

Creation



to Babel

A Commentary for Families

KEN HAM

First printing: October 2021

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Master Books®, P.O. Box 726, Green Forest, AR 72638
Master Books® is a division of the New Leaf Publishing Group, Inc.

ISBN: 978-1-68344-290-5

Digital ISBN: 978-1-61458-789-7

Library of Congress Number: 2021945528

Cover and interior design by Diana Bogardus

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Illustrations by Bill Looney

except for the following.

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to all the Christian parents doing their best to raise up godly offspring, and who have that earnest desire to obey God's instruction to enable their children to:

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:11).

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Introduction

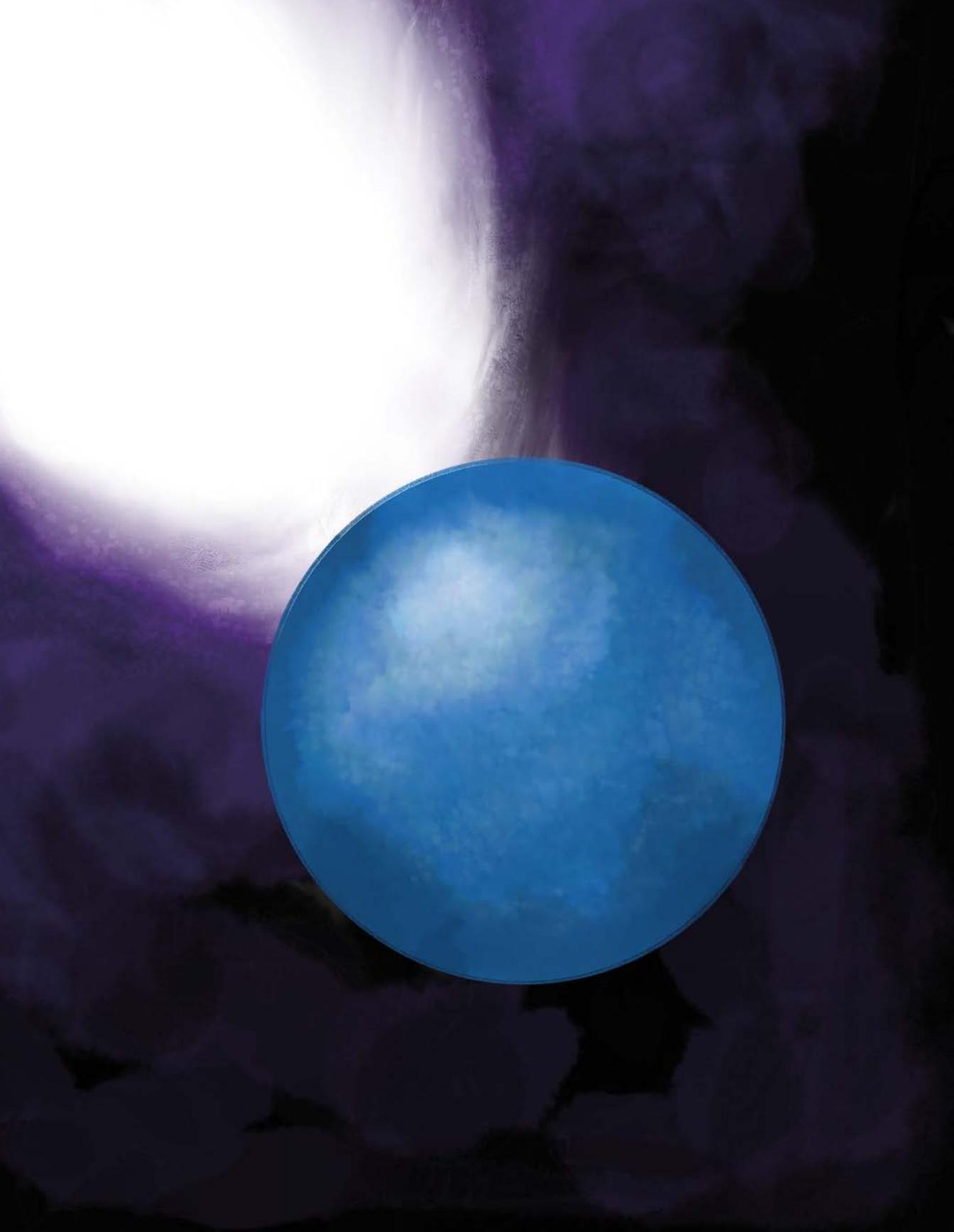
This is a unique commentary. We are going to look in detail at the first 11 chapters of Genesis. I will explain what we read in the text, answer many of the most-asked questions people have about these passages, and deal with many of the objections some have. I also want to apply what we learn to our personal lives in the increasingly dark culture we live in.

This commentary will feature apologetics (answers to skeptical questions and objections), how to think foundationally to know what we believe as Christians (doctrine) and why, and how to develop a truly Christian worldview. There is also a devotional aspect throughout as we gain understanding of who God is, what He has done for us, and thus why we should thank and praise Him.

The teaching also will be equipping people to know how to have a correct worldview regarding contemporary issues like gender, gay “marriage,” abortion, racism, and others.

As we begin, Genesis chapter one sets the scene for the rest of this book. And there’s a recurrent theme throughout the commentary — that of coming to grips with what it means that God is our infinite Creator. So come with me as I “hammer home” the importance of understanding God’s infinite greatness compared to our human finite understanding. This is an important key to understanding Genesis 1–11, as it helps us understand that we need to put ourselves under the authority of the text, and not over it!

What an exciting trip through history this will be from creation to Babel!



Chapter 1

Day One

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Genesis 1:1

Let’s analyze the first day of creation in detail. It begins with: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

This was the first miracle of Jesus recorded in the Bible. In Colossians 1:16 we are told that Jesus (who is God) created all things: *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him.* The first miracle of Jesus was creation!

“In the beginning God created. . .” What an exciting statement! If this first verse in God’s Word isn’t true, then none of the rest of the Bible is true! This is one of the most important sentences in the Bible. If we believe this verse in the Bible, we won’t have much trouble believing all the other verses from Genesis (the first book) to Revelation (the last book).

Three Truths from Genesis 1:1

Let me show why this is so by teaching three very important things we can understand from this verse of Scripture.

1. Foundations are important. This word “foundation” essentially means “a base.” For instance, consider building a house. Builders construct the foundation, then the floor, and then the walls and roof. But without the foundation, the house would collapse. Or consider four building blocks. If we place one building block on the floor, then this block becomes the **foundation** (or base) for all the blocks that will be placed on top.

If you put a second building block on the first one, then the first block is **foundational** to the second block, and the second block will be **foundational** to all blocks placed on it! Now, if you take a third block and place this on the second block, then the first block is **foundational** to the second and third blocks, and the second block is **foundational** to the third block.

Let’s take a fourth block. Once you place the fourth block on top of the third block, you can say that the first block is **foundational** to the second block, and the second block is **foundational** to the third block, and the third block is **foundational** to the fourth block. Okay, now using this block example, let’s consider Genesis 1–11 in regard to the topic of foundations.

As we study through the first 11 chapters of Genesis, we learn that the first verse in Genesis is **foundational** to the first chapter, and the first chapter is **foundational** to the first eleven chapters, and the first eleven chapters are **foundational** to the rest of Genesis, and Genesis is **foundational** to the rest of the Bible. Indeed, Genesis 1–11 is **foundational** to all Christian doctrine and to the Christian worldview.

Imagine suddenly pulling the bottom block out from under the other three. The whole structure would collapse. In a similar sort of way, if the **foundational** verse of the Bible is not true, the rest of the Bible would not be true either.

Psalm 11:3 states, *If the **foundations** are destroyed, what can the righteous do?* For instance, if God is not the **foundation** of everything — if there is no God, then trust in Jesus and the Bible would be meaningless. That is why the first verse tells us there is a God — but not just any God, the one true God.

2. The universe had a beginning. This first verse tells us that the universe was brought into existence — it was created by God.

This means that before the universe was made, there was no universe — no earth, no time, and in fact, not even any space! I can't even imagine there being no space. How would we try to describe this? We might say that there was nothing. However, I think most people would still think that nothing would mean an empty black place. But the universe was not even a place before creation — it wasn't black — because it just wasn't!

The only way I have ever been able to describe this, to even try to understand it, is to say there was **not even nothing** (but there was God, and we will learn about this in point number three). We can't even think what **not even nothing** would be like.

Not even nothing! It couldn't be black — because that would be something! This is impossible for us to understand because we are created beings — we were created by God. This means God must be so much more powerful than us, so there are going to be many things we will not understand. This should make us realize more and more how big and powerful God is.

If God made the universe, what did he make it from? The word “created” used in this first verse really means that God brought into existence materials that had no previous existence to make everything that now exists. God made the universe from materials that He created from “not even nothing.”

In the Book of Hebrews in the New Testament we read that, *By faith we understand that the universe [this means everything] was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible*

(Hebrews 11:3). This also teaches us that the things we see now were made from materials that previously did not exist, but God brought them into existence! It helps us to begin to understand how powerful God is.

In Psalm 33:9, we are told about how God does things, *For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm*. How does God do things? He just commands it to happen — and it happens. How did He make the universe? He just spoke it into existence! Look at the following verses in Genesis chapter 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, and 26. They all start with *And God said* (verse 26 begins with “then God said”). He just spoke, and things happened — things came into existence. He just spoke, and suddenly, from “not even nothing” there was something. Only God could do this.

In Mark 4:39, we are told the account of how Jesus, God’s son, was on a boat with the disciples and a great storm arose. He spoke to the wind and sea and they obeyed him! *And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

When the disciples saw this, they said, “*Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*” (Mark 4:41). In other words, who is this who can just speak to the wind and sea and they obey Him? Well, the answer is that this is the Creator! This was no ordinary man. Colossians 1:16 tells us that *all things were created through him and for him*. No wonder the sea and the wind obeyed Him — He made them!

If all things were made by Him, it means we were made by Him. Actually, as we will learn further on, God made our first parents and designed them to have children, and their children to have children, and so on. God did not make us directly from dust like He did Adam, but we are all children of Adam. So we can certainly say God made us (Psalm 139:13–14).

Before God spoke the universe into existence, we did not exist, except God knew we would exist. For instance, in Jeremiah 1:5, God said this about Jeremiah, “*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the*

nations.” God in eternity knew each one of us just as He knew Jeremiah, before we came into existence. That gives us more of a glimpse of how great God is.

Now we do exist, and we think, and make decisions. And yet our first parents were made from dust that originally did not exist, but which God spoke into existence! Oh, how great God is.

And what did God first create? He created time (*In the beginning*); He created space (*God created the heavens*); He created matter (*and the earth*).

Now the third point I want us to understand from this verse.

3. God had no beginning. The Bible tells us that time, space, and matter (the universe) had a beginning, but that God was just there! How could this be? If God made time, then God had to exist before time. We know that time can be measured. For instance, we measure time with our watches by measuring minutes or hours. Each time we have a birthday, we know that a whole year of time has passed by. As time goes on, we get older — everything that exists gets older. But if God made time and exists outside of time, then He does not age.

Maybe why we find this hard (really impossible) to completely understand is because we were created, just as time was created. The one who created us must understand much more than us. We can't understand everything about God, but God helps us to understand as much as we can.

Look in the Bible at Exodus 3:14. God had spoken to Moses and told him to go to the great Pharaoh of the Egyptians, and tell him to let God's people, the Israelites who were slaves, go free.

Moses wanted to know who he should say sent him to do this. In verse 14 we read, *God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM HAS SENT ME TO YOU.’”*

God said his name was “I AM.” Now that might sound like a strange name, but do we know what this means? We were born (had a

beginning), which is why we existed in the past and we exist now, and we will continue to exist in our body until we die. Of course, the real us does not cease to exist when we die. If we are a Christian, the Bible teaches us that we will leave our body and go to be with God forever — now that is something to look forward to. We were born, are existing now, and will be existing forever, either with God or sadly, apart from God, if we have not committed our life to Him. We had a beginning.

However, God exists! He did not have a beginning. He is just always there. He doesn't age, because with God there is no time. He made time so He could make us. That is why He says His name is "I AM." Now in Psalm 90:2 we read, *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.* God exists in eternity — He didn't have a beginning.

Who Made God?

Some people say, "But surely somehow God had to have a beginning." I've often had children ask me, "Who made God?"

Let's think through this very carefully. Consider a watch. Did someone make the watch? Of course! A watchmaker made the watch. A watch could not come into existence by itself. Now, is the watch more intelligent and greater than the watchmaker? No! The watchmaker is greater than the watch. We know someone had to make the watch — the watchmaker. Yet, the watchmaker is greater than the watch. So who made the watchmaker? Someone greater than the watchmaker. The Bible tells us that this someone is God.

If someone made God, who would that be? A super God. And who made the super God? A super, super God. And who made the super, super God? A super, super, super God! We could keep saying this forever — and we would never get to the end. We would always have to have someone bigger to make someone. This doesn't make sense. It means there must be someone who is the biggest of all. And that's the infinite God!

The Creator God of the Bible exists in eternity, and the Scripture teaches us He is:

Omnipotent (this means He is all-powerful): *For nothing will be impossible with God* (Luke 1:37).

Omniscient (this means He is all-knowing): *in whom [Jesus] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge* (Colossians 2:3).

Omnipresent (this means He is everywhere at once): *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good* (Proverbs 15:3).

The word we used to describe God is “infinite.” This word means “without end or limit — greater than any amount we could number.” If God always exists, and no one made God, then it means His knowledge is infinite. It means His power is infinite. It means His understanding is infinite. It means His wisdom is infinite. It means God had no beginning — He is always there — He is the great **I AM**. He is the infinite Creator. He knows everything there is to know, and has all power, all wisdom, and all understanding. Everything about God is infinite. His love for us must be infinite. He must be infinitely good. If it was possible, we could say an infinite number of things about God — but then this book would be infinitely long, and no one would be able to finish reading it!

As we read God’s Word, remember we are just finite beings. We need to let God, who is infinite, tell us from His Word what He wants us to know. We must do our best to never take our ideas to God’s Word and try to make it say what we want it to say.

Another way to understand our finiteness is to think about our education. We have to learn to read and write, and then perhaps go to college, and earn a qualification so we can be a tradesman, scientist, doctor, or teacher, for instance. But God never had to learn anything. He has always known everything. Everything we take a lifetime to learn He knows anyway, and He never has to learn anything more, because there is nothing more for Him to learn. He knows it all.

One But Three

The Hebrew word for God in Genesis 1:1 means God is one but more than one. We learn in the Bible that God is one but three at the same time. Now while there is one being of God, all three members of the Trinity are distinct persons. The three are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit! We use a word to describe the fact that God is one but three — Trinity.

Many times in the Bible we read that God is the Creator, but we also read that Jesus created all things. Colossians 1:16 teaches us that Jesus is the second member of the Trinity and later in the same epistle we read that: *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily* (Colossians 2:9). In Colossians 2:3, we are told about Jesus that it is *He in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*. Jesus, who is God, knows everything. He is infinite. In other words, Jesus is God.

The third member of the trinity is the Holy Spirit: *The grace of the LORD Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all* (2 Corinthians 13:14).

Can God Really Have No Beginning?

But what about people who say, “It’s silly to believe in God, because no one could just have no beginning and always exist.” Usually, these people believe that the universe just came into existence by chance — as a result of naturalistic evolutionary processes.

If people don’t believe in an infinite God, then we need to ask them where matter came from and where space came from. Many people will say that matter has just always existed. This means they have faith (and it is a faith that lacks credulity) that matter just exists (they believe in eternal matter), whereas we have faith (an objective faith that makes sense of what we observe) that God exists. However, ask them to show you evidence that matter by itself made anything! They can’t give any such evidence. It takes intelligence to make things. Man is intelligent — he makes cars, computers, and planes. We need to tell

them it is more scientific and logical to believe that an intelligence has always been there rather than their belief that matter always existed.

Some will tell you that matter just appeared out of nowhere. They have faith that matter just came into existence by itself and made everything! No one has observed matter do that! To believe that is to have blind faith. Actually, it's a faith that lacks credulity as it doesn't explain what we observe. It is much more reasonable and scientific to believe an infinite intelligence who has always been there made everything, just as the Bible tells us. Yes, that means we have faith that God who exists in eternity created everything, but it's not blind faith like those who reject God. Our faith makes sense of what we observe, and science confirms it in many ways.

In the New Testament Book of Romans we read: *For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse* (Romans 1:20).

Here we are told that if anyone does not believe in the infinite Creator God, they are without excuse, because God has made it obvious to everyone from just looking around that God the Creator exists. For instance, when we look around at cars, planes, computers, trains, and buildings, we would never think they just arrived here by chance. Matter just did not make these things. Intelligent people made them.

However, trees, flowers, animals, and people are so much more complicated than the things man has made. In fact, a single cell (and we are made of trillions of them) is more complicated than anything man has made. And inside each cell God created a program, similar to a complex computer program, in the DNA molecule to make the cell work and even make copies of itself. If it took intelligence to make simple things like cars, planes, computers, trains, and buildings, what kind of intelligence did it take to make the first trees, flowers, animals, and people and to enable them to make copies of themselves? A much greater intelligence. In fact, an infinite intelligence — the God of the Bible. The God of creation.

God made the first parents, Adam and Eve, and designed them to have children. When we look around the world today and see the trees, flowers, and animals, we need to understand God made the first trees, flowers, and animals, and programmed them to make copies of themselves. So the trees, flowers, and animals today are “copies” (descendants) of the original ones (“kinds,” but more on that later) that God made. So, we really can say that God made all the trees, flowers, and animals, as long as we understand that God actually created the original ones and designed them to reproduce (or make copies of) their own kind year after year since the beginning. This is important, because as we come to the event of the Fall (Genesis 3), we must understand the world today has greatly changed from the way it was originally created. Now sin has affected everything, so in the present world, we are not looking at the world God originally made. More on that later.

When you think about it, if we are amazed at the wonderful things man makes, we should be more amazed and give great glory to the One who made man and all things — the God of the Bible. We should kneel down and worship our infinite Creator. And we should recognize that we know almost nothing compared to what God knows. This should put things into perspective as we study God’s Word.

Genesis 1:2

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Verse one ends with the phrase “and the earth” and verse two begins with “the earth.” One might think this is not a very important phrase, but it really is.

How long ago did God make the heavens and the earth as stated in verse one? Some people think it was billions of years ago. Why? Because many think scientists have proved that the earth is billions of years old.

However, scientists have not proved the earth is billions of years old. There are many scientists who believe the earth is only thousands of years old based on the history recorded for us in the Bible — and nothing in observational science contradicts this. There are lots of dating methods that overwhelmingly confirm the universe is only thousands of years old.

Scientists try to date the earth using complicated methods that have been shown to have enormous problems. For instance, they have used their dating methods on rocks that are known to be only hundreds of years old (or even younger), but their dating method gave a date of millions of years old! This has happened many times and should be a warning to us not to just accept these dates of millions or billions of years.

Really, the only way you would know for sure how old the earth was, is if you knew someone who saw it begin. I know of only one being who saw the earth begin — the God who made it! In the Book of Job, God asked Job a question: *Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding* (Job 38:4). In other words, God was saying “Were you there, Job? Were you there when I made the earth?” I always tell people that when they hear scientists say the earth is billions of years old, they should politely ask the question, “Were you there?” When they say no, they weren’t but tell us neither were we there, then we need to tell them no human was there, but God was, and He has given us in His Word the details about the history of the universe.

The Very Word of God

The Bible claims thousands of times that it is the Word of God (not just the word of men). For instance:

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

Yes, all of what we read in the Bible is God's Word — it's God breathed. The inspired, infallible Word of God.

But Why 6,000 Years?



The Bible records the creation of the world in Genesis, and then gives us all sorts of information that enables us to add up dates to find out when God made the world. For instance, we are told that God made everything in six days. (We will discuss later in detail the fact that these were ordinary days just like we have today). We are then told that the first parents were made on day six, and in passages in the Bible we are told when people were born, and when they died, and so on, just like we read in these verses that are part of the history given in Genesis 5 leading up to a man called Noah:

When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch. Jared lived after he fathered Enoch. . . (Genesis 5:3–19).

You can read the entire genealogy from Adam to Noah and his sons in Genesis 5:1–32. You can see that this list tells us when people were born and when they died.

Many great scholars who have spent a lifetime studying the Bible have added up all such dates from these lists and other events and come to the conclusion that God created the world about 4,000 years before Jesus was born as a babe in a manger. I am writing this book in the year 2021 A.D., which means the earth must be about 6,000 years old.

A Gap of Time?

Now what does all this have to do with the word “and” (in verse 1)? Well, as I stated earlier, God knows all things — He has infinite knowledge. Compared to what God knows, even the person who has studied at universities all their life, still knows very little — in fact, hardly anything compared to God.

This means the only way we could ever be sure of being right about how and when this world came into existence was if we had information from someone who had all the answers and has always been there and told us what we need to know. Only God has all the answers and has always been there, and He has told us in His Word (the Bible) what we need to know to have the ability to correctly understand this earth and universe.

Because the Bible is God’s Word, it gives information God had written down for us (by inspiring special people over the years) from the One who has all the answers. This mean we should start with God’s Word to make sure we will be right in our understanding about the world.

God's Word is the foundation for our worldview. Everyone has a worldview, and it is either founded in God's Word or man's word. Our worldview is like a set of glasses we put on so that we look through those glasses (worldview) to understand the world around us.

Sadly, even many Christians seem to forget that God knows everything. They listen to the fallible scientists who don't know everything, who were not always there, who say the world is billions of years old (based on their beliefs and fallible dating methods that all have problems) and say that Genesis chapter 1 must cover billions of years! Some Christians say that each of the six days of creation must be millions of years long. We will see later on, from the Hebrew language used in the Old Testament, that each of the six days of creation in Genesis chapter 1 can only be an ordinary day as we know it today — approximately 24 hours long. We must let God's Word speak to us, and not us impose our beliefs on God's Word.

Other Christians think that God must have made the heavens and earth that are spoken of in verse 1 billions of years ago and then He made everything else in six days. People who believe this say there is a great gap between Genesis chapter 1 verse 1, and verse 2. But what they are trying to do is to take man's belief about millions of years and add that into the Bible by inventing this gap idea. Such a gap idea compromises God's Word and undermines the authority of the Word of God.

Now, we finally get to the importance of the phrase “and the earth.” The Old Testament, which includes Genesis through Malachi, was written in the Hebrew language. People who have studied the Hebrew language for many years tell us that, in the Hebrew, “and the earth” (verse 1) and “the earth” (verse 2) is connected by a particular type of phrase. This means that verse 2 is written as a description of the initial condition of the earth introduced in verse 1. So no one can put billions of years in between these two verses. Actually, the same Hebrew phrase connects verse 1 directly to verse 3. So really, we could read Genesis 1:1–4 this way:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth God created is described as a watery blob of matter. Everything was dark but the Spirit of God hovered over the waters covering the earth. Then the next thing that happened was this:

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

Not only this, but in Exodus 20:11 we read, *For in six days the LORD made the heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day.* This verse tells us that God made the “heaven and the earth,” which we read of in verse 1, and then everything else listed in all of chapter 1, all in six days. So you can see that you certainly cannot put billions of years between the creation of the heaven and earth and everything else. This also means Genesis 1:1 is not a summary verse — it’s part of the first day of creation.

Where Does a Week Come From?

Verse 11 of Exodus 20 (quoted above) is part of the fourth commandment which tells us that because God worked for six days in creating the world and rested for one day, so we should copy this pattern and work for six days and rest for one.

We all use a seven-day week! And Christians set one of these seven days aside as a special rest day to think about God. We go to church and worship our Creator. It is a special day set aside for Him. It’s also interesting to note that the only place the seven-day week comes from is the Bible! It’s not based on any astronomical observations, but based on the fact that God created everything in six days and rested for one. Consider:

Where does our day of approximately 24 hours come from?
This is the time it takes the earth to rotate on its axis.

Where does a year come from? This is the time it takes for the earth to go around the sun.

Where does a month come from? This has to do with the relationship between the earth and the moon.

Where does a seven-day week come from? Nowhere — except the Bible! The fact that we use a seven-day week is actually confirming the truth of the Bible.

Now if God made everything in six million years and rested for one million years, we would have a very long week and that wouldn't make sense. It only makes sense if God really did make the universe in six ordinary days and rested for one ordinary day.

Earth Was Without Form and Void

Now look back at verse 2. *The earth was without form and void.* This means that at this stage, there was no life (it was “void”) and the earth had not been given its final shape and features. It would have been like a watery blob.

In the last part of the verse, we are told *And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.* This tells us the earth began covered with water, which means it could not have been very hot (as the evolutionary model predicts). If it was hot, the water would turn into steam.

When I went to school, my teachers, who believed in evolution, taught me that the earth supposedly began as a hot, molten blob without any water. In other words, all the material that makes up the rocks and soil we have today would have been liquid, just like when you see hot lava flowing out of a volcano. If the whole earth was originally like this, there would not have been any liquid water.

My teachers also told me that the earth was formed from all sorts of material swirling in space. They taught that billions of stars were formed millions of years before the earth. Yet Genesis tells us the earth was created on day one, and the sun, moon, and stars weren't created until day four (Genesis 1:16).

They taught me that all of this first began with a big bang. However,

they never did tell me what caused this supposed big bang. And they also never told me where the material came from so the big bang could happen. And they never told me how from a big bang you could get such a beautiful universe with so much order and complexity with programmed information and codes for life. How could such design and complexity form as a result of supposed natural processes causing a supposed big bang?

Imagine putting sticks of dynamite into a big pile of bricks and then setting off an explosion. Do we think the bricks would all arrange themselves into a wonderful order and build a fence or a building? We know that would be ridiculous. And yet, many scientists think that is basically how the universe formed (which is much more complicated than a fence or building!).

By the way, the question we could ask a person who insists that the big bang brought the universe into existence is the same question I mentioned earlier, “Were you there?” And our point is God has always been there and has told us in His Word how the universe came into being.

God Didn't Use the Big Bang

When Christians claim God could have used the big bang to create the universe, we know that can't be so as that idea contradicts God's Word. The supposed order of events in the big bang model clearly contradict what God's Word tells us about the formation of the universe, the earth, and then all the other heavenly bodies. It also contradicts what God's Word tells us about the initial conditions of the earth.

Even God's Word in the New Testament confirms the earth was originally covered in water. In 2 Peter 3:3–10, Peter tells us that there will be a time when many people will make fun of those of us who believe that Jesus Christ, the One who created the world and came and died on a Cross, will be coming back one day to judge the world.

Peter informs us that these people that scoff will not believe that God made the earth and that *the earth was formed out of water and through*

water. This seems to say that the original substance from which God made the bodies in the universe was water. And it's very obvious from this passage that the earth was not a hot molten blob to start with, as those who believe in the big bang claim.

Now look at 2 Peter 3:10. Here Peter states that these same people who scoff at us will not believe that this earth is going to be judged in the future by fire. Consider Peter's description, that *then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

Actually, we could say that a big bang did not make the universe, but a very different sort of big bang is going to end it when God judges this earth by fire, and then makes a new heaven and earth. For those of us who are Christians, that is something we look forward to.

Let me ask a question here. Has God judged the earth at any time in the past? He certainly did, but not by fire; it was with water at the time of Noah. We will study about this later on, when we get to the event of the worldwide flood of Noah's day in Genesis 6–9. But think about this: the water God made when He created the earth, was the same water that He used later to judge the earth. And this is the same water we swim in down at the beach! Think about that the next time you take a swim.

Darkness Was Over the Deep

Now look back at Genesis 1:2 again: *...and darkness was over the face of the deep.* When God first created the earth, there was no light — it was dark. Remember, there was no sun or moon. There were no stars. There was just space, and the earth which was like a watery blob. And it was dark. We can't even imagine how dark it was. Let's go on to verse 3.

Genesis 1:3

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God spoke light into existence. Remember, God is infinite. He just has to speak, and it happens. (*For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.* Psalm 33:9). So suddenly light flooded the earth. But if there was no sun yet, where did the light come from?

The Bible does not tell us where the light came from. It certainly could not have been from the sun, because the sun was not created until three days later. The light did not come from any of the stars we see in space, because they were made on the same day as the sun (the fourth day of creation). But we do know this — because there was an “evening and the morning” as described in verse 5, the light could only shine on the earth from one direction, and the earth must have been spinning around so there could be day and night. You don’t need the sun and moon for day and night. You need light and darkness which is what existed on day 1.

So What Was the Light?

Some people have suggested that the light may have come from God Himself. For instance, in Revelation 22:5, we read about the new heavens and earth: *And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the LORD God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.* There are many passages in the Bible that tell us that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

However, because God was there before He said, “let there be light,” I think this light must have been a specially created light made just for the earth. God doesn’t tell us where the light came from. We don’t know what source it had. But that shouldn’t worry us, because if God told us everything, we would have an infinite amount of information. And because we are created beings, we could never learn an infinite amount of information. But God has given us all the information we need to have. There are times when we have to admit we don’t have all the answers, but we have God’s Word, and we need to believe what He tells us. There will always be a faith aspect to everything we believe, as only God knows everything.

So be ready for the fact there will always be questions we cannot answer. The exciting thing though is that God has given us the answers we need. He has given us all the information that is important for us. And it is just the right amount of information for us to understand the truth about the world and what it is all about.

By the way, if you are familiar with the account in Exodus of how God led His people out of Egypt, you would know that the *LORD* provided a special light He made for His people. *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night* (Exodus 13:21).

Why would God create a source of light for the earth before He created the sun, moon, and stars on day four? I often think about the fact that, through the ages, cultures have tended to worship the sun. So I often wonder if God was reminding us to worship the God who made everything, and not to worship the sun and the moon which He created as His tools to rule the day and night (which already existed on day one) from day four of creation onward. *And God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars* (Genesis 1:16).

Genesis 1:4-5

And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

God described the light as “good.” He tells us a number of times that what He made was “good.” Look at verses 10, 12, 17, 21, 25, and 31. What does God mean by “good”?

In Psalm 25:8, we read *Good and upright is the LORD*. In Psalm 34:8, we also read *Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good*.

God describes Himself as “good.” Therefore, if we want to understand

what God means by “good,” we need to understand what God is like. In Luke we read how Jesus answered when a ruler asked Him, “*Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*” And Jesus said to him, “*Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone*” (Luke 18:18–19).

Jesus was telling the man asking the question that He (Jesus) is God, as only God is good. God is infinitely good, and the source of all goodness. There are numerous passages that teach us about the goodness of God.

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness (Exodus 34:6).

Look again at what Jesus said: *No one is good except God alone.* Only God is good.

What Does “Good” Mean?

There are many passages in the Bible that help us understand what God is like, and thus what “good” means.

In Matthew 6:28–31 we read: *And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?”* God cares about even the little things. He took the trouble to make the lilies beautiful, and if we love Him, He promises to care for and look after us.

The Bible says we are made in God’s image (Genesis 1:27). If God looks after the lilies, how much more will He care for us who are made in His image. I suggest reading Psalm 139. After reading these passages, we understand that God’s thoughts about us each day are more than we could number: *O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts*

from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether (Psalm 139:1–4). Even though there are billions of people in the world, His thoughts each day about each one of us are infinite in number. That’s difficult for us to comprehend but it means God is watching us and listening to us all the time. What a comfort to know He cares for us so much.

No wonder David says, *How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you* (Psalm 139:17–18). God knows everything about us. He even knows what we are going to say before we say it. He knew us even before we were born, even before we developed in our mother’s womb.

Further on, in the Book of Matthew, we read, *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered* (Matthew 10:29–30). God sees every sparrow that falls to the ground. He knows the number of all the hairs on our head (Luke 12:7). He really does care for us.

There is another passage in the Bible that tells us how great God’s thoughts are, and it reminds us that God knows so much more than we’ll ever know. *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts* (Isaiah 55:8–9).

Let’s look at some other passages in the Bible that tell us how the Creator, Jesus Christ, acted toward people.

And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean (Mark 1:40–42).

We read in the New Testament where Jesus healed the blind, the lame, the sick, the deaf, and raised the dead. In John 11:35, the shortest verse in the Bible, we read that “Jesus wept” when He looked on the grave of Lazarus. Then He raised him from the dead. Jesus wept because of death. He had compassion on people because they were sick, and He healed them. *When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick* (Matthew 14:14).

God makes it clear in His Word that the reason for sickness, pain, and suffering is because we live in a groaning world as a result of our sin: *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now* (Romans 8:22).

We are also told that one day there will be a restoration of all things (Acts 3:21). We read of this restoration: *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away* (Revelation 21:4).

We also read in the Old Testament in Leviticus and Deuteronomy that the animals that were to be sacrificed to God because of sin could not have any defects because God was holy and perfect, and needed a perfect sacrifice.

Obviously, when God describes something as “good,” it must be beautiful, perfect, without any defects, and certainly death, disease, bloodshed, and suffering would not fit the description of good.

After he finished creating everything, God declared all He made as “very good.” There was no death, suffering, or disease. Now this fact is one that those who believe the fossil record was laid down over millions of years before man need to consider carefully. The fossil record is a record of death, with evidence of animals eating each other and evidence of diseases like cancer in the bones of creatures. If a Christian believes the fossil record is millions of years old, then they are in essence stating that God calls death and disease “very good.” Such compromise with millions of years is a direct attack on the character of God and undermines the gospel message because death is a result

of sin, not a result of millions of years of evolutionary processes.

Many Christians think that God could have used evolution to create everything including all life. However, the idea of evolution requires death and struggle over millions of years leading up to man. And most of the fossil record is the supposed evidence of these millions of years. But we will learn that most of the fossil record is actually the graveyard of the judgment of the Flood of Noah's day. The imagined evolutionary process was one of suffering, disease, animals fighting each other — a violent and terrible world over millions of years. This does not fit with a creation described by God as "good." There is no way the idea of evolution/millions of years fits with God's character.

Look back at verse 4. God describes the light as good. It must have been perfect and beautiful. Each time God describes something as good it must fit with how perfect God is.

What Is a Day?

Verse 4 also tells us that God separated the light from the darkness. This was so that there would be night and day on the earth. It seems that the earth then must have been spinning around, with light shining on the earth, so that as it spun, there would be night and day, just like we have today. Remember, we aren't told where the light came from, but it wasn't the sun at this stage. Presumably God made a special source for light until the fourth day. The sun was created and made to shine light on the earth from day four onward. Note what God's Word states: *And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night* (Genesis 1:17–18, emphasis added). God made sun and moon to rule the day and night that already existed.



When God first made the earth (remember it was a watery blob at this stage), everything was dark. This means the first day started with darkness. The Bible states at the end of Genesis 1:5, *And there*

was evening and there was morning, the first day. Many scholars state that the Hebrew word used for “first” day, really means “one” day. In other words, this was the first of the six days of creation, but it was also defining what one day in this series of six is — a literal approximately 24-hour day.

So, a day is described as having darkness first, then light. You will be interested to know that the Israelites measured their day starting from sunset (the start of darkness) and ending at the beginning of the next sunset. Thus “evening” (the start of the period of darkness) and “morning” (the start of the light period) describe an ordinary day.

Many other cultures measured their day this way. However, most nations of the world today measure a day from midnight through to the next midnight. Nonetheless, the day is always approximately 24 hours in length — the time it takes for the earth to rotate once on its axis.

I have an exercise for the family. Obtain a globe and a flashlight, hold the flashlight out from the globe so it can act as the source of light from the earth. Now place a piece of paper on the globe to represent your starting point.

Keep the flashlight switched off at this stage and turn the globe half-way around from your starting point. This would represent half of the first day of creation. Now turn on your flashlight. This represents God saying, “Let there be light.” Now turn the globe around the rest of the way back to your starting point. This represents the next half of the first day.

You have just demonstrated a dark period followed by a light period. The first day of creation.

But When Is a Day a Day?

As we look at each of the six days of creation, I am going to give you some important information so you can know that these days were ordinary days of approximately 24 hours, just as we have today. This

is important, because some Christians think these six days of creation in Genesis could be millions of years long and were not ordinary days at all. Usually people who say this do so because they think scientists have proved the earth to be billions of years old. As I said earlier, scientists have not proved this at all.

There are many scientists who have investigated evidence that confirms the earth being only thousands of years old. You can find information on this by going to the AnswersinGenesis.org website. However, the ultimate “evidence” is the Bible itself, as it is God’s record of history for us.

Because God is perfect, and He does not tell a lie, and He is the only one who knows everything, it is important that we accept His Word as truth. If you take God at His word, it is obvious that each of the days of creation are ordinary days. God communicates through language. When He made the first man, Adam, He had already “programmed” Adam with a language, so there could be communication. Human language consists of words used in a specific context that relates to the entire reality around us. Thus, God can reveal things to man, and man can communicate with God, because words have meaning and convey an understandable message. If this were not so, how could any of us communicate with each other or with God?

The Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language. The Hebrew word for “day” in Genesis chapter one is *yom*.

What does the Bible tell us about the meaning of “day” in Genesis 1? A word can have more than one meaning, depending on the context. The reason it is necessary to understand this is because words do have different meanings, and it is how they are used that determines which meaning is the correct one. Because I am an Australian, let me give you an Australian example to explain this.

In the state of Queensland in Australia, people use the word “port” to mean a suitcase, or a place where ships come in, or a type of wine, or the left side of a ship. Now if you said, “I am taking my port to the aeroplane” (the Australian word for airplane), by “port” you would

obviously mean your suitcase. However, if you said, “I’m going down to the port to meet a friend,” it’s obvious you would be going down to where the ships come in, and not to visit your suitcase!

In the same sort of way, the manner in which words are used in the Bible determine exactly what they mean, because many words can have more than one meaning. Even the word day (*yom*) can have a number of different meanings, but as we will see, the way it is used in Genesis chapter 1 tells us that it means an ordinary day.

Now the English word “day” can have perhaps 14 different meanings. For example, consider the following sentence: “Back in my grandfather’s day, it took 12 days to drive across the country during the day.”

Here the first use of “day” means “time” in a general sense. The second “day,” where a number is used, refers to an ordinary day of 24 hours, and the third refers to the daylight portion of the 24-hour period. The point is that words can have more than one meaning, depending on the context.

To understand the meaning of “day” in Genesis 1, we need to determine how the Hebrew word for “day,” *yom*, is used in the context of Scripture. Consider the following:

A typical Hebrew dictionary will illustrate that *yom* can have a range of meanings: a period of light as contrasted to night, a 24-hour period, time, a specific point of time, or a year.

A classic, well-respected Hebrew-English dictionary (Brown, Driver, Briggs) has seven headings and many subheadings for the meaning of *yom* — but it defines the creation days of Genesis 1 as ordinary days under the heading “day as defined by evening and morning.”

A number and the phrase “evening and morning” are used with each of the six days of creation (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31).

Outside of Genesis 1, *yom* is used with a number 410 times,

and each time it means an ordinary day. Why would Genesis 1 be the exception?

Outside of Genesis 1, *yom* is used with the word “evening” or “morning” 23 times. “Evening” and “morning” appear in association, but without *yom*, 38 times. All 61 times the text refers to an ordinary day. Why would Genesis 1 be the exception?

In Genesis 1:5, *yom* occurs in context with the word “night.” Outside of Genesis 1, “night” is used with *yom* 53 times, and each time it means an ordinary day. Why would Genesis 1 be the exception? Even the use of the word “light” with *yom* in this passage determines the meaning as an ordinary day.

The plural of *yom*, which does not appear in Genesis 1, can be used to communicate a longer time period, such as “in those days.” Adding a number here wouldn’t make sense. But, in Exodus 20:11, where a number is used with “days,” it is referring to the six earth-rotation days of the creation week.

There are words in biblical Hebrew (such as *olam* or *qedem*) that are very suitable for communicating long periods of time, or indefinite time, but *none* of these words are used in Genesis 1.

From the meaning of the word for *day* in Hebrew and how it’s used in Genesis 1 for each of the six days of creation, it is very clear they are six ordinary days of approximately 24 hours each.

Is A Day Like 1,000 Years?

In 2 Peter 3:8 we read, *But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the LORD one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

Some people point to this verse to try to say that the word “day” used in Genesis chapter 1 can’t mean an ordinary day. But look carefully at the verse. It does not say a day is a thousand years, it says that **with the LORD one day is as a thousand years**. This actually means that to God, one day is like a thousand years (and a thousand years is like a day)

because God is outside of time and God created time, so He does not age. There is no time as far as God is concerned.

The context of this passage is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Peter is saying that in the last days (and ever since Jesus stepped into history to be Jesus Christ the Godman we've been in the last days) scoffers will say Jesus is not coming back. They will claim things just go on and on. But God through Peter is saying that what we may think is a long time is not to God, as He is outside of time. And the reason He hasn't come back yet is because, He is *patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance* (2 Peter 3:9).

By the way, if you say that one day is a thousand years because of what Peter said, then he also says that a thousand years are as one day. This would mean that if every time you read the word day it meant a thousand years, then every time you read a thousand years it would mean a day! This would not make sense at all. And saying that a day is a thousand years doesn't help those who claim the days of creation are millions of years long anyway! Also, it's interesting when people use that "day as a thousand years" argument to try to justify rejecting literal days of creation, they only apply this argument to Genesis 1. To be consistent they should then apply their argument to all the uses of "day" in the Old Testament. So then Jonah was in the great fish 3,000 years? People often just don't logically think through positions they hold to!

Imagine reading Genesis 5:5 where it says that Adam died when he was 930 years old. If each day in Genesis was a thousand years (a day is like a thousand years), then Adam was created on day six, lived through day seven and died when he was 930 years old. Obviously, this does not make sense.

And you can't use a phrase from the New Testament, taken out of context, to determine the meaning of a Hebrew word (*yom*) in Genesis! The meaning of a Hebrew word depends on the rules of the Hebrew language. And as we know, the Hebrew word for day, *yom*, means an ordinary day in Genesis chapter 1 for each of the six days, because it is

used each time with a number and the phrase “evening and morning.” The days referred to in Genesis chapter 1 are definitely ordinary days of approximately 24 hours each.

A Symbolic Day?

Some people have claimed the word “day” in Genesis 1 is used symbolically. But a word can’t be a symbol until it first has a literal meaning. When Jesus said *I am the door*, we know what that means because the word “door” has a literal meaning and, in this context, it is being used symbolically. The first time the word “day” is used is Genesis 1:5, it is given a literal meaning. It can’t be a symbol the first time it’s used.

Was Earth “Not Good” Because It Was a Blob?

Before we finish with day one, there is one more thing I want to explain. Some people think that because the earth was shapeless (a watery blob) when God first made it, that it was NOT perfect. But God said it was “good.”

What we need to understand, is that even though earth was a watery blob (remember the phrase “without form and void” in Genesis 1:2), it doesn’t mean there was something wrong with it — it just means it was not finished.

Consider a builder building a house. First, he obtains all of the materials. Then he builds the foundation for the house to sit on. Then he proceeds to build the walls, and then the roof, and then he finishes the inside of the house. Just because the house is unfinished while he is building it does not mean there is something wrong with it. At first, with all the materials dumped on the land, and the foundation in the ground, we could even say it was rather shapeless.

In a similar sort of way, we need to realize that God deliberately took six days to make the universe and the world with all its living creatures. For each of the first five days of creation, it was not finished — everything He did was perfect — He just had not completed it all until the end of the sixth day. Then He said it was “very good” (Genesis 1:31). We then read in Genesis 2:2 that on the seventh day of creation God had “finished” His work of creation.

