

In the Beginning

A Study Through the Book of Genesis

Lesson 2: Chapter 1:1-8

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

I. The Origin of Creation (verses 1-2)

- A. The Creator (verse 1): Verse one begins by declaring God as the creator of the heavens and the earth.
 - 1. The Hebrew word for God here is the word *Elohim* and means the one, true, living, holy, creator, redeemer God.
- B. The Condition (verse2):
 - 1. The earth was without form, and it was void, meaning it was empty, and it was dark.
 - 2. God created “out of nothing” from the Latin term *ex nihilo*. From the formlessness, the emptiness, and the darkness.
 - 3. God’s Spirit was “hovering” over the darkness.
 - a. The word “hovering” means to linger with, linger near, or to stay with. This gives the sense of God’s protection over creation.
 - 4. As creation began, we have the presence of God the Father and God the Spirit.
 - a. John 1:1-5 helps us to understand that God the Son was also present at creation. So, the Holy Trinity is defined from the very beginning of creation.

II. The First Day of Creation (verses 3-5)

- A. The method of creation:
 - 1. God said it (“Then God Said...” verse 3). God spoke it into existence – *ex nihilo*.
 - 2. Jesus did it (John 1:3).
- B. God created light.
- C. God saw the light and that it was “good”. Good means “as it should be,” and “in accordance with God’s will and plan.”
- D. God divided the light from the darkness. He called the light Day, the time from sunrise to sunset. He called the darkness night, the time from sunset to sunrise.

III. Creation Time Theories

There are several theories behind the amount of time there was on each creation day.

- A. Young-Earth Creationism Theory: holds to a literal 24-hour time-period for each day of creation. This view is held by Bible believers, scholars, and even many scientists.
 - 1. The Bible uses evening and morning in the scripture for each creation day. Evening is the Hebrew word for sunset and morning in the Hebrew word for sunrise.
 - 2. Each creation day account in the Scripture ends with the numerical day – verse 5. The word “day” is from the Hebrew word that in scientific terms means one revolution of the earth on its axis, a 24-hour period.

- B. The Day-Age Theory: this theory says that each “day” is a long geographical epoch that is millions or billions of years.
 - 1. Problems with this theory:
 - a. The Hebrew word for “day” means a literal 24-hour period.
 - b. The sun was created after plants. Plants need sunlight to live and grow and could not have survived millions or billions of years without the sun.
 - c. This theory contradicts God’s creation by divine command is literal day periods.
 - d. Exodus 20:11 uses the six days of creation to teach the doctrine of the Sabbath which would be confusing if the days were long periods of time rather than 24-hour days.
- C. The Creation-Time Theory: this theory says that each day was a long period of time, but the time for each consecutive day got shorter. (Day 1 was 8 billion years, day 2 was 4 billion years, and so on.)
 - 1. Those who hold to this theory site Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8 (But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.)

IV. The Second Day of Creation (verses 6-8)

- A. God created a firmament. The word from the Hebrew means a great expanse of sky that separates the upper and lower waters. God would use this expanse to set the planets, moons, and stars.
- B. The firmament, or sky, divides the waters below the firmament from the waters above the firmament. The waters below the firmament God would gather into seas. Those above the firmament are most likely referring to the atmospheric moisture and clouds.
- C. God called the firmament (expanse of sky) Heaven. This includes:
 - 1. The first heaven, meaning the sky and atmosphere (Psalm 104:12 – the birds of the heavens.)
 - 2. The second heaven, meaning the stars and outer space (Genesis 1:14-19 God placed the sun, moon, and stars in the “expanse of the heavens”).
 - 3. The third heaven, meaning God’s dwelling place or Paradise (2 Corinthians 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.)