

Genesis 1:1

10/6/19

Sunday Morning

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

<sup>2</sup> The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

<sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

<sup>5</sup> God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

1. Evolution is accepted today as a fact
  - a. Evolution says that everything started from nothing (**macro**-evolution)
  - b. If evolution is true – it means –
    - i. **#1.** That means that the Bible isn't scientifically accurate
    - i. **#2.** Man made up Scripture & there is no God
    - ii. **#3.** Or the Person Who says He made everything doesn't know how everything came to be – God isn't truthful
  - c. Another explanation which allows for evolution (which softens calling God a liar) is that the first 11 chapters of Genesis are an allegory
    - i. By what authority does someone call Scripture any allegory? – in the case of creation – the authority is science
    - ii. Science is not the final answer: there are miles of books of obsolete science in the Louvre museum in France
    - iii. If you can simply declare any portion of Scripture to be an allegory, b/c you don't like it – how do you know what is real & what isn't? Is hell an allegory? Is God an allegory?
2. Evolution says that everything began from nothing
  - a. Looking at a piece of wood let's a person know a few things automatically
    - i. I know that it didn't grow this way – this length
    - ii. I know that it was at one time a tree w/ bark, needles instead of leaves, <sup>(spruce, pine, fir)</sup> it had roots, etc.
    - iii. I know that someone cut it up
    - iv. I know someone carried it – to be processed

- v. I know it was measured for size
  - vi. I know it was cut by artificial means to a certain length
  - vii. I know that someone transported it to here
- b. I don't know who cut this tree down & sawed it into lumber – but that doesn't eliminate the fact that it was done
    - i. Because we don't know who made it –
    - ii. No scientist would argue that someone has tinkered w/ this piece of wood
3. The signs of intelligent design are all around us
- a. If something as simple as this piece of lumber must have a maker – what about the universe?
  - b. Only those denying God could overlook the proof of creation
    - i. Scripture describes them
- Psalm 14:1** The **fool** has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.
4. When I was in school I was taught that signs of evolution were all around us
- a. Embryology won me over to the belief in evolution
    - i. My text book had a picture of different species of embryos
    - ii. It turns out that those pictures had been doctored & didn't really exist in that form
5. God's creation is orderly & beautiful in design
- a. It isn't random; a fortuitous concourse of atoms – (the word "cosmos" means: order, arrangement, harmony)
  - b. Even something as common as rocks show design
    - i. Here is a picture of a finely sharpened scalpel under an electron microscope
    - ii. There is also a picture of the edge of a rock arrowhead made for obsidian
    - iii. Primitive man made arrowheads & cutting tools from obsidian– chert – flint
  - c. Here is a picture of a stained glass window from York Minster cathedral in York, England, is beautiful
  - d. What God makes is even more beautiful

6. I know that most of you believe in creation
7. But the paradigm you come from has a lot to do w/ what you believe about creation
  - a. How much do you really know about creation?
8. One of the problems is, if we teach our children stuff that can be disproven when they go to school – we lose them (European kids check out by 13 yrs)
9. If we say the Bible says things it doesn't say – then those things will be proven false & we lose them
10. What do you know for sure about creation?
11. Questions:
  - a. On what day did God make the earth?
  - b. On what day did He make the stars?
  - c. Did He make the heavens & the earth on the same day?
  - d. Did He make all the angels, planets & other creatures at the same time?
  - e. Is this creation the beginning of all creation?
  - f. Does the Bible state how old the earth is?
  - g. Did God make the earth formless & void?
  - h. What is different about the 2nd day?
  - i. If God made man on the 6<sup>th</sup> day – what is chapter 2 all about?
  - j. When were the dinosaurs on earth?
  - k. Did Noah put dinosaurs in the ark? (footprints of man & dinosaurs are together)
  - l. Are there aliens?
  - m. Is the earth round or flat?
    - i. The Church argued at one time that the earth was flat according to Scripture
    - ii. Do we argue about things that Bible doesn't teach?
  - n. Obviously, we don't have all the answers but we do have some
    - o. Who made the heavens & the earth? – the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit?
    - p. How much does God want us to know about creation?
12. Why is Genesis important to study?

- a. I believe God has led me to teach it now because
- b. #1. Because all mankind ask the same personal questions
  - ii. Where did I come from?
  - iii. Why am I here? Purpose in life?
  - iv. What is right & wrong?
  - v. What is my ultimate destiny?
- c. #2 Is the Bible is accurate, true, reliable
  - i. Many believers no longer believe the Bible is true
- d. #3 Young people, in particular, are told every day – Bible is not true
  - i. 90% of young people do not believe Bible scientifically accurate
  - ii. In China parents cannot evangelize their children until 18 years of age.

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- 1. "the beginning"
  - a. "Genesis" means origin – birth – beginning
  - b. Moses wrote the book somewhere around 1450 B.C.
  - c. This is the beginning of the creation of heaven & earth not the beginning of all beginnings
    - i. That is found in John's gospel

**John 1:1** In the<sup>(not there)</sup> beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- 2. "God **created**"
  - a. "Created" – bara = make something out of nothing
  - b. That word is used only 3 times in Genesis 1
    - i. When God created the heavens & the earth

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- ii. When God created animal life

**V.21** God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

- iii. When God created human life

**V.27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- c. All the other days when God made something He uses a different word – “asah” – it means to make something out of something else
- d. There is a vast difference between creating something out of nothing & making something out of something else

V.1 x In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

3. “the heavens and the earth”

- a. I personally believe that God made the heavens & the earth trillions of years ago
  - i. How old is God? Did He have to wait on man before He could do anything?
- b. You might say, “the heavens & the earth were created in 6 days as the Bible says” (I’ve heard that a lot)
  - i. That is found in Exodus

**Exodus 20:11** "For in six days the LORD made<sup>(asah)</sup> the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

**Exodus 31:17** "It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made<sup>(asah)</sup> heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased *from labor*, and was refreshed."

- c. I suggest to you that the creation of matter is over at this point
  - i. Creation is finished except for life itself
- d. What is going on for 6 days?
  - i. Except for life, God is rearranging of what already exist
  - ii. In one sense, everything we know anything is 6 days’ worth of works – but not the creation of the world
  - iii. If you can show me a verse that says otherwise – I’ll change my understanding

V.1x In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

4. “God created the heavens and the earth”

- a. In the world today there is what is known as the "Prime Reality Question" which is – where did everything that exist come from?
  - i. There are 2 basic views called – "prime reality"
  - ii. #1.The Theistic world view is – everything begins w/ God
  - iii. #2.The material world view is that matter & energy are eternal & somehow man ended up happening & then man created a god
  
- b. Modern scientific discoveries have only reinforced the Theistic view of origin found in Genesis 1-11
- c. The materialistic view that matter is eternal has a problem (even though it is still accepted today)
  
- d. It was long thought that matter was eternal – infinite
- e. It was also believed that our galaxy was all that existed
- f. Then scientist found that there are millions of galaxies in every direction in the night sky
  - i. The light from these galaxies was redder than they thought it should be (the red shift)
  
- g. Later they figured out why the light turned red
- h. When a train goes by you hear it coming & you hear it going away – b/c sound waves begin to stretch
- i. In the same way light changes as it moves away from us – it turns red – (red is the longest light wave)
  - i. So the universe is known to be moving away from us – expanding
  
- j. One more discovery was made by Roger Penrose & Stephen Hawkin in 1968 discovered what is known as the "singularity theorem"
  - i. When it was discovered that the universe is expanding at a rapid rate that means that it started somewhere
  - ii. Space, it turns out has been stretched out across nothing
  
- k. It really doesn't matter what science thinks b/c it will change anyway – but what it now said was accurate according to Scripture
  - i. Space was stretched out across nothing

ii. Scripture says that!

**Psalms 104:2** Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak, Stretching out heaven like a *tent* curtain.

**Isaiah 44:24** Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone,

**Isaiah 40:21-22** Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup> It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

**Isaiah 42:5** Thus says God the LORD, Who created<sup>(Bara)</sup> 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,

**Isaiah 45:12** "It is I who made<sup>(asa)</sup> the earth, and created<sup>(Bara)</sup> man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands And I ordained all their host.

**Isaiah 48:12-13** "Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last.

<sup>13</sup> "Surely My hand founded<sup>(yāsād – established)</sup> the earth, And My right hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them,<sup>(qārā – summon)</sup> stand together.

i. Seeing how big God is helps you to stop worrying about small things

**Isaiah 51:6-13** "Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment And its inhabitants will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not wane.

<sup>7</sup> "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, A people in whose heart is My law; Do not fear the reproach of man, Nor be dismayed at their revilings.

<sup>8</sup> "For the moth will eat them like a garment, And the grub will eat them like wool. But My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation to all generations."

**V.11** So the ransomed of the LORD will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, And everlasting joy *will be* on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

<sup>12</sup> "I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid of man who dies And of the son of man who is made like grass,

<sup>13</sup> That you have forgotten the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth, That you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, As he makes ready to destroy? But where is the fury of the oppressor?

**Job 9:8** Who **alone** stretches out the heavens And tramples down the waves of the sea;

<sup>9</sup> Who makes the Bear, Orion and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south;

<sup>10</sup> Who does great things, unfathomable, And wondrous works without number.

**Job 26:7** "He stretches out the north over empty space And hangs the earth on nothing.

**Psalms 104:1-2** Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

<sup>2</sup> Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak, Stretching out heaven like a *tent* curtain.

**Jeremiah 51:15** *It is* He who made<sup>(asa)</sup> the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom, And by His understanding He stretched out the heavens.

- I. Back to what real science shows – the material universe didn't exist at some point – "singularity" – there was no space & no time
- m. After Roger Penrose & Stephen Hawking discovered in 1968 was that in the beginning there was nothing!

i. Stephen Hawking spent the rest of his life trying to change that finding so that God wasn't in the picture

n. Many atheist still say that matter is eternal – even with contrary proof says

**o. It is intellectually impossible to deny a Creator**

i. Scripture declares that fact

**Romans 1:18-25** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,  
<sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.  
<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood **through what has been made**, so that they are without excuse.  
<sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.  
<sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools,  
<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.  
<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.  
<sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the **creature** rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

ii. Robert Jastrow (the first chairman of NASA's Lunar Exploration Committee, astronomer) In an interview with *Christianity Today*

"For a scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is

greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.

1. Could God make the world look old when it isn't?
2. How old did Adam look 30 minutes after he was created?
3. But Scripture doesn't say the world is young

It takes tremendous faith to be an evolutionist. It is a leap in the dark!