

GENESIS 1-2 – THE HISTORY OF CREATION

Introduction

- 1) **Hebrews 11:3** – “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible”
- 2) Continual debate about the historical record of the divine creation of heavens and earth (Gen. 1:1)
 - a) Is Genesis 1-2 a literal historical narrative account of creation?
 - b) Or is it a non-literal figurative/symbolic/mythical portrayal of a “creation” and things have come to be as they are today over millions of years (theistic and atheistic evolution)?
 - c) Does it even matter what one believes? Is there room for many different interpretations?

I) “By Faith We Understand” (**Hebrews 11:3**)

- A) We understand about the “framing” (*katartizo* – to arrange, put in order) of the worlds “by faith” – which comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17)
 - 1) Faith is the evidence, or conviction, of things not seen (or observed; cf. v. 13; Jn. 20:29)
 - 2) Genesis 1-2 is not poetic or mythical language; it is a straightforward historical account
- B) By faith we understand that this “framing” was by the “word of God” – divine creation
- C) By faith we understand that things which are seen were not made of things visible (creation “out of nothing” – *ex nihilo*)
- D) These truths deny that we learn our origins from human science, or that all has evolved by mindless purposeless chance over vast amounts of time, or that matter is eternal

II) **The Days of Creation**

- A) The word “day” is used in three ways in the context of Genesis 1-2
 - 1) The daylight portion of a 24-hour cycle (Gen. 1:5)
 - 2) The 24-hour day, evening and morning – the rotation of the earth on its axis (Gen. 1:5)
 - 3) A definite or indefinite period of time (Gen. 2:4)
- B) All the numerical (first, second, etc.) days refer to a *literal, sequential, and consecutive* period of seven 24-hour days (“evening and morning”)
 - 1) This is the exact and precise way to describe a literal seven-day week
 - 2) Concerns outside the text itself have given rise to non-literal interpretations of “day”

III) **Testimony of Other Scriptures**

- A) **Exodus 20:8-11; 31:17** – parallel made by God between the six days of creation followed by the seventh of rest and the six days of work followed by a sabbath rest
 - 1) Seven-day week period – parallel based on literal, sequential, and consecutive days
- B) **Psalms 33:6-9** – “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast”
 - 1) Confirms instantaneous creation “by the word of God”
- C) **Mark 10:6; Matthew 19:4** – man created “from the beginning of the creation”
 - 1) Jesus affirms the literal creation account – man’s complete origin is from the beginning, and not after millions and billions of years of stellar and geological macro-evolution
- D) **Hebrews 4:3-4** – “works” of creation were “finished” from the “foundation of the world”
 - 1) Affirms that creation completed in short time, not over long eons of macro-evolution

***Conclusion** = Scriptural testimony confirms the literal reading of Genesis 1-2

IV) **Further Considerations**

- A) Does science and scripture disagree?
 - 1) No, not true scientific laws/inquiry/discovery and divine scripture
 - a) Life comes only from life (law of biogenesis) – Genesis 1:1

- b) Kind reproduces only after its own kind (law of reproduction) – Genesis 1:11f
- c) Constant increase in disorder (second law of thermodynamics) – Psalm 102:25-27
- 2) Trouble comes over “scientific” presuppositions of naturalism and atheism that bias the interpretation of evidence
- B) Must account for “apparent age” as a necessary result of supernatural creation
 - 1) A mature, functioning universe and earth created instantaneously will have an appearance of age undetectable to human scientific testing alone (cf. Jn. 2:10)
 - 2) Human wisdom alone cannot discern the truths of the creation and work of God
- C) Natural revelation reveals God’s glory in His creative handiwork (Psa. 19:1); special revelation [God’s word] reveals God’s mind – His purposes and our responsibilities
 - 1) Fallible human interpretations concerning nature itself must not become the basis of reinterpreting or denying the plain teachings of Scripture

Conclusion

While unbelievers and scoffers mock the truth, let us, like Paul in his writing of inspired scripture, affirm the creation account and its details as the true and accurate history of the beginning of the heavens and earth, and of man himself (1 Cor. 15:45, 47; 1 Tim. 2:13). May it help remind us of why we are here (Eccl. 12:13) and what we must prepare for (2 Cor. 5:10). Are you saved from your sins and in fellowship with God?

The Days of Creation

- First Day** – Creation of light, divides the light (day) from the darkness (night)
- Second Day** – Separation of waters in the heavens from the earth by a firmament
- Third Day** – Separation of land and sea; creation of grass, herbs, and trees
- Fourth Day** – Creation of sun, moon, and stars
- Fifth Day** – Creation of fish and birds
- Sixth Day** – Creation of land animals and man
- Seventh Day** – God rested

God “created” – bara (Heb)
 God “made” – “asah” (Heb)

The Parallel in Exodus 20:9-11

ISRAELITES

Six days
 You shall labor and do all your work
 Seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord

LORD GOD

Six days
 LORD made the heavens and the earth
 Rested the seventh day