

# In the Beginning

Series: "Back to the Beginning!"

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## 1. God Created.

Gen 1:1 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Rev 4:11 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> "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."

Col 1:16 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

- Nothing did not produce nor give rise to something.

QUESTIONS OF "HOW" AND "WHY"

## 2. The Days of Creation.

Gen 1:1-2 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

### 4 primary views on the nature of "days" in Genesis 1:

#### 1) Young Earth view.

- Literal successive 24 hr days.
- "yom" word "day" in Hebrew – "morning and evening"

- Earth is less than 10,000 yrs old.

## 2) **Day-Age view.**

- Each day represents successive periods of unspecified lengths of time.
- According to this view, creation is as old as contemporary science claims it is – billions of years.

“yom” – word “day” in Hebrew means day but it also can speak of an age of unspecified duration.

*Gen 2:4 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.*

*Pr 25:13 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> Like the cold of snow in the time [yom - day] of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters.*

*Ps 90:4 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.*

*2 Pet 3:8 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

## 3) **Restoration view (gap theory):**

- This view claims that a large gap of time occurred between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2.
- 1<sup>st</sup> creation is very old and the “re-creation” phase with an understanding of the “days” of Genesis 1 as 6 literal 24 hr days.

*Gen 1:1-2 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

- The words “without form and void” are used together in only two other places (Isa 34:11; Jeremiah 4:23). In both cases they point to a condition brought by God’s judgment.
- It is usually said that Satan's fall occurred at this time, and his rebellion against God caused a catastrophic judgment to fall upon the earth

- Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-18; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-12 – Describe Satan’s fall.

#### 4) Framework view.

- The days are not in chronological order but in a logical order. 1<sup>st</sup> 3 days represent FORM (sky, sea, land) and last 3 days represent FULLNESS (birds, fish, animals and man).

### GEOCENTRIC VIEW:

*Psa 104:5 (ESV) <sup>5</sup> He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved.*

*1 Sam 2:8 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> ...For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’s, and on them he has set the world.*

*Josh 10:12-13 (ESV) <sup>12</sup> At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, “Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” <sup>13</sup> And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day.*

We should not be afraid of “Good” science.

*Psalm 19:1 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

### 3. Handle differences in a biblical manner.

*2 Tim 2:24-25 (NIV) <sup>24</sup> And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. <sup>25</sup> Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,*

*1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) <sup>15</sup> But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

*James 3:17 (NIV) <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*