

Creation

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

“In the beginning...”

- Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
- In the beginning (when) God (who) created (what happened) the heavens (where) and the earth (what).

“In the beginning...”

- That tells us that matter is not eternal.
- Matter, energy, all things, and life itself have not been going on, in some kind of recycling of universes (or lives), for an infinite amount of time.

When? (Gen. 1:1 – 2:3)

- in the beginning of “days.”
- Genesis one is divided into six days and the day is defined by its first use
 - *“God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.” – Genesis 1:5*



A small green seedling with several leaves is growing out of a crack in a grey, textured rock. The background is a bright, overexposed sky. The image is partially obscured by a black curved shape on the right side of the slide.

Seventh Day

- Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31)
- “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. “ (Gen. 2:1-3)

Creation Days

- All six days of creation were *in the beginning*. The chapter begins with it and our Lord used the same word to describe the creation of man on the sixth day.
 - In **Mark 10:6**, Jesus said, "*But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female.*"
- Such an expression does not reasonably fit some event occurring millions or billions of years after the first day.

A close-up photograph of a hand reaching upwards, palm facing up, towards a bright, glowing sun. The background is a soft, hazy landscape, possibly a field or a beach, with the sun's light creating a warm, golden glow. The image is split vertically by a jagged, torn-paper-like edge, with the right side being a solid black background.

Who Created?

- “Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light!
- Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens!
- Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they **were created.**” (Psa. 148: 3 – 5)



Who Created?

- “Thus says God the LORD, **Who created** the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:” (Isa. 42:5)

Who Created?

- (9)"Woe to him who strives with his Maker?... Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'? (11)Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me. (12) **I have made the earth, And created man on it.** I; My hands; stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded. (Isa. 45:9,11 – 12)



Who Created?

- Jesus confirmed the truthfulness of the inspired reporter's words in Matt. 19:4:

"Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,"



Christ: The Creator

- Paul wrote of Christ. “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him **all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” **(Col.1:15 – 16)**

Christ: The Creator

- John identifies the Christ as God, the Creator. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.**” (John 1:1-3)
- “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” (Rev. 4:11)



What Happened?

- Creation was the making of things, all things, out of that which did not before exist.
- Creation is not procreation. (cf. mom and dad *creating* a baby.)
- Creation is not making again that which already exists – not naturally nor by mutation. (cf. making of a different color of eyes in a fruit fly)
- Creation is not manufacture. (cf. creating a new car)

What Happened?

- Nature did not create nature.
 - Things did not and do not create things.
 - Things were created by God.
- As John reported, *apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*
(John 1:3)





What Happened?

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- If what was written in Genesis 1 and 2 was not fact, but fiction, at what point does the text become factual?
 - If what was written in Genesis 1 and 2 was figurative, at what point does the narrative become literal and upon what basis?
 - We start down a very “slippery slope” when we deny the factual and literal account of creation as given by God, via Moses and confirmed by Christ, Himself.

Creator of Life and Resurrection

- Acts 17:22 – 31
 - 24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.
 - 25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."

Creator of Life and Resurrection

- Acts 17:22 – 31
 - 30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,
 - 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Creation and Resurrection

- If God can create life, can He not also resurrect life?
 - “Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?”
 - (Acts 26:8, 23)
 - Those who doubt the “creation” account based upon naturalistic explanations will eventually doubt the “resurrection” account.

Do You Believe?

- At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane." 25 "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. 26 The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do." 28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

How Did God Create All Things?

- Genesis 1 and 2 not only tell us that God created all things, but goes on to report *how* He did it. We may desire a fuller explanation, but what He revealed is sufficient.

How Did God Create All Things?

- (3) Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
- (6) Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."

How Did God Create All Things?

- 9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.
- 11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, (vegetation) and it was so.
- 14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens... **and it was so.**

How Did God Create All Things?

- **24** Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: ...and it was so.
- **26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;...
- **31** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

How Did God Create All Things?

- **What does the chapter say about how God created the heavens and the earth?**
- **In every case and on every day, God said...and it was so...and it was good!**
- **To be *good*, it must have been created just as He had said.**

How Did God Create All Things?

- **Let them praise the name of the Lord, For *He commanded* and they were created. (Psa. 148:5)**
- **By the *word of the Lord* the heavens were made, and by the *breath of His mouth* all their host. (Psa 33:6)**

Naturalistic Answers Fail

- Resurrection from the dead (1 Cor.15)
- How do you explain resurrection? (15:35)
 - How do bone fragments and dust come to life again naturally?
 - How does the resurrected body come from dust?
 - Note the Holy Spirit's answer (1 Cor. 15:36 -42)

Why did God do it that way?

- Three questions:
 - Why did God create in the first place?
 - Why did God create the heavens and the earth so large?
 - Why did He create them in the manner He did? “and God said...and it was so.”

Why did God do it that way?

- Why did God create the universe?
 - As a temporary habitat for man (Gen.1:27)
 - Why is God so concerned about us (Heb. 2:6 – 8)?
 - What did God do once man sinned (Eph. 3:8 –10) ? He sent His Son to die in our place.
 - Note the connection (Eph. 3:9; 1:3-4)

What was the purpose of creation?

- That God might receive the glory (Rev.4:11)
 - "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
 - "And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" (Rev. 5:13)

Why so large?

- “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.” (Psa. 19:1)
- "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:8 – 9)

Why so large?

- 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. (Rom. 1:20)

Why did God make it by His *word*?

- Demonstrates the great power of His spoken word (2 Cor. 4:1-5)
- *For it is **the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness**, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 4:6)*

Why did God make it by His *word*?

- God's word had power... then.
- His word has power... now.
- God's word caused the creation...then.
- His word, today, causes the new creation.
 - If you take away the power of His word to cause creation, you take away the power of the gospel to cause the new creation.

How Did God Create All Things?

“It is not just that we (especially we who are scientists, Larry Dickens, Ph.D.) are incapable of explaining, by natural processes, the how’s of what God did to create. It is simply that God did not use natural processes; so therefore, natural processes cannot explain at all. I could as easily explain how Hezekiah’s sundial backed up, how Jesus turned water into wine, or how Jesus said to Lazarus, ‘Come forth,’ and it was so, as to explain how, ‘God said...and it was so’ scientifically.”