

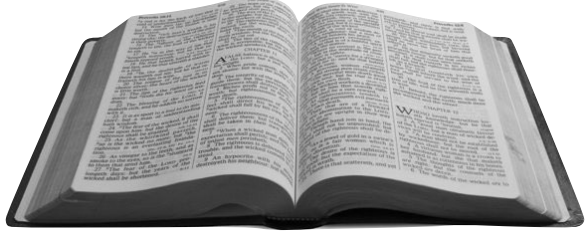
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# THE BEREANS


ACTS 17:11

**Genesis 1**  
**Lesson #5**  
**Creation**  
**02/03/2019**

## *In the beginning* *Genesis 1*



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## Genesis

Creation	Fall	Flood	Babel	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
1-2	3-5	6-9	10-11	12-25	26-27	28-36	37-50

Beginning of the **Human** race                      Beginning of the **Hebrew** race

*Genesis 1*

“<sup>1</sup> In the beginning (when) 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.

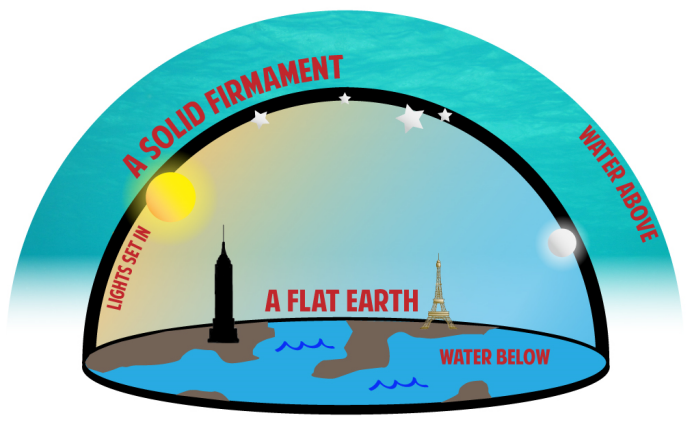
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<sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.”

“<sup>6</sup> Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup> God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.”

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## Ancient Israelite Cosmology



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## *Outline of Genesis 1*

**Gen. 1:1 - Creation of heavens and earth**  
**Gen. 1:2 - The universe lacked its present form.**  
**Gen. 1:3-31 - Six days of creation (formation).**

**Day 1 - light (day and night) 1:3-5**  
**Day 2 - firmament (sky and earth) 1:6-8**  
**Day 3 - land with plants and seas 1:9-13**  
**Day 4 - sun, moon, and stars 1:14-19**  
**Day 5 - fish and birds 1:20-23**  
**Day 6 - animals and man 1:24-31**

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## Three common questions

- How are we to understand this creation account in light of **modern science**?
- What kind of literature are we dealing with - **science, history, allegory, myth, etc.**?
- What does this passage intend to reveal about **God, creation, man, and their relationship**?



## Three false assumptions

- The whole Bible should be read as though it represents **one single genre**.



*How are we to understand these passages?*

*Matthew 4:8*

“Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory;”

*Genesis 3:1*

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

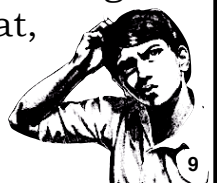


*Matthew 5:29*

“And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

*Genesis 2:17*

“but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”



## Three false assumptions

- The whole Bible should be read as though it represents **one single genre**.
- Gen.1-11 should be judged **by the literary standards of modern culture**.
- Biblical inspiration and authority **demand scientific precision**.



*The conflict is often not between Scripture and science, but between theologians and scientists.*

*1 Chronicles 16:30*

“Tremble before Him, all the earth; indeed, the world is firmly established, **it will not be moved.**”

*Psalms 51:5*

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in **sin** my mother **conceived** me.”

- The problem was the **interpretation** not the text.

## Two considerations

- Is it possible that the language of Gen.1-11 is the **poetic expression of a pre-scientific culture?**
- Do we have to resolve this question in order to **come to an understanding of the intended meaning of this passage?**



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*Hebrew 11:3* “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

**“Faith” is a necessary starting point in explaining origins and primal purposes**

- Science is equipped to explain **how things operate** (secondary means) not **how they originate** (primary means).
- The “primary origin” question cannot be answered without **“faith” presuppositions**.
- Human significance needs more than survival instincts, it needs a **spiritual calling**.

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Original Creation  
Heb.11:3



### Genesis 1 creation narrative.

Summary sentence  
Gen.1:1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Six days of Creation  
Gen.1:3-2:3

Summary sentence  
Gen.2:1

“Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their host.”

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**The Narrative of Creation**  
(The Biblical account)

**The Theology of Creation**  
(Primary means)

**The Science of Creation**  
(Secondary means)



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## Primary means

*Exodus 14:21*

“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided.”

## Secondary means

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## “Primary” and “Secondary means”

*Genesis 1:24*

“Then God said, “**Let the earth bring forth** living creatures after their kind”; . . . and it was so.”

**Does**

“Let the earth (nature) bring forth”  
**imply a natural process?**

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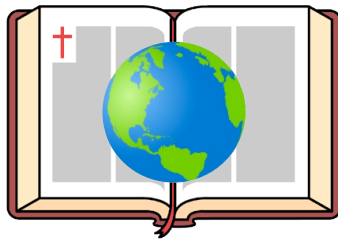
## Two world views

### Materialist perspective



The Bible is to be explained in modern (historical) terms.

### Biblical perspective



The Bible is revelation that gives meaning and a context to the material world.

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## The interpretation of Gen. 1-11

<b>Literal</b> - historical narrative	<b>Literary</b> - cosmological narrative	<b>Mythical</b> - primitive cosmology
authoritative scientifically precise	authoritative theologically directed	not authoritative example of ancient myth
days = 24 hrs	days = framework	days = mythological

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## Literary Framework view of Genesis 1

### Gen.1:1 - summary sentence

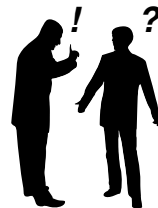
Gen.1:2 forming and filling needed	Gen.1:3-13 forming	Gen.1:14-31 filling
"darkness"	Day #1 dividing light from darkness	Day #4 luminaries
"the great deep"	Day #2 dividing the waters from above and below	Day #5 fish and fowl
"formless and void"	Day #3 dividing land from sea	Day #6 mammals and man

### Gen.2:1 - summary sentence

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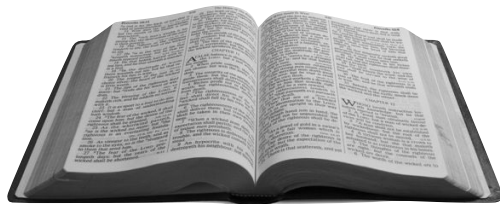
Genesis 1-11 could be understood as revealing inspired, universal, truths that are not presented in a strictly historical or scientific sense.

We can debate the literary nature of these passages as they relate to modern science but we should not miss the intended message.



What too often happens is that Evangelical Christians are fighting over minor issues and missing the point

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## What is the point of Genesis 1?



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## Three challenges of premodern life

### Fear

- **Security** - Nature is unpredictable, unfriendly, and uncontrollable.

### Suffering

- **Health** - disease, accidents, wild life, etc.

### Understanding

- **Meaning** - little knowledge of why, how, and for what purpose things happen.



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*The Biblical account of Creation should be read in light of the cosmological cultures of the 2nd millennium B.C.*

**Ancient cosmologies commonly involved:**

**Paganism** - nature worship (sun, moon, stars).

**Polytheism** - multiple gods (over different spheres of life).

**Anthropomorphism** - gods acting like delinquent humans.

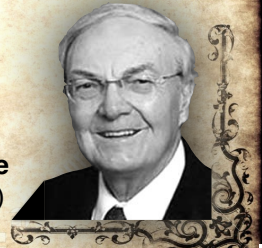
**Chaos** - nature was unpredictable and frightening.



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“The narrator’s concern is not scientific or historical but wishes clearly to establish that it is God who has created all and has dominion over all, including the seas, sun, and moon.”

**Bruce Waltke**  
(O.T. scholar)



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### **What is the point of Gen.1?**

- **Monotheism** - There is but one God.
- **Creator** - Nature is not god.
- **Order** - The world is cosmos not chaos and can be understood.
- **God’s image** - Man is not God but:  
✓ has spiritual capacities and  
✓ moral responsibilities
- **Worship** - The Sabbath is the crowning event of creation.



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“I stand in awe of the wonder of life and can but offer humble thanks for the gift of being a part of the cosmos.”

**Richard Dawkins**



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### **The first creation narrative**

Genesis 1:1-2	Genesis 1:3-31	Genesis 2:1-3
Chaos	Cosmos (6 days of creation)	Sabbath
“And the earth was without . . .”	“And God said ‘Let there be’ . . .”	“He rested from all His work”

*Jewish commentators see the **sabbath** as a central focus of the creation narrative and a symbol of God’s covenant with Israel.*

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שבת  
שלום

**SHABBAT  
SHALOM**

*(The peace that comes from work that has been perfected)*

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