, or renew;*” It is also the word used in Gen 1:1 to denote the creation of the material universe, as well as what might have

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Clarke, Adam. Commentary on Genesis 1:2.

⁹ Job 38:6-7.

¹⁰ Lisle, Dr. Jason. AnswersinGenesis.org. *RATE Research Reveals Remarkable Results - A Fatal Blow to Billions of Years*. November 7, 2005. Accessed September 16, 2022.

¹¹ Cf. Gen 1:26. Dictionary.com

been the “recreation”. Isaiah 45:12, 1 Cor 11:9 and other verses support the Genesis account of creation. Adam was formed out of the dust of the earth, and God breathed into him life. Adam became a living soul. This is clearly stated in Genesis 2:7. The sixteen main elements that are found in the human body are the same elements that are found in the soil, according to scientific sources.

The word used for Eve’s creation is used over 345 times in the Old Testament. It is used numerous times in the book of Genesis of “building” something such as a city, the ark, or an altar. Adam while naming all the animals, found nothing his equal, someone that reflected him, he was alone. God gave the helpmeet of Eve, taken from the side of Adam to complete him.

Genesis 1:26 states that Adam was made in the image of God and with God’s likeness. These two terms will be explored more fully when the nature of man is discussed.

Conclusion

While the world system seeks to deny the existence of God, and will not give him credit for the incredible creation, the believer is in awe of the work that was done in just six days. God’s power was on full display and the heavens definitely declare the glory of God and the earth shows God’s handiwork. Man’s origins come from God Himself. Since God created man, does it not make sense that He did it for a specific purpose and according to some plan? This is definitely the case and will be explored in the coming lessons.