

## Genesis One

Gen 1:1 (NIV)<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The Bible doesn't explain that there is a God. It states that only fools say in their heart that He does not exist. In the beginning of time – the beginning of created things – before that we are not told but we know God – Elohim, always was and is and will be. The first thing created is the heavens – that is not the stars but space itself. There had to be space created to fill it. The earth was made before the Sun, before the stars, before the other planets if you take the Bible literally.

It could be argued the Bible is not a book of science but a book about God and his relationship with man. If that is the case, this account is not scientific details but spiritual truths. Either way – God is Creator, without Him nothing else would exist. Either you believe matter always was and the big bang happened to the fine tuned chance of 1 in 10 to the 120<sup>th</sup> power or that there was a Creator behind it all. Which takes more faith?

<sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. The word was could also be 'became' and this is where the 'gap theory' is based. It has been suggested that God makes nothing empty and dark and that this is a result of the fall of Satan, a destruction of the first creation, and the beginning of a new one.

If we take it at face value, God made an empty earth and the Spirit began to brood over the waters. The rest of the chapter is about God filling this earth He made. Passover is the same picture of protectively hovering over like a mother bird her young. Later in Scripture we find that waters represent people or nations. Certainly the Spirit hovers over nations creating new life in what was void of life. Ps 104:30

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. There had to be such a thing as light before there could be stars, the sun, photosynthesis, etc. God is plural (im) In the second verse we have the Spirit. In the third verse we have his Word – the Son. He is the Light of the world. When God said "Let there be light" He was figuratively sending his Son into this world. The Son is not the photons God spoke into existence, He is illumination of what is reality. God is light and in him is no darkness at all.

<sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.  
<sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

God separates good from evil, truth from lie, the children of God from the children of this world. He calls us out and separates us unto Himself. We are called children of the light and of the day. 1Thess 5:5 The earth must now be rotating. The light source? Evening and morning could also be translated chaos to order. First day is literally day one. First is comparative. There is nothing to compare it to at that moment so it is day one or the transformation one of the chaos to order.

In Hebrew the word for day *yowm* is a period of time, not necessarily 24 hours. We would think of it as a 24 hour day because of the evening and the morning. But the sun has not yet been created. Some use this fact to argue for periods of evolutionary time in which certain things were created. Notice also that the Hebrew day begins with the evening not the morning as we think of it in the West.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water."<sup>7</sup> So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.<sup>8</sup> God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day. There was a layer of water above the sky and one large ocean. In-between those two bodies of water was the sky. If water is a figure of the people – what would this separation of people be? Could it be those of the earth and those of heaven, sons of God and sons of their father the Devil? In this passage we readily think of the atmosphere and yet in Moses day there was no such understanding.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.<sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. And so plates of the earth lifted up and the continents were formed (perhaps united as one mass) along with the bodies of water. This gathering together may picture the people of God who would gather together to worship. To this point God has called Light good and now gathering together is called good. Everything He does is good, but we should see the spiritual picture of what is good to God. Ps 73:28

<sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.<sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.<sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day.

Vegetation was created the third "day". The sun is yet to be created, but there is light. Each plant is a type or kind and reproduces according to its kind. Jesus said you do not gather figs from thistles. The spiritual picture He drew from this is that you can tell a person's heart by the evidence of what his life produces. Mt 7:20. Man is messing with this part of God's creation today and trying to alter genes, making plants different. They still do not grow tomatoes on potato plants, but they are working on it. Hybrids are sterile. Why? Genesis 1:11 It is good for Christians to 'produce' Christians. We should produce after our kind.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years,<sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.<sup>16</sup> God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.<sup>17</sup> God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth,<sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

The fourth day God set the stars and planets, the sun and the moon in the heavens he created in verse 1. "The vast galaxy we live in is spinning at the incredible speed of 490,000 miles an hour. But even at this breakneck speed, our galaxy still needs 200 million years to make one rotation. And there are over one billion other galaxies just like ours in the universe." Life Application Bible  
What does it mean to govern or rule unless we are speaking in symbolic terms - Then the Sun is Jesus Christ giving light to the Children of the Day, their head and ruler. The moon a lesser light - He has some truth but just enough to trick and deceive. He has no real light of his own. He may present himself as light but his other side is all darkness. He rules the night and children of the night. It is good that there is separation of good from evil or the good would become corrupted.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."<sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.<sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."<sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

On the fifth day God created the birds that fly and the fish and creatures of the sea. If you have been diving you have seen the sea teeming with creatures. The birds and sea creatures have filled their allotted spaces.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.<sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

All the land animals were next. Like all God's created things, it was good. He has filled that empty earth He created.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

In verse 26 Elohim (god in the plural) said, "Let us..." The Father and Son and Spirit create together man in their image. There are a number of ideas as to what this means. One is triune – body soul and spirit. Another is that man is capable of being clothed in glory and was so in the Garden before the fall. As creation looked upon Adam and Eve they saw the glory of God upon them. Thus the realization of nakedness and God's work to bring us back to glory. Another is to rule and reign as the following words may suggest. They were given authority over and creative ability, mental capacity like (not the same as) God. God expected man to be lord over the earth, have it subject to him. At the same time man was to be a good steward over this creation and not destroy it.

The first command God gave man was to multiply, the next was to subdue the earth. Subdue or have dominion also means to reign. Man was not to serve the animals but the animals to serve man. The fate of animals is determined by man as we will see in the flood.

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

<sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.

No food restrictions in the beginning. Everything God makes and does is good because He is good.