

## GENESIS

### "The Beginnings That Were Not The Beginning"

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#### INTRODUCTION

The Bible is the most important Book ever written. The Bible does not seek to prove itself – it simply states the facts of life involving a Divine God and God’s creation. Genesis (the first book of the Bible) is the basis upon which the entire Bible is structured. Without the Bible and especially Genesis mankind would be incomplete. Genesis explains the foundations of life, history and truth and in so doing the Bible becomes our leaning place and our learning place – it is where knowledge of our past begins. Genesis is where knowledge begins because it begins with God. Genesis is characterized by God’s love, justice and mercy. Without Genesis the entire Bible would be incongruent. All sixty-six Books of the Bible are based on the Book of Beginnings.

Genesis is sustained by the incarnate God of the Creation - Jesus Christ. Anyone who does not accept Genesis as authentic contradicts Jesus Christ and blasphemes God. Therefore, there are no allegories in Genesis – Genesis is a statement of facts originating from God by God’s own inspiration. Genesis explains our origin and is a prophecy of our future. Genesis is where we find ourselves. The other 65 books are a history of where we came from. Revelation is where we are going and what awaits us when we get to our appointed future - if that isn’t cool nothing is cool.

Paradise was lost in Genesis, but is restored in the Book of Revelation. All that God originally intended before the fall of man shall be consummated in the future. Genesis begins with the beginning that was not the beginning in *eternity past*. Revelation ends with the end which is the beginning of forever – *eternity future*.

As I studied each book, I noticed some very interesting contrasts. Following is a comparison between Genesis (the original creation and restoration) and Revelation (the final creation and restoration):

Day and night, divided (Genesis 1:4  
21:25; 22:5)

No night there (Revelation

Land and sea (1:10)

No more sea (21:1)

Sun and moon (1:16)	No sun and moon (21:23)
Man in the Garden (2:8, 9)	Man in the new city (21:2)
River flowing from Eden (2:10) Throne of God (22:1)	River flowing from the
Tree of life in the middle of the Garden (2:9) of the river of life (22:2)	Tree of life on either side
God fellowshiping with man (3:8) (21:3)	God dwelling with man
The curse (3:17) (22:3)	No more curse
Sorrow and tears (3:17) (21:40)	No more sorrow or tears
Eating herbs grown by man (3:18) God (12:22)	Eating fruit produced by
Dying {physical} thou shalt die {spiritual} (3:3)	No more death (21:4)
Evil resulting from fall of man (6:5)	No more evil (21:27)
Tree of life taken away from man (3:24) (22:14)	Tree of life given forever
Removed from Garden (3:23) God (Heaven) (22:14)	Permanently in the Garden of
Salvation promised (3:15)	Salvation complete (5:9, 10)
The rainbow after the flood God's covenant (9:16) – covenant kept (10:1)	The rainbow over God's Throne

There are many other comparisons we could illustrate, but these are enough to establish that the Book of Beginnings (Genesis) and the Book of the Eternal State (Revelation) are inextricably united and dependent on the Sovereignty and Integrity of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is Alpha and Omega – the first and the last (Revelations 21:6). Christ is the beginning and the end of our faith and of existence now and forever. **Christ is more than a dream - He is the Truth come Truth.... even so, come again, Lord Jesus.**

With these things in mind let us together search the foundations of our heritage.

Please open your Bible to:

**Genesis 1:1.**

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**CREATION OR RESTORATION**

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*“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* The first four words “In the beginning God,” tell us two important facts. First: a reference to a point in eternity past before there was anything there was God. Secondly, this is the first mention of God. The Hebrew form of the word God is *Elohim* which is used more than two thousand times in Scripture. The “*im*” ending is the Hebrew plural for God which refers to the Trinity or the essence of God - His Character. Therefore all three members of the Godhead were present at creation and took part in creation.

Next we have the word “*created*” which is the Hebrew word *bara* used only in the qal stem for the work of God and means “**to create something out of nothing**.” In Hebrews 11:3 we read: “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” God spoke and the universe became material, out of nothing, instantaneously.

Next, we observe the word *heaven* (*ha shamajim* in Hebrew). Notice again the “*im*” which is plural. This should have been translated *heavens*, which refers to everything in the universe including earth. The word for earth in Hebrew is “*ha aretz*” the planet earth.

The expanded translation should read: *“In a beginning which was not a beginning, in eternity past, Elohim created out of nothing the universe and planet earth.”* (See also Psalms 19:1; 33:6; Hebrews 11:3; 2 Peter 3:5). These verses are reinforced in Isaiah 45:18: *“For thus saith the Lord (“Jehovah” in Hebrew referring to Jesus Christ) that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else.”* God had a purpose for creation of the universe and the earth. Earth was created to be *inhabited*.

Verse 2: “*And (but) the earth was without form, and void (empty); and darkness was (had become) upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*” It is significant to notice that every verse in the first chapter of Genesis begins with “and” (“waw” in Hebrew). Therefore we know that each verse is sequentially connected to the verse before and after. The actions described in verse one is followed by the actions of verse two and so on. So, we may deduce two things from what we know: 1) that the earth created perfect became void, in order for it to be empty and desolate. Why? - Because God is perfect and God would not create an empty and desolate earth. Or, 2) the other possibility could be that God picked up on His creation sequence at this point in our context for reasons of His own. However, I would suggest that God is not the author of confusion {1 Corinthians 14:33a} and therefore the earth was without form and void for a reason because God did not create the earth “*in vain*” (Isaiah 45:18). So, Scripture is stating in my opinion that “*He created out of nothing the earth, not a waste or desolation.*” The phrase “*without form and void*”- (tohu waw bohu) could be referring to a separate time when the earth had become empty and void. “*Tohu*” in Hebrews means desolation or ruin indicating the aftermath of destruction – perhaps judgment from God. So, apparently there was original animal life on earth and original plant life on earth. If this is the case then there must have been different plants and animals roaming the earth at a point in the pre-historic past. Perhaps this is why we have Dinosaurs bones and fossils of plants that no longer exist.

God stated the facts of creation exactly the way God wanted them written in Scripture. Speculation is good for the soul because it results in faith - “*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter*” (Proverbs 25:2).

If we look at the words “*to be inhabited*” in the original Hebrew we find that they mean “to dwell in blessing.” God created the earth to be inhabited in blessing. The chaos of Genesis 2 does not conform to the peace and blessing of verse one. Therefore, we have another reason to deduce that something catastrophic must have occurred between verse one and two.

When we compare Scripture with Scripture we can discover the hidden things that God has put there for us to search out {Proverbs 25:2}

In Genesis 1:1 we have original creation, but in verse 2 God seems to be describing a restoration more than a completion. Verse 2 describes chaos, formless, void, darkness, with the Holy Spirit moving over the surface of the deep (waters).

## A SUGGESTED ORDER OF BEGINNINGS

**1). UNIVERSE including earth – Genesis 1:1**

**2). ANGELS - John 8:44**

**3). MAN – Genesis 1:26, 27**

I chose this order of chronology because in John 8:44, Jesus said to the religious Pharisees: *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He (the devil) was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he (the devil) speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father (original liar) of it.”* [See also, in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28: 11-19]. Satan’s fall occurred and he was cast out of the third heaven into the first and second heaven. When Satan was cast from heaven by God, the universe already existed and earth as well. Satan’s arrogance [disobedience] resulted in God’s judgment on the creation in the pre-historic past. At some point after Satan’s fall man was created after God prepared the Earth for habitation in Genesis. When Adam fell [disobedience], again, all creation was affected (Genesis chapter 3).

### SUMMARY

A summary of the events that may have occurred between Creation (Genesis 1:1) and Restoration (Genesis 1:2) are necessary: Be sure to compare all Scripture references.

1). A prehistoric catastrophe (God’s judgment on the spirit world) changed the original creation into chaos on the earth until God the Holy Spirit moved upon the face of the waters to begin restoring earth {Genesis 1:2}.

2). The catastrophe was caused by the fall of Satan in Isaiah 14:12-17 & Ezekiel 28:11-19.

- 3). Satan's fall because of pride and rebellion (arrogance, thinking independently of God) apparently turned the pre-Adamic earth into desolation and ruin - chaos (Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 14:17).
  
- 4). The battle between good and evil (Angelic Warfare) apparently began in eternity past when Satan thought independently of God (Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28). It overflowed into human history when Adam thought independently of God. (Genesis 3:6).
  
- 5). We know the earth was not originally chaotic from Isaiah 45:18.
  
- 6). Divine judgment had already been pronounced on fallen angels when restoration of earth began in Genesis 2b. Between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, the earth was already packed in ice. Darkness was covering the ice so that the ice did not melt until the Holy Spirit moved providing heat. Grace changed chaos into blessing. What God did for the earth in restoration, the Holy Spirit does for each believer in regeneration!

In verses 3-31 God is restoring the earth for habitation by man. Further details are provided in vv. 4 - 25 of Genesis chapter 2. I would at this point in my studies agree with scholars who believe the six days of creation are not original creation, but a restoration by additional creation due to Satan's fall. Conduct your own study. Read all sides of the Creation/Restoration issue and decide for yourself. We must learn to disagree with respect and tolerance. Therefore, do not allow different opinions to disturb your faith in Christ. Just remember Christ had you personally in mind when he hung on the Cross. If you have accepted Christ as your personal Savior, the Holy Spirit has regenerated your human spirit from the chaotic life of sin and darkness, just as He restored the Earth from chaos ruin and darkness.

Happy Studying!