

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03 Dec 2023	Genesis 01	The First Week
2) 10 Dec	Genesis 02	The First Couple
3) 17 Dec	Genesis 03	The First Sin
4) 24 Dec	Luke 02:1-15	The First Christmas
5) 31 Dec	Genesis 04-05	The First Murder
6) 07 Jan 2024	Genesis 06-07	Judgment
7) 14 Jan	Genesis 08	Land!
8) 21 Jan	Genesis 09-10	Protect
9) 28 Jan	Genesis 11	Stalled
10) 04 Feb	Genesis 12-14	Promised
11) 11 Feb	Genesis 15-16	Impatience
12) 18 Feb	Genesis 17	Established
13) 25 Feb	Genesis 18-20	Purged

INTRODUCTION

AUTHOR: Moses (based on Jewish tradition and confirmation by Jesus – John 5:46-47)

DATE WRITTEN:c1446-1406 BC, Time of the Exodus

STYLE: Prose narrative punctuated by a few brief poems (There are no linguistic evidence that Chapters 1-11 are anything else than factual, historical events)

COMMON INTERPRETATION METHODS OF GENESIS:

- Historical, Literal, Plain Sense Young Earth Creation (YEC)
- Allegorical Spiritual and moralistic teachings
- Gap Theorists Billions of years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2
- Framework Reclassifies the genre of Genesis 1 as non-literal
- Day-Age Theory One day is a thousand years
- Progressive Creationism God started the ball rolling

DILEMMAS WITHIN GENESIS (MYTHS, MIRACLES, OR FACTS)

- Unusual events we will explore include:
 - ♦ 6-day creation, with the Earth being created before the stars
 - ♦ Special creation of man and woman, Adam & Eve
 - ♦ First and 2nd generation from Adam & Eve marrying each other
 - ♦ Talking Serpent
 - ♦ Longevity of Man (900+ years)
 - ♦ Noah & the Flood (local or global?)
 - ♦ Tower of Babel and the dispersion of the people into races
 - ♦ Many Animals “evolve” from vegans to meat-eaters

Evolutionary and Long-age Challenges
1. Big Bang theory (BBT) is widely accepted among scientists?
✦ Since the Earth was created before the rest of the universe, most Christians are at odds with the BBT, but so are many other scientists for scientific reasons
✦ Physics breaks down with the BB model. Plus where did all the matter come from that was condensed into a small package
2. Fossil evidence gives credence to evolution and long ages?
✦ Fossil evidence gives credence that a catastrophic global flood buried a lot of living things very quickly all over the world
✦ Everyone has the same evidence. But what are our biases and assumptions we use to interpret the evidence?
3. The distance between celestial bodies, in light years, proves the earth and the universe are billions of years old?
✦ Long-agers also have a light travel challenge called the horizon problem . The BBT cannot explain how light could have traveled across the universe to produce uniform “background” temperatures. Some areas should be hotter or colder than others
✦ Also, since we can see 40B light years in one direction and 40B light years in the opposite direction, why don't secular scientists say that our universe is 80B years old instead of a meager 15B years? Because if our universe is much older than 15B years, every star would be a cold, burnt out rock

What did Jesus, the Creator, Have to Say:
♦ Jesus believed in Creation & in Adam and Eve MARK 10:6
♦ Jesus confirmed Abel MAT 23:35
♦ Jesus confirmed Noah and the Flood MAT 24:37-39
♦ Jesus believed Moses JOHN 5:46-47
♦ Jesus confirmed Jonah's story MAT 12:40; LUK 11:29,30
♦ Jesus said every word in the Bible is crucial MAT 5:18
♦ Jesus even cared about tenses (“I am”) MAT 12:26, 27
♦ Jesus is acknowledged as the Creator of all things in Heaven and in Earth JN 1:1-3, COL 1:16, EPH 3:9, HEB 1:1-3

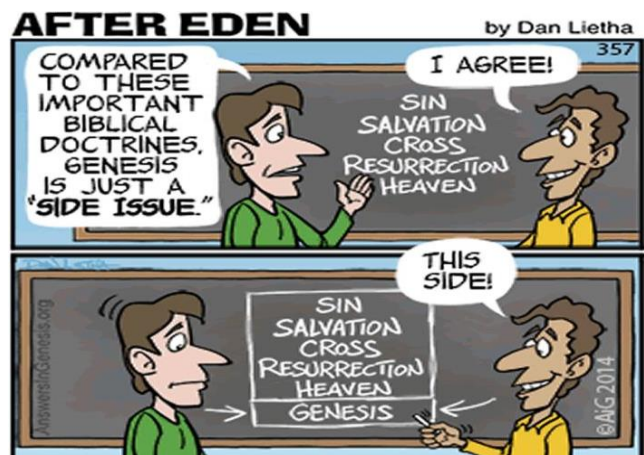
- Based on how Jesus literally accepted Genesis events as factual history, so should we. After all, He was there from the beginning, and He did not make any corrections to His word

STARTING DEFINITIONS

- **True or Real Science.** Is observable and repeatable
- **Secular Science.** Based on a biased philosophy we only have a material universe devoid of God and supernatural intervention
- **Macro Evolution.** Amoebas to Man (Goo to You). Based on a blind faith that is anti-science. E.g., 1) Life does not come from non-life; 2) Intelligence does not come from a mindless process; and 3) Elements of design must come from a designer
- **Micro Evolution.** Adaptation within a species (i.e., poodles & Great Danes; Asian & African elephants; grizzlies & polar bears), BUT one species does not become a new and different species
- **Supernatural Intervention.** God created our laws of science to be explored and discovered. The miraculous would circumvent such laws and make our endeavors to “subdue” the earth meaningless. Therefore, God’s supernatural interventions are few, of short duration, and far between (e.g., 6-day creation, miracles of Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, the Apostles, and the 2 witnesses in Revelation 11)
- **Providential Wonders.** God easily works within the natural laws He created for mankind to accomplish His will individually and globally (i.e., from Noah’s Flood to directing each of our steps)
- **ATHEIST ASKS KENT HOVIND WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqDrk2YeMdQ>

FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINES FOUND IN GENESIS

- Why do we believe in marriage between 1 man and 1 woman?
- Why do we promote the wearing of clothes?
- Why is there morality—right and wrong?
- Why are we sinners—what does that mean?
- Why is there death and suffering in the world?
- Why is there to be a new heaven and a new earth?



Passage	Comments
Genesis 1:1	
A Mystery from the Beginning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. We get to the very 1st verse of the 1st book of the Bible, and we have a mystery – “In the beginning, gods created...Elohim – plural (2200x in bible). Eloha (singular – 56x) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We know what the verse says, but what does it mean since we know there is only One God? Does it mean: Many gods? Many rulers/judges? God and/or angels? Trinity? See Deut 6:4 Plural noun “gods” used with singular verb “created” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> E.g., “he creates” – singular noun, singular verb “they create” – plural noun, plural verb “gods creates” – plural noun, singular verb renders the typical interpretation – “God created” Another interpretation based on Hebrew linguistics is One God used in a plural form to stress His Majesty. We must answer the critics – How can we fight sin and convert sinners if we cannot discern absolute truth, even in the 1st verse in the Book of Truth Again, we can only go so far. God did not give us all the answers to our many questions cf Is 45:15 We have enough answers to have a rock-solid faith, and the skeptics have room to doubt without being forced to believe The Holy Trinity created the Time/Space/Matter continuum → the trinity of trinitiescf. Col 1:15-19 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> “In the Beginning” → Time is created (Past, Present, Future) God created Heaven → Space includes Height, Length, Width ...and the Earth → Matter is created (Solid, Gas, Liquid) 	
Genesis 1:2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v2. The earth was/became formless and void <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Christians inject the GAP Theory (millions/billions of years between v1 and v2). This is inserting a biased doctrine into the passage, and therefore unwarranted Also notice “darkness was upon the face of the deep” – God not only had to create light (aka, the radio spectrum) to reflect off of the objects within His creation, but He even had to create darkness Psalms 104:20 	
Genesis 1:3-23	5 Days of Creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This passage does not deal with the age of the earth. That issue will come up later in Chaps 5-11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> However, DAY means a 24-hour period – not a time-less period Theistic evolutionists have to take considerable license with Scripture to justify that a Day means millions of years, and how vegetation created on Day 3 survived for long periods of time without the Sun – which wasn't around till Day 4; and how birds created on Day 5 evolved before the dinosaurs which were created on Day 6 How could there be Evening and Morning on Days 1-3 if there was no sun and no sunlight? This is a point of reference as the earth seems to be revolving on its axis. Where is the point of reference? Israel, in all probability, since God considers His land to be at the center of the earth Ezek 5:5
	Day 6 – Creation of Land Animals and Man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Man and woman made in the Image of God – what does this mean? Were angels also created in the image of God? When were angels created? We do not know specifically when angels were created (presumably within these first 6 days), but we do know they were created with intellect, freewill, and the ability to love God

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Man's purpose – to rule/manage God's handiwork <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work was something to be enjoyed And that day is coming again
1:27	Poetry Is Expressed for the First Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the first occurrence of poetry in the OT – which is about 40% poetry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mention of man being made in the image of God twice in this poem, and 3x in this passage invokes importance Consider this. Even if all of Genesis 1 was poetic in form that would not rule out that the Earth was created as stated. Poetic form does not always exude exaggeration. For example, if I was to inject the phrase “God is good all the time; all the time, God is good” in a conversation I made a statement of unexaggerated truth, though it was poetic in form
1:28	Men and Women are Equal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Man and Woman were equal partners in this endeavor to be fruitful, to fill the earth, and to subdue/manage it. How should we subdue the earth? Sin has tainted our partnering relationship. We now struggle with competitiveness and even slavery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today, the world is even struggling with gender neutrality, gender swapping, and same sex unions How do we fix this perversion of God's truth?
1:29-30	Man and Animals Were Initially Vegetarians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every creature “which has life” was considered having a living soul (Hebrew “nephesh”) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other creatures, such as insects and worms are considered “soul-less” Science sees a vegan diet as the healthiest of diets
1:31	Everything was “VERY GOOD” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Man was the epitome of God's creation – Not Angels, not Klingons No sin yet, so no death, and no billions of years To have billions of years of death prior to Adam being created nullifies things being “Very Good”

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Genesis is the foundation of our belief system. *“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”* **Psalms 11:3**
- How hard should we defend this truth?

RESOURCES

- AIG www.AnswersinGenesis.org
- CMI www.Creation.org

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 2. We are introduced to another perspective of creation, and more attention is given to Man and Woman



Evolution vs Creation