

CREATION

- Gen. 1:1. "The beginning" here means the beginning of our universe, with its elements of time and space and matter. The Hebrew word translated "beginning" usually describes an initial period of time, not a single point in time. It seems likely that this term "beginning" refers to the seven days in Genesis chapter one. It was during this period that God created the universe and all within it and rested in satisfaction. This idea is found in the plain statement of Ex. 20:11: "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy."
- The eternal God existed before creation (Ps. 90:2). He created the material universe out of nothing by His creative power. Col. 1:16; Heb. 11:3; Rev. 4:11. Man is therefore responsible to his Creator, God (Rom. 1:18-21).
- The book of Genesis has truths which are like seeds that grow and develop throughout the Bible.
- The first day of creation is covered by 1:1-5. The light here is not sunlight as the sun was created on the fourth day (1:16-18). On the second day, God made an expanse of space called "heaven" (v.8). which separated the waters on the earth from a layer of water, in a vapor state, above the heavens. This huge vapor canopy was released upon the earth as rain in the flood at Noah's time (Gen. 7:11).
- The third day. God created the dry land into the earliest continents, perhaps out of material that was in the earth's watery surface. The seas were formed in basins. The earth brought forth trees and grass.
- The fourth day and fifth days. The sun, moon and stars were created for light, for days and years, and for signs and for seasons, which means "appointed times" in Hebrew. Signs – to tell the glory of God (Ps. 19:1-4) and send other signals to man (Matt. 2:1-2, 9-10; Rom. 1:20; 10:18; Joel 2:30-31; Lk. 21:25-27; Rev. 6:12-17). The major "appointed times" are outlined as seven convocations in Lev. 23, on dates tied to the lunar/solar calendar. These seven feasts portray the major events of God's redemptive program in history (such as Christ's death as "Passover," His resurrection as "Firstfruits," and the birth of the church at "Pentecost"). On the fifth day God created the sea creatures and the birds.
- The sixth day. The land animals were created, each according to its kind. The theory of evolution claims that all life forms evolved from one small life form into many different kinds of life forms. But, this is impossible and no fossil has ever been found that was a bridge between two kinds. Different dogs (the canine kind) can be bred to develop various dog breeds, but no dog has ever evolved into a horse! Man was created on the sixth day as the climax of God's creation.
- Man created in God's image, after His likeness. Man was created to reflect God's glory, to shine forth His magnificent character. To accomplish this, man was made similarly to God (in His image) as a being with ability to think and reason, with emotions, with a free will, with a moral capacity, and with a spiritual capacity for communion with God (Gen. 1:26). Jesus Christ is the perfect man, expressing God perfectly (Jn.1:17-18; 14:9; 2 Cor. 4:4; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:1-3). The great potential for man in Gen. 1:26-27 was lost through the sinful fall of man (Gen. 3). However, when we become believers, God's plan is for us to be conformed to the image of God's Son (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18). Gen. 1:26 also shows God's plan for man to rule over the earth. We will reign with God in eternity (Rev. 22:5). Believers can also be rewarded with responsibility to reign with Christ in the next age of 1,000 years, if they live faithfully in this life (Matt. 25:14-23; Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 20:4-6). Ps. 8:3-6 similarly speaks of God's plan for man.
- All that God made in the first six days He saw as "very good" (1:31). At that point the fall of man into sin and the rebellion of the angels had not occurred. In God's eyes it was good to make creatures with a free will so that they are not forced to love Him and serve Him, but only do so out of their free choice.
- Gen. 2 provides a more detailed account of the creation of man. Gen. 2:23-25 not only gives us God's plan for human marriage, but also illustrates God's intention for the church to live under the headship of Christ and to be in spiritual union with Him in order accomplish God's purpose. See Eph. 5:22-32.