

Genesis: The Days of Creation, part 1 – Time, Heaven, Earth, Seas & Seed

Genesis 1:1-13

MPS Genesis reveals God as a Sovereign Creator who created us to glory in us and set His love on us in Jesus Christ.

OBJ Every person should believe God is Creator because of three critical understandings.

READ Genesis 1:1-13

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The 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. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷And 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. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹And 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. ¹²The 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. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. **Genesis 1:1-13***

"Because you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee." – Augustine. We are longing deeply, yearning within for the One who satisfies and learning that He is the One who created us. This is the question of provenance, discovering our origin in God that we might source all of life in Him through His Word.

Last week we began with the doctrine of Scripture and looked at five points to form a Biblical understanding of creation.

1. God alone was present in the beginning; He is the beginning of all.
2. Elohim is God's Name in Genesis' creation narrative.
3. God is the origin and source of all.
4. God was actively present, working in creation.
5. Creation is completed by the end of Genesis One.

TRANS Today we build on these as we proceed through the creation record. But as we began with the doctrine of Scripture last week, this week we must remember one critical principle of interpretation. We begin with a confession of Scripture about Scripture, knowing that our faithfulness to Scripture depends on us trusting Scripture to interpret Scripture.

*By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. **Heb 11:3***

In light of the many challenges that have arisen against Genesis, it is important for us to understand the reliability and accuracy of the Genesis account. "In a recent book on Genesis, the astrophysicist Dr. Hugh Ross has argued that the biblical account of creation parallels precisely the order of the formation of the universe as modern astronomers now understand it. Ross states that 'today, thanks to the incredible information explosion of the past few decades...sufficient observational evidence has been gathered and analyzed to enable scientists to state conclusively how the universe and the solar system began and developed through time. This new set of theories, the first of its kind to be universally accepted among research scientists in various related fields of investigation, agrees in every point with the Genesis account as it is properly read and understood.'"¹ *We are on good standing, Christian, for our source is the only eye-witness present when creation came into being.*

Genesis reveals God as a Sovereign Creator

¹ John Sailhammer, *Genesis Unbound: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1976), Loc 1997.



who created us to glory in us and set His love on us in Jesus Christ.

TRANS Today we move into the days of creation. And we will see, they are actual days.

Day 1: Gen 1:3-5

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

On day one, God creates light and separates it from darkness. He speaks, what He says happens and He pronounces it 'good'. Then, he separates light from dark and names them. He calls the light 'day' and the dark 'night' to bring distinction to each and gives them names. But more than just light is created here. Day refers to the period of light and the cycle of greater and lesser light. This cycle designates a period of light and a period of dark as one period of time. [God's first work on the first day to bring order was to create time.](#)²

God begins by ordering creation with time. This pattern is repeated the first six days of creation. Henry Morris, a leading expert and author of *The Genesis Record*, argues that by nature of the pattern of the text, each day was the same. God forms a pattern by time with which he will command man. Exodus says,

Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God.

¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and 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 20:9, 11***

[On Day One God created day as a twenty-four hour period of light / day and night / dark to order all creation.](#)

TRANS This verse starts a pattern that is important for us to consider. And this consideration provides evidence for why I believe a Young Earth Creationist position is most true to the Biblical account.

How long were the days of Genesis? Does the Genesis account record a real, twenty-four hour day or something different? Could the earth really only be a few thousand years old?

The Biblical evidence explicitly states God created six, twenty-four hour days in creation, then rested on the seventh. The Hebrew word for "day" means a 24-hour, solar day. "Day" can mean more than only a twenty-four hour period, like the period of light versus dark within a twenty-four hour time, but this is the principle meaning. As well, Biblical genealogies record a period of time that substantiates the age of creation. "Archbishop James Usher, 1582-1656, added all genealogical and chronological records of Scripture and said that he felt the creation occurred at 4004C."³ John MacArthur, commenting on a correct interpretation of Genesis states, "There is absolutely nothing whatsoever on the pages of Genesis 1 and 2 that allows anything but a six, twenty-four hour, solar day creation."⁴ ["God set forth a cycle, a pattern in which we would live. He designed it in its regular rhythm in order to sustain us in life."](#)

Last week we looked at the Theory of Evolution and how modern science has embraced it as far more than only true, but as the foundational presupposition unquestionable. One aspect of evolution's theory is the age of the earth, multiplying into tens and hundreds of millions, even billions of years. [Of course! If you were absolutely convinced something was going to happen, the mutation from a lesser to a more advanced new species, and yet it just never happened, but because you are convinced it would and passionate about your conviction, you continued to add years until it did. Well, now we need billions of years because after all, you are passionately convinced.] History tells us that "prior to Darwin, any scholar who said the world was more than 6,000 years old was called a fool."⁵

² John H. Walton, [Genesis](#), The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001), 79. Walton states, "On day one, God created time. This is the first of the functions God will use to bring order to the chaos of the cosmos: the orderly and regular sequence of time."

³ John MacArthur, "The How, Why, and When of Creation, Part 1". Sermon. Sunday, April 18, 1999. GTY.org

⁴ John MacArthur, "The How, Why, and When of Creation, Part 1". Sermon. Sunday, April 18, 1999. GTY.org

⁵ John MacArthur, "The How, Why, and When of Creation, Part 1". Sermon. Sunday, April 18, 1999. GTY.org. Illustration from this sermon.



TRANS But what does science tell us about the age of the earth?

First, in contrast to what many claim, the fossil record does not prove the Biblical account wrong. Creation scientists have shown that the flood answers the issue of fossils. [I'm not offering more evidence here due to time, but it does exist in abundance IF you want to find it.] But what science actually proves is far more astounding and glorious than anything evolution claims.

ILLUS Scientific Evidence for Creation and Young Earth from the Speed of Light⁶

One significant and interesting discovery on creation and a young earth comes from the study of the speed of light. The speed of light is measured at 299,792.458 Km/sec. A "light year" measures the distance light travels in a year. Thus, a star might come into being a million light years away from the earth but couldn't actually be observed until a million years later because it would take that long for the starlight to reach the earth from outer space. If this is true, it would seem to refute the Biblical account of creation due to the time it takes light to reach the earth. But arguments that the speed of light has been slowing down and traveled much more rapidly in the past would indicate a very young universe, in thousands rather than billions of years. Research shows the speed of light has been slowing over time.

Barry Setterfield, an Australian scientist and Young Earth Creationist, has done much research on the speed of light. In his essay, "The Velocity of Light and the Age of the Universe", Setterfield proposes the decay of the speed of light proves a young earth and the time of creation. The speed of light was first measured by a Danish Astronomer in 1675 and then by an English astronomer in 1728. It has been measured many times since then and reached an equilibrium at the number recorded today (300,000 Km/Sec). Setterfield traces the decay of the velocity of light using the same calculations learned from this to discover that 6,000 years ago light moved at an almost instantaneous speed. [Setterfield figures the earth was created about 4040BC, plus or minus a hundred years.](#)

At the time of creation the speed of light was going so much faster than it does now. If the speed of light has indeed decayed, along with everything else, then the most basic, empirical measurement of the age of the solar system would fit precisely into the genealogical chronologies of Genesis. If you take these same figures, put on a curve, light is almost instantaneous six thousand years ago. Imagine that, science and math agree with the Biblical record!

Based on the assumption that this is correct, this would explain why dates derived from various types of radioactive measurements on physical, geological elements would all be skewed. (Ex: the half-life of uranium 238 decaying into lead over millions of years would all be skewed.) The velocity of an electron in its orbit is proportionate to the speed of light. Everything changes. [Science and math tell us that what appears to be old is not old at all, no matter how passionately one is convinced.](#) I have one word for you, patina, and it didn't begin with Martha Stewart or HGTV.

In the end, the length of years that now age the earth and continue to grow are elongated to, in some way, make thought that what is scientifically impossible might actually occur, especially if we just propagate a period of time so intellectually inconceivable that one dare not challenge it. [More than the Bible or God as the object it seeks to discredit, Evolution demands one completely disregard plain science and math in order to embrace its theories.](#)

TRANS I would say Day One was a complete day of work, and worthy of God "calling it a day".

Day 2: Gen 1:6-8

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." *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. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.*

On day two, God creates an expanse in the waters and separates the heavens from the earth. This describes a stretching out of the distance between the waters for what today is called "sky". The skies have held great interest throughout the

⁶ John MacArthur, "The How, Why, and When of Creation, Part 1". Sermon. Sunday, April 18, 1999. GTY.org



ages, from navigation to objects of worship and many other activities. Interestingly, it has been said that scuba diving is similar to space in the feel of weightlessness, specifically how one maneuvers in a perpetual state of floating.

ILLUS Hubble Telescope stared at nothing for 100 hours!⁷ National Geographic ran an article in 2015 recounting a story from 1995 when Astronomer Bob Williams wanted to point the Hubble Space Telescope at a patch of sky filled with absolutely nothing remarkable. For 100 hours. His colleagues told him it was a terrible idea and opposed him. Nevertheless, he proceeded undeterred. The article records, “Hubble stared at a patch of sky near the Big Dipper’s handle that was only about 1/30th as wide as the full moon. In total, the telescope took 342 pictures of the region, each of which was exposed for between 25 and 45 minutes. The images were processed and combined, then colored, and 17 days later, released to the public.” What resulted was a discovery of galaxies yet unknown. Since 1995 this practice has been repeated and each time showing more and more space, resulting in what has become known as Hubble Deep Field, Hubble Ultra Deep Field (2004), and Hubble Extreme Deep Field (2012). [They are scientists after all. Let’s not be too critical of the lack of creative naming.] Commenting on these discoveries, Jennifer Wiseman, Senior Scientist of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center stated, “That gives me and many people pause to be quiet and contemplate this majestic universe we live in, and be grateful we have a chance to look at it.” And, “Jason Kalirai, project scientist with the Webb telescope, goes and step further and places the Hubble Deep Field in a rather impressive historical context. “One of the questions that even the earliest civilizations probably asked themselves is, ‘What is our place in the universe?’” There have been a few times in our history when the prevailing answer to that question has been overthrown, he says. Once was when Galileo turned his telescope to Jupiter and its moons and helped show that not everything revolves around the Earth; another was when the astronomer Edwin Hubble showed, in the early 1900s, that not every speck of light in the sky belongs to our own galaxy.” *That is right, friend, not every speck of light in the sky belongs to our galaxy. But because of Genesis we do know that it all belongs to God who the Creator of all.*

Though separated, the ‘dancing forces’ of the sky and sea maintain a powerful affect upon the earth as they work together by opposing pressure and vacuum. Pushing and pulling, the force of the sky manipulates the space on earth as the waters on earth pull against the pressure in the skies. The currents of the sea and the atmospheric pressure of the sky forms powerful forces that affect the earth in many varied ways. *In God’s “stretching out”, He provided a unique atmosphere of pressure and vacuum, forces pushing and pulling to provide the perfect environment to sustain life.*

Day 3: Gen 1:9-13

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.* 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.* ¹²The 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.*

On day three, God divides the water with land to form distinct boundaries on the earth. Then, He creates vegetation, seed-bearing plants and fruit by commanding the earth to sprout forth seed, bearing its produce for the provision of its inhabitants. And though it may not seem anything other than normal, each plant and tree produces its own seed according to its kind. *Do you know why seeds grow in the earth?* Because God told them to. Do not miss this amazing truth. The place of our habitation would provide our sustenance. *God created a place of provision and prospering on the earth, a place where life could flourish.*

TRANS Each of the days of creation faces substantial attacks, from evolution, to the claims of ozone depletion and climate change, to the ice cap melt that will cover and destroy the earth. Christians know that’s NOT next, but already happened.

⁷ Drake, Nadia, When Hubble Stared at Nothing for 100 hours. National Geographic. April 24, 2015.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/phenomena/2015/04/24/when-hubble-stared-at-nothing-for-100-hours/> Last Accessed Sept 14, 2019.



Genesis reveals God as a Sovereign Creator
who created us to glory in us and set His love on us in Jesus Christ.

OBJ Three critical understandings of our origin in God as Creator.

1. Creation is ordered and patterned.

The order and pattern in Genesis' creation account reveals God. Every day begins and ends the same; "God speaks", "it was so" and "it was good". Only day two does not record that God pronounced it good. Important numbers order the creation account; there are seven days, ten times "God said"; "Let there be" & "make" and three times we find the word "create" (1:1, 21, 27). Numbers that represent key theological concepts and themes throughout scripture begin in the creation account. Genesis reveals order and pattern that stands in complete contrast to happenstance of other narratives. God orders creation in His work and patterns creation in its origin and function.

2. Creation's order and pattern gives value, designation and meaning to all.

God's order and pattern in creation makes sense of all that is and how it operates. The pattern of creation begins with separation. Separation brings order and further pattern, specifically as seen in the dual use of "day", one as a period of light, and the other as a rhythm or cycle of light and dark for each day, evening and morning. Separation provides definition. Once separated, definition of each aspect identifies its role or purpose in creation; light is the day and dark is the night. Next, definition provides assignment, (.6-7). God gives proper placement to each aspect from which it is to fulfill its role. And finally, assignment determines boundary, (.9-10). Creation reveals God's assigned value, designation and meaning to all by His order and pattern.

3. Creation's order and pattern displays a Sovereign designer who created for divine purpose.

All of creation points to God as a Sovereign Creator and designer of all. Both the Macro view of creation and the micro point to the design of a sovereign Creator. I want to provide two brief illustrations to make this point.

ILLUS **The Micro & Macro view of Creation.** Darwin propagated his "theory" because DNA had not yet been discovered. Had the knowledge of science now know of as DNA been available, Darwinism could've never gained traction. The glory of DNA reveals a unique, distinctive identity on every organism in creation. From the macro view of creation, it was once believed that the earth was the center of the solar system. We now know the sun is the center of our solar system. But the sun does not sit still. The sun orbits and pulls the entire solar system with it.

CLOSE What we learn in Genesis is NOT simply for us to know, but by our understanding and trust in God's Word of what God has done in creation we come to know and understand all that is. Henry Morris reminds us, "the Book of Genesis...is above all else the foundation of God's revelation, as given in the Bible."⁸ Genesis is not simply for us to learn, but by it for us to understand all that we know as from God.

THIS is the story of provenance, our beginning in God. And as we read, study, learn and understand God as our origin, we build a framework through which we can rightly understand all that is. One of the greatest challenges today is NOT that we do not understand the world today. But that we have no way to process or interpret the world today because we have lost our source of origin. Let nothing else tell you of your beginning. GOD created you to glory in you and set His love on you in Jesus Christ.

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⁸ Morris, Henry M. *The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1976), 5.

