

Genesis 1A

- Overview of the Book
 - Two parts
 - Beginning of the all things (Chap 1-11)
 - Beginning of the Jewish race and nation (not study this)
 - Genesis may be the most important book of the Bible
 - Some consider it a book of stories (Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Noah, etc.)
 - Most important written work in history
 - Foundation of all things
 - Matter, energy, Life, Marriage, Family, Society, Morality, Law, even the 7-day week
 - Books of firsts
 - First human beings, marriage, birth, death, lie, trial, murder, first self-defense, ownership of property, natural death, rainfall, boat, nations formed, cities built, calendar established, first example of God's grace, first covenant, on and on
 - More quoted by other Bible authors except Psalms and Isaiah
 - Quoted as literal text by Jesus Himself
 - By itself, Genesis reveals virtually everything we need to know about the person of God and man's relationship to God
 - Reveals His character, nature and person
 - Gen – Faithfulness & trustworthiness
 - Exo – Sovereignty
 - Lev – Holiness

- Num – Graciousness
 - Deut - Loving
 - His purpose for the creation
- Genesis also explains everything much about man
 - Reveals the source of our character
 - Reveals our purpose for existence and the reason for our condition
 - And it reveals God's intentions for our relationship with Him
 - Genesis makes sense of everything in life
- Author & Time
 - Moses wrote the Torah (around 1445-1405 while wandering in the desert)
 - Originally 1 work – not split into 5 books (Mark 12:26)
 - Scripture backs this up
 - John 7:19
 - Luke 24:27
 - John 7:23
 - Covers human history from about 4,000 BC – 1800 BC
 - Must go from Exodus to Revelation to cover an equal amount of time
- Name Genesis
 - Means beginnings
 - From the genealogies

[Gen. 1:1](#) ¶ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

[Gen. 1:2](#) The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

- The heavens and earth refers to the physical earth and the atmosphere
 - Not the heaven where God's dwells
 - We will examine why a little later tonight
- From the first verse, we learn three important things
 - First, our world and everything in it had a beginning
 - There was a point before this existed
 - There will also be a point after it has ceased to exist

[Rev. 21:1](#) ¶ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

- Irony: We are eternal but the world we see is not
- God existed before all else
 - In the beginning, God...He was already there
 - God was around before the physical creation
 - Therefore nothing in the creation is more powerful than God
 - Nothing in the creation can outlast God
 - Nothing in the creation can thwart God
- Third, therefore our beginning is measured against the origin of our existence, not by the origin of God's existence
 - Time did not exist until the creation itself existed
- The Traditional view
 - Verse 1 & 2 are a summary of the entire chapter
 - Verse two describes an early starting point for God's work
 - Verse 3 and later describe the successive steps of creation as the world increases in order and complexity
- Verse 1 and verse 2 together also give rise to an interesting alternative view

- Gap Theory (Recreation Theory)
 - Stems out of the language in verses 1 & 2
 - Gap theory says that verse 1 is the initial formation of the earth
 - Verse 2 is God’s judgment on the earth (due to Satan’s Fall)
 - Verse 3 begins God’s reforming of the earth
- The Gap Theory support
 - Language
 - Erets hayah tohu bohu
 - (disjunctive) Conjunction Subject Verb
 - Other places where a similar construct occur is used, the verb is translated “became”
 - The formless and void phrase can be read as a phrase used in Isaiah 34:11 and Jer 4:23 to describe a state of judgment
 - Satan’s description

[Ezek. 28:11](#) ¶ Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,

[Ezek. 28:12](#) “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,

“You had the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

[Ezek. 28:13](#) “You were in Eden, the garden of God;

Every precious stone was your covering:
The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;
The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;
The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;
And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets,
Was in you.

On the day that you were created
They were prepared.

[Ezek. 28:14](#) “You were the anointed cherub who covers,

And I placed you *there*.
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

[Ezek. 28:15](#) “You were blameless in your ways
From the day you were created
Until unrighteousness was found in you.

[Ezek. 28:16](#) “By the abundance of your trade
You were internally filled with violence,
And you sinned;
Therefore I have cast you as profane
From the mountain of God.
And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub,
From the midst of the stones of fire.

[Ezek. 28:17](#) “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.
I cast you to the ground;
I put you before kings,
That they may see you.

[Ezek. 28:18](#) “By the multitude of your iniquities,
In the unrighteousness of your trade
You profaned your sanctuaries.
Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you;
It has consumed you,
And I have turned you to ashes on the earth
In the eyes of all who see you.

[Ezek. 28:19](#) “All who know you among the peoples
Are appalled at you;
You have become terrified
And you will cease to be forever.””

- Against the Gap Theory

- Similar structure to the beginning of Chapter 2
 - Hebrew grammar would expect a different verb construct if it were describing items in a sequential order
 - Earth and heavens are described as beginning in verses 6-10
 - All Biblical cross references say the earth was created in 6 days, leaving no time for the earlier creation
 - Strange interpretation of the text – not the natural reading
- Some try to use the Gap Theory to find room to place the dinosaurs in between

- Address this later (end of Chapter 1)
- Verse 2: God begins creation with an initial stage where everything is formless and void with the Spirit hovering (*rachaph* - fluttering)
 - God is already shown as present in two persons
 - John 1 adds the third person

[Gen. 1:3](#) Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

[Gen. 1:4](#) God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

[Gen. 1:5](#) God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

- God spoke light into existence
 - Evidence of the third person of the Trinity?
 - John 1:1-5
 - Comprehend – **katalambano** - overtake, lay hold of
 - Saw light was good
 - Saw – raah – reflected upon, concluded
 - Good – tob – good as in best, beneficial
 - Good, beneficial for what?
 - And God separated light from darkness
 - God named the light and dark
 - Naming means one has authority (sovereignty) over something
 - What two things are most curious about this description of creation?
 - Light without an apparent source
 - Where does it come from? God
 - Darkness is “created”

- Not merely the absence of light

[Is. 45:6](#) That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
That there is no one besides Me.

I am the LORD, and there is no other,

[Is. 45:7](#) The One forming light and creating darkness,
Causing well-being and creating calamity;
I am the LORD who does all these.

- Connection with good and evil

[Job 30:26](#) “When I expected good, then evil came;
When I waited for light, then **darkness** came.

[Psa. 104:19](#) He made the moon for the seasons;
The sun knows the place of its setting.

[Psa. 104:20](#) You appoint darkness and it becomes night,
In which all the beasts of the forest prowl about.

[Is. 9:2](#) The people who walk in darkness
Will see a great light;
Those who live in a dark land,
The light will shine on them.

[Is. 9:3](#) You shall multiply the nation,
You shall increase their gladness;
They will be glad in Your presence
As with the gladness of harvest,
As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

- In what way was light and darkness separate
 - The separation was not in a physical way, but a temporal
 - Evening, morning, first day
 - From the first day, God has established the way to count time
 - The origin of time through the establishment of sequentially changing events
 - God says one day has passed
- This opens a new theory
 - Day Age Theory

- Each day represents a long period of time
 - Why?
 - Science has introduced a new idea – old earth
 - Christians have been taught the science and accepted it
 - Now they are trying to fit their theology into what a secular world is teaching,
 - Should be the other way around

[John 14:15](#) ¶ “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

[John 14:16](#) “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

[John 14:17](#) *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

- Biblical response
 - Day = yom appears 2,267 times
 - Nearly 2,000 times it means a 24 period
 - Only 9 times is it used to mean age
 - Evening (ereb) and morning (boqer) are also literal terms that always mean a normal 12 hour period
 - Later in this same chapter we will use the terms years and seasons, so the author could have used those words if appropriate
 - Golden Rule of interpretation demands we use the literal, ordinary and primary meaning of any word when there is no contextual basis to do otherwise
 - What cross references do we have in the Bible?

[Ex. 20:8](#) ¶ “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

[Ex. 20:9](#) “Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

[Ex. 20:10](#) but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.

[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.

[Ex. 31:16](#) ‘So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.’

[Ex. 31:17](#) “It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased *from labor*, and was refreshed.”

- Therefore, Biblically, there is no basis for assuming anything other than a literal 24 hours period as defined by the normal changing of night and day
 - Jews has days beginning at evening for this reason

[Gen. 1:6](#) ¶ Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

[Gen. 1:7](#) God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.

[Gen. 1:8](#) God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

- Take this apart...
 - Waters below the shamayim
 - Which heavens – atmosphere
 - Waters above the shamayim
 - Which heavens – same
 - Atmosphere
 - Why separation?
 - See verses 1-2
 - All matter mixed together
 - Water separated from non-water matter

- Expanse (raqia)
 - Suggests the formation of air pressure or atmosphere
 - Liquid water and water vapor
- Calls the expanse heaven
 - Heaven – shamayim
 - 3 heavens – same word, different places
 - 1st heaven – the one in view here (birds fly)
 - 2nd Heaven found in 1:15
 - 3rd heaven is God's home (2Cor 12:2)
- Evening, morning second day (fill in chart)