

Building on Biblical Foundations Genesis 1:1(b) - Genesis 1:19

“As it was in the Beginning . . .”

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Genesis 1:1 “In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Last week we spent a considerable amount of time discussing the importance of laying a firm foundation. The foundation of my teaching and the foundation of my life is the Bible. That is the source that I rely on for wisdom, guidance and instruction. We also discussed last week how the Bible (or the Word) and Jesus are one. So when I say I am building on the foundation of the Word of God, I am also saying I am building on the foundation of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. For in the beginning was the word and the word was God and the Word is God. John 1:1.

We established that the beginning we are referring to in this first verse is not the beginning of ALL things, but the beginning of the formation of the earth, the heavens, all created things pertaining to the earth, and the beginning of God’s relationship with humanity. This is also the beginning of the story of the redemption of Man.

The God of whom we speak is also more clearly defined in this first sentence. Moses – the author of Genesis – used the word Elohim for God and we know that he was referring to the Trinity – the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit – because Elohim is the plural form of the Hebrew word for **Supreme God**.

We have “When” = The Beginning

We have “Who” = The Supreme God (plural) also known as the Trinity

That brings us to “What?” In the beginning God did what?

“He Created” in this passage is the Hebrew word **bara**. According to Ellicot’s commentary for English readers, “the word *bara*, "he created," is a

rare word, and employed chiefly or entirely in connection with the activity of God.”

What did he create? He created the heaven and the earth. We understand this phrase to mean the universe, which is more precisely described in the next verses.

Verse 2: “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” **KJV**

“Without form and void” translated from **Tohu** which means: formlessness, chaos, confusion, and **Bohu** meaning emptiness. Tohu and Bohu, in a state of confusion and emptiness, is how the world begins.

And darkness was upon the face of the deep. This darkness is the absence of light. I could go on and attempt to explain this through the application of physics or even biology, but for our purposes today it is enough to know that darkness is the result of the absence of light. The Word of God says that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5 “God is light. In him there is no darkness at all.”

So in Verse 2 - what we see is the result of what exists when God is *not* present. The application is both physical as well as spiritual. Without the presence of God we find chaos, confusion, emptiness and darkness.

This darkness was “upon the face of the deep.” Here the word *deep* means: sea or abyss.

Tehom (Hebrew) meaning: deep, sea, abyss.

So we have darkness – the absence of light (or God) covering the abyss or sea.

Then what happened? This is where it gets exciting:

“And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters”.

Ruach (Hebrew) meaning: breath, wind, spirit.

GOD CREATES THE FIRST DAY:

Genesis 1:3 “And God said, *Let there be light: and there was light.*”

Genesis 1:4 “And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.”

Genesis 1:5 “And God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.”

God spoke and with his Words he created something from nothing. With his words matter was formed and principles to sustain matter. With his words order replaces chaos and governing principles are established. From nothing comes not just life, but every resource for sustaining life. He begins with light – this is not the sun as that is not yet created. He simply creates light, which overcomes the darkness, pushes it away and then he relegates light to represent day, and darkness to represent night.

GOD CREATES THE SECOND DAY:

Genesis 1:6 “And God said, *Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the water from the waters.*”

Firmament comes from the Hebrew word Raqia.

Raqia: an extended surface, or expanse meaning a visible arch of the sky.

“In the midst” actually means in a bisection or center. So this arch of sky bisects or divides the water. And the waters actually means: water.

The result is something that acts as a divider of the water separating the water in the center. Scientists have referred to this as a protective vapor shield that acted as a filter between the sun and the earth. This is the vapor that was destroyed when God sent the flood.

You can visit www.AnswersinGenesis.org to search out the science behind creation in greater depth.

Genesis 1:7 “And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.”

Genesis 1:8 “And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.”

Heaven (in Hebrew Shamayim) meaning: heaven, or sky. This word is used interchangeably sometimes meaning the place where God and angelic hosts reside and other times to be the sky.

GOD CREATES THE THIRD DAY:

GENESIS 1:9 And God said, *Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear:* and it was so.

GENESIS 1:10 And God called the dry *land* Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that *it was* good.

GENESIS 1:11 And God said, *Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth:* and it was so.

Genesis 1:12 And the earth brought forth grass and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

GENESIS 1:13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

Here we see God create not just plants but the ability for every plant to reproduce after its own kind. There is a hint of eternity, the fingerprint of God in every seed bearing plant. Take a look at God’s provision.

His provision is abundance. Inside each plant is the potential for life for many, many more plants. And each one of those plants has the same potential and so on and so on.

God's provision is the opposite of lack. Keep this in mind, because we will address lack, and famine, and decomposition, and decay. These concepts are nowhere to be found in beginning of the creation of the garden of Eden.

GOD CREATES THE FOURTH DAY

Genesis 1:14 And God said, *Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*

Genesis 1:15 *“And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.”*

Genesis 1:16 “And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.”

Genesis 1:17 “And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,”

Genesis 1:18 “And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:19 “And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”

And so God creates the Sun and the Moon and the stars. This is day 4. Notice he created the light and the plants *before* he created the Sun and Moon. Just an interesting note – Why does this matter?

Last week we talked about unity of the scriptures, about how everything in the Word of God supports itself. Let's take a quick peek at the new heaven and new earth that God will create when he restores all things:

Revelation 21:1 “Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, ***for the old order of things has passed away.***”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

And then . . . verse 22 says:

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Revelation 1:23 “***The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.***”

24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, ***for there will be no night there.***”

26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

So while we are at the beginning of the story . . . there is already laid from the beginning the foundations revealed at the end. How can there be a city – a dwelling place for humans without the sun? Without night? How will we stay warm? How will we sleep?

But notice the second part of verse 4: There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, ***for the old order of things has passed away.***” Here the word for “old order” in Greek is Protos = meaning beginning, or first. Translated to Hebrew it also means: First.

There shall be a restoration to how things were at FIRST. To how the way things were at creation – before the fall. The Lord is light – in him there is no darkness at all. So we can expect that in the new earth, there will be no need for sun or moon. There won't be any night because in Him there is no darkness at all. He will banish the night along with suffering, sorrow and pain.

This is why we study Genesis. We can better understand where we are going, when we understand how it began.

We are building a foundation. Last week started with the first three blocks. This week we added five more. Precept upon precept we are building a firm foundation on the Word of God.

Next time we will continue with the more of Creation. If you want to read ahead – finish reading Genesis 1 and read all of Genesis 2.

As we study creation you may want to visit this site:

<http://www.Answersingenesis.org>

for more creation science information.