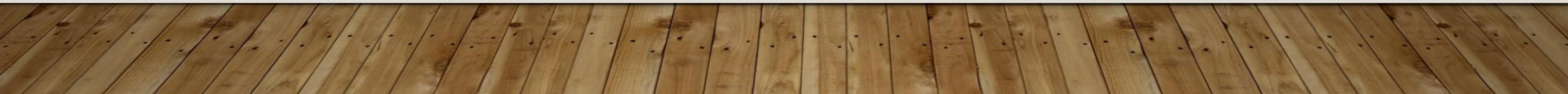


THE GOD OF CREATION **(GENESIS 1:2-25)**



One of the unfortunate results of the predominance of evolutionary thought in our educational system and in our entire culture is that it has hindered even us as Christians from reading Genesis 1 from the viewpoint Moses intended when he wrote it. We get bogged down trying to reconcile the creation account with modern science and miss why it is given to us at the very beginning of God's revelation. We "miss the view" God intended to give us.



The creation account should point us to the Creator who alone is worthy of our worship, enjoyment, and obedience.

Moses' purpose was that in thinking about the creation account and in observing the world around us, we should focus on the greatness of God who brought it all into being through the word of His power. God is referred to by name 35 times in the opening section of Genesis 1:1-2:3. Clearly, He is the great subject; creation is merely His handiwork, here to tell us of Him. As Paul states in Romans 1:20. Thus we can enjoy creation as a marvelous source of revelation, compatible with and expounded upon by the more specific revelation of the written Word.

II. The creation account refutes many errors of false religion.

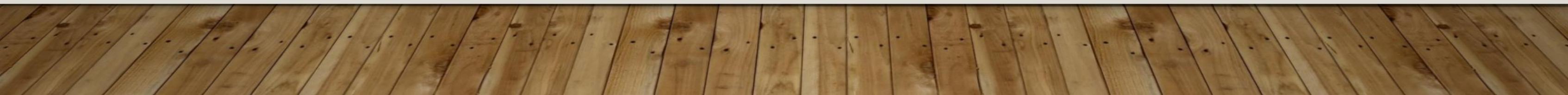
Moses asserts that God alone created all that is. He didn't consult with anybody. He didn't have to answer to anybody. He just spoke the word according to His inscrutable purposes and called into being all that exists. This is in great contrast to the pagan stories of origins of other ancient peoples. Most of them portray a great struggle between powerful forces, where one god finally wins and creates the earth. But Genesis reveals God as effortlessly creating with a mere command: "And God said, 'Let there be ...'" He is sovereign over and separate from creation, because He made it by His word.

Since He created the sun, moon, and stars, He is over them and in no way are they to be worshiped. The fact that the stars are created by God and assigned a fixed purpose by Him shows that they do

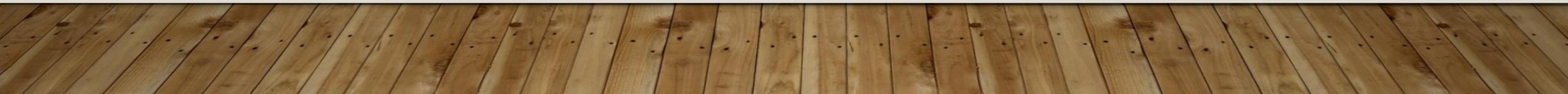
not have any ability to determine human destinies, thus refuting the widespread practice of astrology.

There are many ways, by the way, of dealing with the matter of light being created on day one, but the sun, moon and stars not being created until day four. One approach is to attribute the light of day one to God Himself. In the future heavenly city, there will be no sun, but God Himself will be its light (Rev. 21:23; 22:5).

The creation account refutes several other common religious errors. That one God created all that is refutes polytheism, the belief in many gods, and dualism, the view that the good and the evil gods are equal. That He created matter refutes that matter is eternal. That God pronounced creation “good” shows that matter is not evil. That God granted to His creation the ability to be fruitful and multiply refutes the pagan fertility cults.

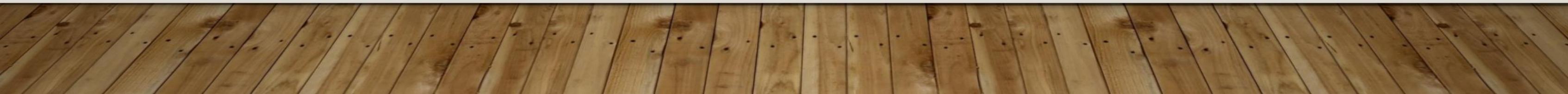


That God appointed man to have dominion over the creation refutes the radical animal rights movement, but also calls us to responsible stewardship of the earth and all its resources. And, that God created all that is by the word of His power refutes evolution by chance and all the philosophical baggage that goes with it. Thus all these errors of false religions that have continued to rear their heads down through the centuries are refuted by this first chapter of Genesis.



III. The creation account exalts many of God's attributes and purposes.

As we look at what God has made and as science probes even deeper into the mysteries of the distant universe on the one hand, it should stagger us with the infinite power, wisdom, intelligence, creativity, and glory of God. Let's look at just a few of the attributes and purposes of God as set forth in Genesis 1:



****God is sovereign and all-powerful--He is eternal and self-sufficient. He is the only Being who needs nothing or no one else. When He created the heavens and the earth, He did not hold consultations with anyone because there was no one else! He simply acted in order to bring about His sovereign purpose. If He had chosen to do so, He could have spoken the whole thing into existence in a single sentence. I believe He used the six days of creation to teach us and set a pattern for our existence, that we are to work six days and rest on one each week. That God merely had to speak in order to call into existence what did not exist shows His infinite power and should humble every person and even every nation before Him (2 Pet. 3:5; Ps. 33:6-9)!***

****God is intelligent--***How scientists can study creation and deny the presence of an intelligent Creator behind it is beyond me. From the tiniest insects to the movements of the planets there is overwhelming evidence of an intricate, interdependent plan. One reason I am inclined to take the six days of Genesis literally is that you cannot take out major sections of creation without upsetting the balance of the rest.

****God is orderly*—Obviously, this is an orderly universe. Such order does not come from random chance.**

Many scholars have pointed out the orderly progression of the days of creation.

Formlessness to Form:

Emptiness to Fulness:

Day 1: Light & dark

Day 4: Lights

Day 2: Sea & sky

Day 5: Fish & birds

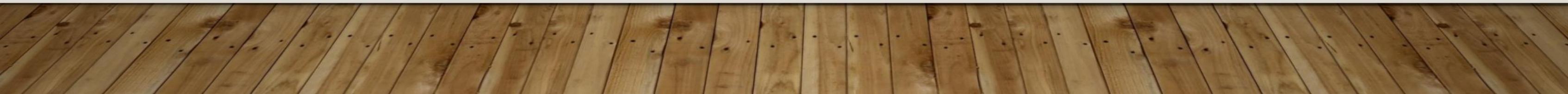
Day 3: Land & plants

Day 6: Animals & man

Days 1-3 remedy “Formless”; Days 4-6 remedy “Void.”

*God did things in an orderly manner.
The orderliness of all creation shows
us not only that God is orderly, but also
that He wants us to live orderly,
purposeful lives (1 Cor. 14:33, 40).*

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****God is personal--***He is not a mere cosmic force, but a personal being. He speaks, He sees, He makes value judgments about what He has made, and He creates man in His image as a personal being.

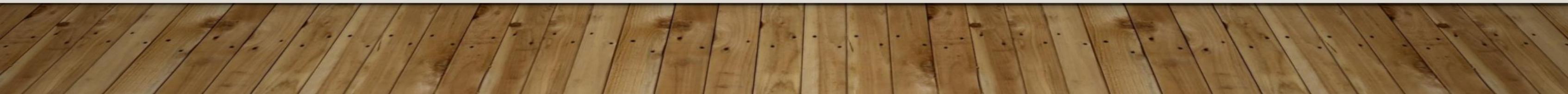
Have you ever thought about, “How did language evolve?”
Maybe you assume that cave men spoke in unintelligible grunts, and that gradually language developed. The vocabulary develops according to culture, and grammar and usage may change over time. But you’ve either got the whole language system or none. Evolution can’t explain that. Creation can. Man was created in the image of a personal God who communicates in language.

**God is good--*The text repeatedly emphasizes, “And God saw that it was good” (1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). This shows the personal God’s care for His creatures, especially for man. The thrust of chapter 1 is that God is preparing the earth to make it habitable for man. The good is that which is good for man. God’s seeing is an important concept both here and throughout Genesis. The first special name given to God is Hagar’s “El Roi,” the “God who sees” (16:13). God saw her desperate need and provided water to spare her son’s and her lives. God’s seeing the goodness of His creation that He has provided for man sets the stage for the tragedy of chapter 3, where the woman *saw* that the tree was good, but she was seeking goodness for herself in defiance of God and His good provision. When we come to the judgment of the flood, we read, “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth” (6:5). Because He is good in His very being, God must judge all sin.

IV. The creation account calls us to worship, enjoy, and obey the Creator.

When we see the wonders of what God has made, including the marvels of our bodies, it should cause us to exclaim with the psalmist, (Ps. 95:6). When we enjoy a beautiful sunset or see the Milky Way on a dark night, we should exclaim, (Ps. 19:1). As those who know the Creator personally because we have been reconciled to Him through faith in Christ our Savior, we can truly revel in and enjoy the world that He has made, even though it is marred by man's sin. We can live each day in submission to His will as revealed in His Word, fulfilling the purpose He has ordained for our lives.

Part of our enjoyment of God involves enjoying Him through the beauty of His creation. Part of our obedience to God the Creator means being careful, responsible stewards of the earth and its resources. As stewards over the earth, we can use the earth's resources in a responsible manner, but it is sin to waste, destroy, and exploit the earth with no regard to the impact we're making.



V. Conclusion

God is not only the Creator of heaven and earth; He also creates new life in those who have been damaged and destroyed by sin. Sin plunges our lives into chaos, emptiness, and darkness. God's Spirit moved into that first formless void, and God spoke the word: "Let there be light"; and there was light. Even so, in speaking of the power of the gospel, and alluding to his own dramatic conversion with the blinding flash of light on the Damascus Road, Paul writes, 2 Cor. 4:5).

It is the nature of the Creator God to turn chaos into order, emptiness into fulfillment, and darkness into light. He still uses His Word to break through the chaos and darkness of the human condition, flooding it with His saving light. His Spirit hovers over lives, preparing them for God to make of them a new creation. Seek God in His Word and ask Him to create in you a clean heart through Christ.