

In The Beginning: Session 02 – God Created The Heavens And The Earth

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Review

Why study Genesis?

1. We need background on the history of God and Man.
2. Our understanding of the main ideas of the Bible begins to be laid out in Genesis.
3. We need to understand the beginnings of God's dealings with the human race.

Genesis In A Nutshell

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. The story of Creation; | 4. The story of the origin of the |
| 2. The story of the Fall; | nations; and, |
| 3. The story of the Flood; | 5. The history of the patriarchs. |

- Authored by Moses
- He said that in the beginning God created all that exists out of nothing
- Elohim, the Mighty God, demonstrated His great power in creating all things

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- Moses says that in the beginning God created the heavens (*shamayim*).
- In Hebrew, Heaven means what is above, lifted up over us.

The Hebrews understood that there were at least three heavens.

- The first or atmospheric heaven is the sky, and outer space.
- Have we ever really considered the heavens, *the work of His fingers*? In every galaxy there may be 100 million stars or more, and there may be 200 billion galaxies in the observable universe!
- See the images of the Hubble Extreme Deep Field image, and see how small a piece of the sky it covers.
- The third heaven is the abode of God and the holy angels.
- The second heaven is a spiritual realm that surrounds the earth. (Revelation 12)

God... created the Earth.

- We are the abode of life, and the privileged planet.
- What is the Goldilocks Factor? Tweak any of our physical factors more than just a little bit and we die.

By His Word, He made the heavens and the Earth. Romans 1:20 says, "*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...*"

Genesis 1:2

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

- This is how the world appeared before God began His creative activity.
- The Hebrew can be read here to say that the Earth *became* without form and void. This has given rise to what is called the *gap theory*.

- People base this belief on Isaiah 45:18, where God says that He did not create the Earth without form and void. Ideas:
 - An angelic civilization on the Earth and other planets?
 - A pre-Adamic civilization that God destroyed?
- There cannot have been physical death on the Earth before Adam (Rom. 5:12).

How old is the Universe?

- Many scientists would say that the Universe is about 13 billion years old.
- But some features of the Earth and the Solar System make us think the Solar System is only 10,000 years old.

Different interpretations as to what Moses meant when he spoke of six days:

- Six literal 24-hour days
- Six epochs or eras (long periods of time)
- A gap of maybe billions of years between verses 1 and 2, and then God decided to refurbish the Earth and create everything in six literal days
- Something totally symbolic of God’s activity.

Moses and Jesus Christ and His Apostles believed that God literally created everything out of nothing, including the human race; they believed in a literal Adam.

God’s Activity

The Holy Spirit is hovering over the waters, like a hen.

This picture of the Spirit's activity is picked up in the NT: *...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 Corinthians 4:6 NKJV)

Structure of the Days

There is a very interesting structure to the six days of Creation: three days of forming, and three days of filling, and these correspond to each other.

<i>Day 1. Light</i>	---> <i>Day 4. Luminaries</i>
<i>Day 2. Sky (waters)</i>	---> <i>Day 5. Birds & Fish</i>
<i>Day 3. Land (plants)</i>	---> <i>Day 6. Animals & Man (using plants for food)</i>

- Patterns of sixes and sevens
- Important patterns: God is used 35 times, Heaven 21 times, and Earth 21 times.

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Size of Hubble eXtreme Deep Field on the Sky

