

UNIVERSAL HISTORY

UNDERSTANDING OUR WORLD ACCORDING TO GENESIS 1-11

C R E A T I O N

Genesis 1:1-2:3



Genesis 1-11 is the “universal history” of everyone, whereas Gen 12 and onwards is “the specific history” of the people of Israel

Its meant to tell us a story, or give us a prime narrative in how we understand the world we live in.

It describes what happened in the beginning, and how it happened, but also why it happened – as well as describing what happens and why things happen today

A careful look at Genesis 1, to see what the text is telling us and how it is saying it

A look at science and faith as it pertains to Genesis 1



Genesis 1¹ 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.

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.

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.

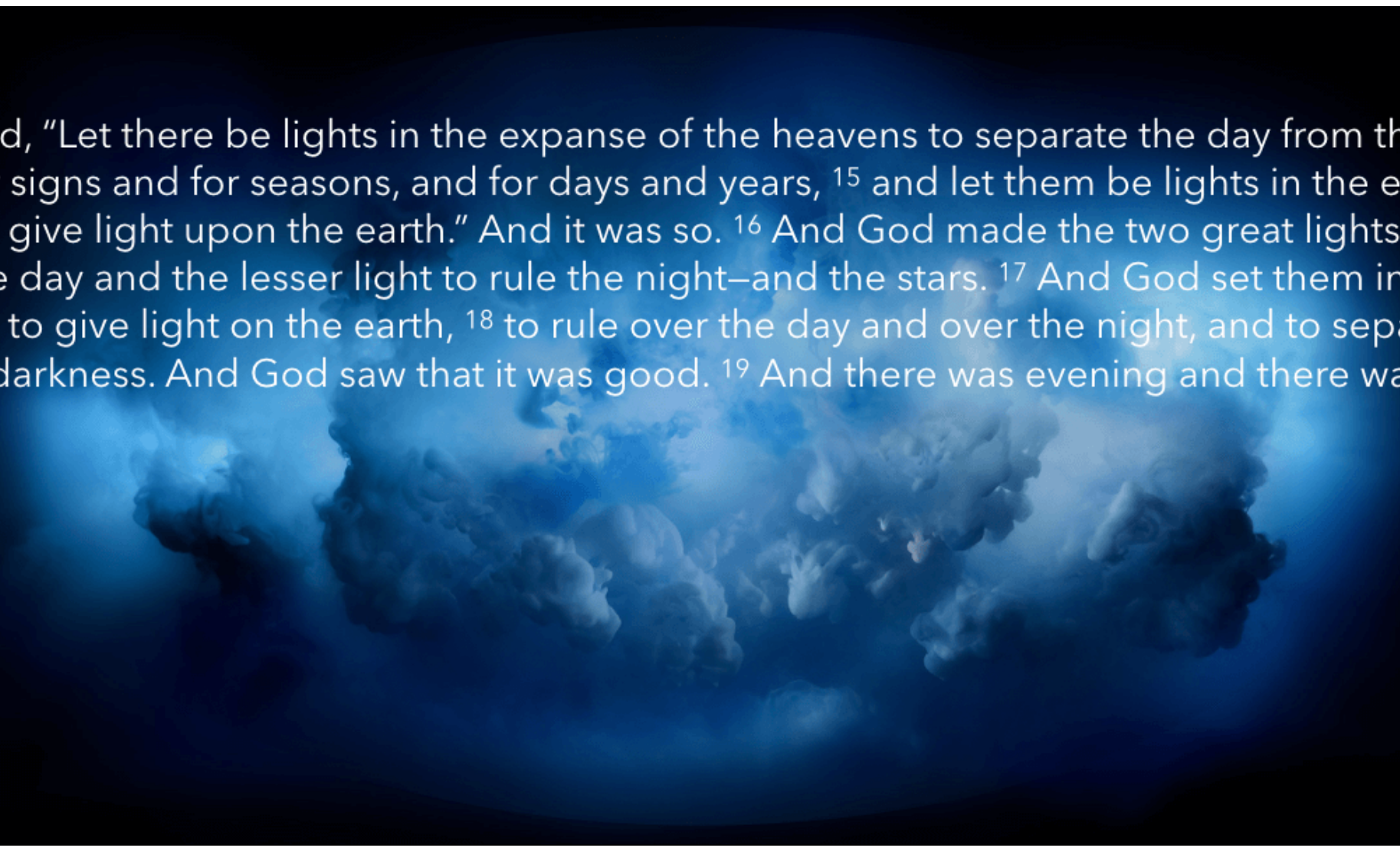
Genesis 1

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.




Genesis 1

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.



Genesis 1

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.



Genesis 1

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.



Genesis 1

²⁶ 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."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And 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 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2 ¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.



The Bible is unique among all ancient literature

	Factual documents	The Bible	Mythology
Type	accounting legal medical historical	unique among ancient literature because it tells us the stories of meaning which also happened	creation narratives stories which explain our history and our people ex: Greek mythology
Purpose	describe things that happened. they tell us <i>what</i> but not <i>why</i>	to describe why the world is the way it is within a framework of actual history	talk about meaning and why things are the way they are - but no one believes they are actually true



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Things to Notice in Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

The very clear structure of the text

- there's a clear introduction (Gen 1:1-2) and conclusion (Gen 2:1-3)
- the language is very consistent

There is symmetry in the days and order of creation

- days one and four are both related to light
- days two and five are related to water
- days three and six have to do with the earth
- days three and six and both "double creation" days

Things to Notice in Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

The very clear structure of the text

There is symmetry in the days and order of creation

Humans are not the same as animals

- humans are not created at the same time as fish, animals and birds but as a separate act of creation
- while plants and animals are created "according to their own kind", humanity is created "in God's image".



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- humans are not created at the same time as fish, animals and birds but as a separate act of creation
- while plants and animals are created "according to their own kind", humanity is created "in God's image".
- When God is finished with all this, it is "very good"

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What's Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 telling us?

Things to Notice in Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

The very clear structure of the text

There is symmetry in the days and order of creation

Humans are not the same as animals

This is communicated not only by **what** the text says, but by **how** it is said

What's Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 telling us?

God is in control

His word creates

The world God designed is one of order, not chaos

The world God creates is good

God creates humanity as separate from animals and creation, in His own image, and gives us a role in stewarding the world He's created



That's great, Pastor John, but what
about science and evolution and
carbon dating?

Worldviews on Science and Faith regarding Genesis 1

Science

Faith

Science tells us
all we need to
know

Religion is
superstition

The Bible tells us
all we need to
know

Be very wary of
science because it
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Science discovers the general
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Worldviews on Science and Faith regarding Genesis 1

Science

Faith

?!
!

How do we
balance
these things
out?

The Bible is the special revelation of God, and tells us what we need to know in areas of faith, and gives us principles and values in how we govern, live and understand our world

Science discovers the general revelation of God and help us to better understand people and our world, have better lives and relieve suffering

Worldviews on Science and Faith regarding Genesis 1

Science

Faith

Biblical Authority

The belief and practice that the Bible is trustworthy and authoritative for life - it tells us the truth and describes the world accurately; therefore, I will live my life by it.



• Can a person be a scientist and still believe in Biblical authority?

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Faith



Biblical Authority

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• Can a person be a scientist and still believe in Biblical authority?



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• Can a person be a sinner and still be a biblical authority?





Can a person be a scientist and still believe in Biblical authority?

Yes!



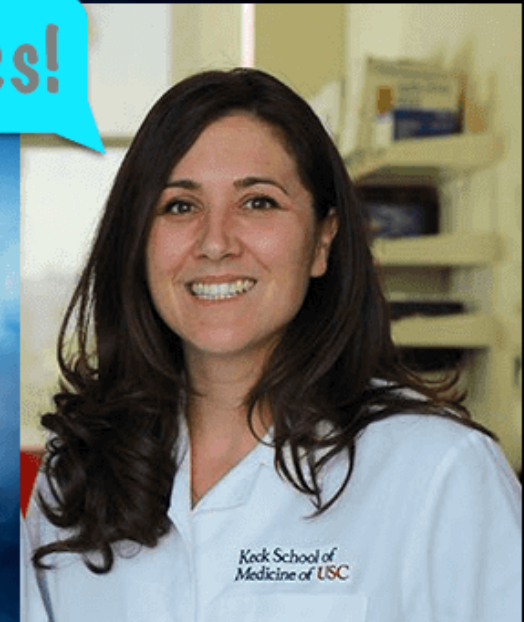
Calvin Liang
PhD, UCLA
Atmospheric + Oceanic Sciences
Systems Engineer, Northrop Grumman

Yes!



Louise Huang
PhD, UC Davis
Polymer and Material Science
Director, Center for Research in Science, APU

Yes!



Katie Galloway,
PhD, Caltech
Chemical Engineering and Biology
Post-doc fellow, Cellular reprogramming, USC

WHAT IS INTELLIGENCE?

The Science and Christian Philosophy of
Human versus Artificial Intelligence

MARCH 21

5-6 PM SEGERSTROM PERRY LECTURE HALL



SPEAKERS

Bill Newsome, Ph.D.
Neuroscientist,
Stanford University

Nancey Murphy, Ph.D. Th.D.
Philosopher,
Fuller Theological Seminary

Daniel Grissom, Ph.D.
Computer Scientist, APU

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Center for Research in Science




3-day mentoring program
for collegiate scientists
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<http://reasons.org/thelab>



REASONS TO BELIEVE



God is trustworthy.
And He knows and
cares what's going on
in your life.

What's Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 telling us?


God is in control

His word creates

The world God designed is one of
order, not chaos

The world God creates is good

God creates humanity as separate from animals
and creation, in His own image, and gives us a role
in stewarding the world He's created



God is trustworthy.
And He knows and
cares what's going on
in your life.

I need Jesus to come
into my life

I need assurance that
God's really with me

I need prayer about
a specific area of
chaos and darkness in
my life

There are
many around me
who really need God
in their life. With
easter coming up, I'm
going to pray for
them regularly.