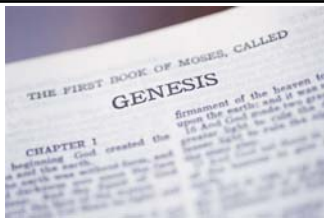


"Genesis 1&2"

June 14, 2003



Genesis; is primarily a book of beginnings. In the Greek and Hebrew the word means “birth,” “genealogy,” or “history of origin.” The book of Genesis is a wonderful study.

Moses the writer of Genesis as well as the first five books of the bible, known as the Pentateuch. (pen- i- to) These five books are also known as the “Law of Moses.”

Did you know that on November 8, 1981, the New York Times reported results of a data analysis by a computer at the Technion, Israel’s institute of technology? Scholars fed the computer information related to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible — Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy—including facts, style of writing, and vocabulary. After analyzing the data, the computer concluded that a single author wrote all five books. If there is any doubt about the writer of the Pentateuch, there is also Jewish tradition and biblical testimony that Moses was the single author of the first five books of the Bible. The most likely time for the writing by Moses of the Pentateuch is probably around 1446 to 1406 B.C. Approximately 2500 years after the creation.

Genesis is about a monotheism (mon-o-theis-i-is-an) God – (that’s the doctrine that there is only one God and it teaches that the one true God is sovereign over all that exists) as Christian, this is what we believe. The God of the heavens and the earth, of light, and darkness, of seas and skies, of land and vegetation, of sun and moon and stars, of sea, and air and land animals, of human beings (which are made in the image of God), made on the final day of creation, the very climax of creation, man and woman. Merely by speaking, God brought all things into being! But, the secular books, society, educational system would have us believe that the earth, plants, animals, humans all evolved over millions of years. Genesis clearly shows the world did not just

happen but was created, not by many gods, not by evolution, but by one God. Scientist and the world are still searching for that so called missing link. When you really think about; what other way can this world have been put together except by one God, who had the most perfect and the most wonderful master plan. The way nature works, the way the body heals itself, the day, the night, all that's been put together in a perfect orderly fashion. Only man has messed up this perfect law of order. If you believe the Bible you have to believe Genesis as well as the entire Bible. Paul tells us in II Timothy 3:16 that *"All Scripture is inspired by God"* Genesis reveals the glory and the character of God and what he has done.

The first two chapters of Genesis which is what we will go over today are about the "Creation." As you read and study the book of Genesis you will see it took two chapters for creation, then in the third chapter is the fall of man. "Didn't take man long to undo a perfect world," to enter sin into the perfect garden of Eden. Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, the ONLY tree that they were not to eat of. Then in the next chapter, (4) was the first murder, Cain killed Abel, his own brother, man morally started going down hill real fast. That's what happens when man takes control of his destiny and leaves God out. The story of Adam and Eve teach us much about the nature of sin and its consequences.

Then in chapter 6, just a short time later, man morally continues to go downhill to the point that only one family that was without sin, the family of Noah. Noah and his wife with their three sons and the son's wives, a total of eight people were saved from the flood. Why was this family saved? The bible tells us in chapter six that "Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God."

How about that, out of this entire book, "The Bible", it only took six chapters for the Lord to prepare to destroy the earth with a flood because of the wickedness of the world. Except for Noah's family, all were sinners in the sight of God. The Lord says in chapter six, verse six that "He was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart." A Lord that created the heavens and the earth, a perfect world, it only took six chapters for man to grieve the heart of our Lord.

I could go on and on, but now let us get to the lesson, the creation in Genesis.

Chapters 1&2.

~The Creation~

1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

In the beginning there was God, He was even there before the beginning; He had no beginning as it tells us in Revelation 22:13, "*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*" [NASB] And then in Psalms 90:2 it says "*Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*" [NASB] He is greater than Creation, and He is separate from Creation. As wonderful and creative as creation was, He is still even greater. Can you imagine the mind, the power, the thought, the imagination that went into creating this world; from nothing?

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 earth was dark; can you imagine darkness 24 hours a day, never any light? Sounds a little boring? But, God was soon to remedy that.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

God spoke light into being. God spoke creation into existence. God just spoke the Word and it happened. John tells us in John 1:1 – "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*"

4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

This was day one; God spoke into existence light, and separated the light from the darkness. There was a big bang alright, when God spoke, it happened. As a matter of information; this is one place where the pagan sun god came from, light on the first day. This is also where we get some of the history behind Sunday as a day of worship since Sunday was named after the sun and the day of light. As you may know each day is named from a heavenly planet. -Sunday – Sun; Saturday – Saturn; etc.

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

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.

8 God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was day.

9 Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

II Peter 3:5 says "For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,"

[NAS] Nothing but waters were mentioned until the ninth verse, God said let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let dry land appear. He made dry land out of water.

10 God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so.

12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.

13 There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;

15 and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

16 God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also.

17 God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,

18 and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good.

19 There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

20 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."

21 God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

23 There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

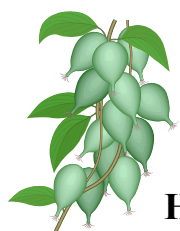
24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so.

25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."



29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

Here God gives Adam and Eve a diet of seed plants and fruits. If you will notice in verse 11 that God created seed plants and fruits with seed in them. This was for Adam and Eve, all part of the master plan.

30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.

Apparently at this point in time all living creatures; man, animals, birds, fish were vegetarians as stated in verses 29-30, there were no flesh eaters. In Genesis 3:18, green plants were given to man and then meat was added to man's diet after the flood, quoted in Genesis 9:3. I think it is also interesting that Isaiah speaks of the animals living together in complete harmony when referring to the new heavens and new earth, it's in Isaiah 65:25 "The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD. [NASB] This seems like a complete circle; God created a perfect world, man sinned and made it imperfect as well as morally corrupt. Now it will take the return of God to make it again a perfect, orderly world.

31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Notice in this verse that God said, "Very good," He said "good" in previous verses at the end of each day of creation. But when He completed His work on the sixth day, it was Very Good. There also seems to be a debate about the time period of days in the creation. Some believe each day is a long period of time, maybe thousands of years. I'm inclined to believe that a day is a day as we know it today. God said, there was evening and there was morning on the sixth day. If God never changes and time has never changed, then evening is evening and morning is morning as it is today, a twenty-four hour day. Of course this is just my opinion, based on my understanding of the Bible.

2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

God rested on the seventh day, not because He was weary or tired, not because He didn't know what to do next, not because He was confused, but His creative work was completed – and it was totally effective, absolutely perfect. He didn't have to go back to repair, repeat or revise anything that He spoke into existence. It was perfect.

3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

God blessed and sanctified the seventh day. At this point it was not called the Sabbath, the first occurrence of the word Sabbath itself was spoken by Moses in Exodus 16:23 “then he said to them, “This is what the LORD meant: Tomorrow is a sabbath observance, a holy sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning.” [NASB] **Then in Exodus 20:11 it says “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. [NASB] Exodus 20:11 quotes in part from Genesis 2:3, but substitutes Sabbath for seventh day.**

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.

5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.

6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

No other animal or thing did God breathe into it to give it the “breath of life,” only man. Only man was made in the image of God. God and man have a unique relationship compared to the other living things God created, since man was made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27) We’re all physically different, but made in His image.

8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.



9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

11 The name of the first is Pishon (pie-hon); it flows around the whole land of Havilah (have-i-er), where there is gold.

12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium (dell-e-um) and the onyx (onn-its) stone are there.

13 The name of the second river is Gihon (guy-hon); it flows around the whole land of Cush.



14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

Although we don't know for sure where Eden was, the evidence seems to point to the lower part of the Babylonian valley, the area between the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers. The area referred to as the cradle of civilization. This would be the southern part of modern day Iraq. (see map) Man was to work the garden in accord with the divine blueprint to perfect His will. This shows us man was made to work, not to be of idle mind. Also man was charged to govern the earth responsibly under God's sovereignty.

16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;



17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

God expected them to live in the ways of righteousness that He set forth. If you think about it, Adam and Eve had only one commandment, "do not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God's requirements for people are more than arbitrary rules by which we must live. God's requirements are designed to bring the greatest good to us. Doing what is declared right by God is always in our own best interest. As you can see here, He gave man the power of choice and set before him the privilege of growing in divine favor. This was the beginning of the moral discipline of man. He created humans with the freedom to choose sin and death, or to live according to His master plan of life and live forever. In God's wisdom He laid out the

consequences of sin, it was plain, “you will surely die.” (Genesis 2:17) What did God also let us know, “that only He could make us happy,” no other god, no other human and no other thing, nothing else in this world can take the place of God. There’s a void in each of our lives that only God can fill.

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

In this verse we have the first marriage, God’s creative work was not complete until he made woman. Was she made from the dust of the earth as man was? No, she was made from the side of man. From man’s flesh and bone; in marriage, man and woman become one flesh. If you noticed, it was Adam and Eve, not Bill and Tom or Sadie and Jane. It’s male and female, man and woman; the Bible is very clear on this subject. The goal in marriage should be more than friendship; it should be oneness. As one author puts it, “God forms and equips men and women for various tasks, but all these tasks lead to the same goal –honoring God. Man gives life to woman; woman gives life to the world. Each role carries exclusive privileges; there is no room for thinking that one sex is superior to the other.” Of course this doesn’t mean that everyone should be married;

you may be called to be single. I think being single gives you more utility for serving God. (I Cor. 7:38) Even if single, your goal would still be to glorify and honor God. But if you choose marriage, it is one flesh united with God for one purpose, to glorify Him. Someone has said that “woman was taken not from man’s head to rule over him, nor from his feet to be trampled upon, but from his side, under his arm, to be protected, and closest to his heart, to be loved.”

25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

As you know this was before the fall, before sin, before eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, notice they were not ashamed. Have you ever observed how a little child can run unclothed through a room full of strangers with no embarrassment? The mind of a small child reminds me of the verses in Matthew 18:3 and 4 when Jesus said; *“Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* I think Jesus was referring to sinful human pride in these verses.

These first two chapters of Genesis give us numerous examples and ways to live by and they explain the wonderful way God created the universe and all the living creatures. It was a “Big Bang” alright, but not in the sense of evolution, as the secular books, educational systems and politically correct people would have you believe.

Man was created to walk and talk with God, to love and obey God, to listen to and learn from God, to serve and please God and to glorify and enjoy God forever.

God tells us in Genesis, in the very beginning what we are to do and what He expects and what will happen if we break His laws. His laws are the same today as it was in the beginning, over 6000 years ago. Hebrews 13:8 tells us *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”* [NASB] I hope you will think about these two chapters in Genesis this week. Think about the way God created you and me, in the image of God so we could communicate with Him. No other animal is able to do that. Think about the perfect world before the fall of man and the commandments and the penalty you will pay if you break God’s Laws as Adam and Eve did.

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Dewey E. Fox, Servant of our Lord Jesus Christ

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