

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS 1

Genesis is the book of beginnings. We get the book's name from the first word in the Hebrew text, "bereshit" or *beginning*. In Greek it's "Geneseos" or "Genesis."

Everything **begins** in Genesis: *the universe, solar system, Earth's atmosphere and hydrosphere, life, humanity, gender, marriage, evil, language, government, culture, God's people (Israel), and God's plan for redemption...* Every major Bible doctrine has its roots in Genesis. This book is the foundation on which the other sixty-five Bible books are built.

And this is why the enemies of God have tried so vigorously to attack the credibility of Genesis, **yet to no avail!** The more we learn of *verifiable science, and ancient history, and unbiased archeology* the more confidence we gain in Genesis... No less of an authority than our Lord Jesus quoted Genesis. He considered it historically and scientifically reliable. And if our Lord held to a literal interpretation *so should we!*

On Christmas Eve 1968 while orbiting the moon, Jim Lovell, Frank Borman, and Bill Anders broadcast from the lunar module while a billion people listened on Earth. Here were NASA's instructions, "You'll have the largest audience to ever listen to a human voice; just say something appropriate." No pressure, right! With the whole world at your attention what words would you have said? Here's what the astronauts chose (clip). "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

They actually read the first ten verses of Genesis 1, *but the first verse would've been plenty*. For there have never been ten words more pregnant-with-meaning than these ten. In one sentence God covers the most ancient, and explosive, and far-reaching event in history - *the remarkable birth of the heavens and earth*.

And realize this one verse answers all of life's big questions: *who, what, when, where*. **Who are we?** God's creation! **What's our purpose?** A creation is to bring pleasure to its Creator. **When did it occur?** In the beginning. **And where are we going?** Since God created us, we can assume He has a plan for us.

In addition Genesis 1:1 refutes all the world's false religions. **Atheism** for the universe was created *by God*. **Pantheism** for God is separate from what He created. **Polytheism** for one God created. **Materialism** for matter had a beginning. **Humanism** for God, not man is the ultimate reality. **Naturalism** for God *created*.

Again, verse 1, "In the beginning God..." There is no date, just "*in the beginning*." *How old then is the universe?* Secular cosmologists say 13.7 billion years old, plus or

minus 200 million years. People who follow the biblical genealogies say its 6000-10,000 years old. *Both conclusions depend on a set of assumptions.*

And I too have my assumptions. I'll talk about them a little later, but empirically speaking no one knows the exact age of the universe. **The only person there, was God, and He chose not to reveal that detail.**

What we do know is when the curtain swings open, and the light of revelation hits the stage for the very first time - *before anything else existed* - there was God

Genesis 1:1 doesn't say "*in the beginning of God,*" but "*In the beginning God...*" The Bible tells us God is eternal. He had no beginning, and has no end. Israel's King David sings in 1 Chronicles 16:36, "*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting.*" **God has always been, and God will always be.**

It's also interesting the Hebrew word translated "**God.**" The OT uses three different names for God. **First**, is "**Yahweh**" which speaks of God's self-existence and self-sufficiency... **Second**, is "**Adonai**" which means "**my Lord.**" It speaks of God's personal guidance and faithfulness... But **third** is the name here, "**Elohim,**" it smacks of God's raw, majestic power and sovereignty over all things! It's another way of referring to an Almighty God! Literally, Chapter 1 is God with His shirtsleeves rolled up, and His muscles bulging!

But this name used in verse 1, "**Elohim,**" is in a plural form. For God is one God, but He exists in three distinct persons: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** His triune nature shows up again and again in Scripture. In 1:26 when God creates man, He says, "**Let Us make man in Our image.**" In the Old and New Testaments creation is viewed as a tag-team effort of Father, Son, and Spirit.

A hundred years ago the prevailing view among scientists was that matter, and the universe was eternal. It had no beginning. This concept squared nicely with all the world's major religions - *except Judaism and Christianity.* Today though, cosmologists speak of "**The Day of Creation.**" Astronomers and physicists now believe the universe is *expanding and decelerating* - meaning, that it once had a beginning!

Today, the popular hypothesis for the origin of the universe is "**The Big Bang.**" It theorizes that billions of years ago a cloud of hydrogen gas exploded and from that explosion evolved galaxies, solar systems, planets. Of course, the main problem with the Big Bang is *where did the original hydrogen come from? And how did a random explosion produce orderly systems?*

In July, 2022 when photos began to flow in from the James Webb Space Telescope, a million miles from planet Earth, it created a panic among astronomers. The picture it painted of the universe was unexpected. We were looking deeper into space, and

farther back in time than ever before, but what we saw were galaxies more numerous, more brilliant, more developed than we would've ever imagined. Star clusters thought to have been the result of eons of evolution; had fully formed shortly after the Big Bang. Rather than the chaos we anticipated, we realized the universe was beautifully ordered and designed from its outset.

This caused a Kansas University astronomer, Alison Kirkpatrick to confess, "[I find myself lying awake at 3:00 in the morning, wondering if everything I've done is wrong.](#)" Her assumptions are proving untrue. What was observed was a lot more like Genesis, than evolution.

It reminds me of NASA pioneer and astronomer, Dr. Robert Jastrow. He concluded, "[It is not a matter of another year, another decade of work, another measurement, or another theory; at this moment it seems as though science will never be able to raise the curtain on the mystery of Creation. For the scientist who's lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.](#)" The Bible is always way ahead of science.

Almost 3000 years ago, while man's brightest minds assumed the earth was flat, Isaiah 40:22 referred to "[the circle of the earth...](#)" Nearly 3,500 years ago, Job 26:7 stated God "[hangs the earth on nothing.](#)" Though written thousands of years ago both assertions are thoroughly modern scientific observations.

The human author of Genesis was Moses - who was raised in Egypt's finest schools. Yet **the Egyptians** believed the earth was formed when an egg appeared in the sea and hatched the sun god... **The Greeks** believed the Earth was held up by the arms of a giant named, Atlas... **Hinduism** taught that the Earth sat on the backs of three elephants, standing on a tortoise, swimming in the cosmic sea... These were the prevailing notions of the day, yet Moses pens words even modern minds consider brilliant. *How did Moses compose such a scientifically authentic statement?* Obviously, the Creator Himself told him what to write.

Let me say if you can believe Genesis 1:1 you'll have no problem believing the Bible's other 31,173 verses. For if God created the universe, and put its laws into motion; then He can intervene, interrupt, or supersede those laws - if, and how, and when He chooses.

If God created all things; then *parting the Red Sea, or causing the sun to stand still, or multiplying five loaves, or rising from the dead...* is no problem at all.

In fact, if God created the universe the problems you're facing today are no challenge to Him... The God who created the heavens can *mend a broken marriage, or corral a rebellious teen, or heal a sickness, or find you a job, or give you strength for a struggle.* Bible teacher, Dan Dehaan, said it best, "The Christian has learned to believe in one big, bold miracle - God! And everything else falls into place. An atheist denies God, and must have a miracle for every other created thing."

Verse 1 tells us, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The word translated "created" is the Hebrew word "bara" which means "to create out of nothing." Here is the first cause, the prime mover. God begins with no raw materials, and fashions the heavens and earth with nothing but His Word!

Another Hebrew word can be translated "create" - the word "asah." When you hear it, think of "assemble." If we *bara* a chair we would produce it out of thin air! But if we *asah* a chair it would mean we went to Lowe's, bought wood, screws, and varnish - and put it together.

So here the plot thickens! In Exodus 31:17 we're told, "in six days the LORD made (or *asah-ed*) the heavens and the earth..." In Genesis 1:1 the universe is created from nothing. Whereas, Exodus 31 tells us it was made of existing materials. *Which is it? Well, it's both.*

Verse 2, "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep." And this is not what we would expect. In Chapter 1 we'll learn that each aspect of God's creation was considered "good." In verse 31 creation is summarized as "very good."

But here the earth is "without form and void" or *unformed* and *unfilled*. In Hebrew it's "*tohu wabohu*." The terminology usually describes the aftermath of judgment. Thus, in verse 2 the earth is a shapeless, empty mess... just a vast sea shrouded in darkness.

Which reminds me of the doctor, engineer, and lawyer arguing over whose profession was oldest. The doctor noted how God performed surgery on Adam to create Eve. He opened up his side. Obviously, the medical profession was oldest... But the engineer pointed out that in just six days God started with chaos, and constructed a universe... That's when the lawyer jumped in, "*Where do you think the chaos came from?*"

Isaiah 45:18 casts a light on verse 2, "Thus says the LORD... Who formed the earth and made it... Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited."

According to Isaiah the earth was not created “*in vain*” or “*tohu,*” that is, “*unformed and unfilled*” Genesis says it was, but Isaiah says it wasn’t. *What’s the deal?* I believe a gap of time occurred between verses 1 and 2 during which the original creation was destroyed.

When were the angels created? Genesis doesn’t tell us, but in Job 38 God asks, “*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?... When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*” The implication is the angels were created before God goes to work on the earth in Genesis 1:2.

We know that one of the angels sinned. Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Revelation 12, describe Lucifer’s fall, and how a third of the angels joined his revolt. Jesus said in Luke 10:18, “*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*” It could be Satan’s fall brought on a horrible judgment that damaged God’s original creation.

I believe God created a beautiful earth, and put Lucifer in charge. But his rebellion brought cataclysmic judgments on the pre-Adamic world. Thus, verse 2 is essentially the *re-creating or re-assembling* of Earth.

There’s a Hebrew tradition which explains why Satan fell. He got wind of God’s plan to create humans, and give them dominion over His creation, *even the angels*. Lucifer was proud. No way would he serve these dust mites, so he revolted and tried to thwart God’s creation.

Between verse 1 and 2 he appears in the sea to oppose God. It’s not spelled out in Genesis, but in Job 26 we read, “*He stirs up the sea with His power, and by His understanding He breaks up the storm. By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.*” This is a surprise. At creation God pierces a slithering serpent as He adorns the heavens.

We don’t usually think of creation as a battle, but it was the first skirmish in a long-running war. The serpent will appear again in Genesis 3 to tempt Eve. **Satan couldn’t stop creation so he tries to spoil it...**

In Psalm 74 we see a sea serpent in the Red Sea opposing Israel’s exodus from Egypt... In 1 Samuel 17 a Philistine champion, Goliath, taunts Israel dressed in armor like the scales of a sea serpent... Daniel depicts Israel’s enemies as beasts rising from the sea... Isaiah 27 foresees God’s victory over the dragon... Revelation 12 sees that dragon opposing God at the end of the age... In Revelation 13:1 Antichrist is a beast rising from the sea... My point is from beginning to end the Bible is about a battle between God and a sea serpent.

Verse 2, “And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.” Literally, “light be, light was.”

In verse 1 God creates a beautiful universe. But it’s defiled by Satan’s revolt. Now He starts over... *He reforms and refills*. And God does it by the power of *His Spirit* and *His word*. The Spirit **hovers**; then He **hollers**, “Light be” and *light was*. Light doesn’t develop over long eons of time. God spoke into being instantly.

In his book, “*Genesis and the Big Bang*,” Gerald Schroeder theorizes the term “waters” in verse 2 might refer to “plasmas” - *a kind of pre-molecular soup*. God’s Spirit energizes and organizes subatomic particles into atoms... Schroeder writes, “*With the binding of electrons in atomic orbits, the... photons were free to travel. They burst forth bathing the universe with light.*”

These plasmas then gave off the ultraviolet light needed for the plant growth that occurs on Day 3, even though the sun doesn’t actually appear until Day 4.

Light is one of the universe’s great mysteries. *No one knows what it is?* At times, it acts like a wave - at other times like a particle. It can penetrate other substances without altering it or marring it - a spiritual-like quality.

1 John 1:5 tells us, “*God is light.*” Light seems to be an unveiling or radiating of God’s glory. Psalm 104:2 says God covers Himself “*with light as with a garment.*”

And again, don’t get confused with the existence of light before the creation of the sun and stars. *As in the beginning, so it’ll be in the end*. Revelation 22:5 states that there’s no sun in heaven, and tells us why, “*They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.*” God is the ultimate power plant.

Verse 4, “And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.”

Even today, Jews start their day at 6:00 PM. Evening comes before their morning. God is saying, no matter how dark it might start, in the end the sun will shine!

“Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. Thus God made the firmament (or sky), and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.” On Day 2 God separates the water covering the earth’s surface from the water suspended above the earth - the **hydrosphere** and **atmosphere**.

Now we Georgians know humidity! There is water in our air, but do we realize the staggering weight of the water above us? God has hung 37.5 million billion gallons of

water in thin air. Over every square yard on Earth there's 55 pounds of water vapor. Our hydrologic cycle is an amazing feat of divine engineering...

And the amount of water in the air on Day 2 was heavier than today. It's believed one of the causes of Noah's flood was the collapse of a giant vapor canopy shrouding Earth... We'll talk about it in coming weeks.

Verse 8 ends Day 2, "And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day." There're three "heavens" in the Bible: Earth's atmosphere is Heaven1. Space is Heaven2. And God's throne room is called "the third heaven."

It's interesting, after all six days of creation God said "it was good," except one? *The second day. And we ask why?* It could be God knew the vapor canopy He created would in Noah's day judge the world... Still later, Satan will be called the prince of the power of the air... Both realizations could've caused God sorrow.

Verse 9 records Day 3, "Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good." God corrals the sea and produces dry land. On Day 1 God separated light from dark. On Day 2 He separated the hydrosphere from atmosphere. Now Day 3 God separates sea from dry land. Notice, God's creation is a series of distinct separations.

Throughout creation, God establishes boundaries, and says "it was good." Apparently, boundaries are *a good thing*, without them life becomes dangerous and chaotic. Boundaries bring order. *Don't resent the boundaries God places in your life - they too are good.*

Verse 11, "Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit..." Life on earth didn't begin with chance occurrences of accidental circumstances. Design requires a designer. The old idea of "biogenesis" - *that inanimate matter coupled with energy produces life is ridiculous, no matter how long you give it to occur!* With the discovery of DNA we've realized a third component is required for life: **information** or **intelligence**.

The simplest proteins, let alone complex plants, don't just randomly appear. God speaks a word and the raw materials He made obey. Seeds form and sprout. Trees grow and bear fruit. God performs a miracle of near-instant maturity. Full development occurs in 24 hours.

And since there are 382,000 species of plants on Earth, if God worked all of Day 3, it means He created 16,000 species per hour. *That's quite a day's work!* And God created Earth's vegetation to reproduce on its own. The Earth was created *supernaturally*, but it was sustained *naturally*. God is both Creator and Sustainer.

In verse 12, the plants multiplied “according to (their) kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.” Everything was created “according to its kind.” Variations occur within “kinds,” but one “kind” can never morph into another “kind.”

“So the evening and the morning were the third day.”

And this third day marked a decisive victory in the battle over creation. Satan would've vigorously fought God over the emergence of the dry ground. For if he'd won there would've been no dirt for God to create man.

Another decisive victory will be won on the third day. Our Lord Jesus will rise from the dead on the third day!

Verse 14, “Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth;” and it was so.” On Day 1, God created plasmas of unconfined light. Now on Day 4, He harnesses the light and concentrates it in the sun and stars. He calls them, “*maor*,” or *light-bearers*. The sun, moon, and stars become chandeliers from which God radiates His light.

“Then God made two great lights: the greater light (the sun) to rule the day, and the lesser light (the moon) to rule the night.” It's interesting, the ancient pagans had it reversed. Because of their apparent size in the sky, they thought the moon was the greater light, and the sun was the lesser. *The Bible though, got it right!*

Then five words at the end of verse 16, “He made the stars also.” Modern astronomy estimates 100 billion trillion stars, and 100 trillion galaxies. In every patch of night sky the size of the moon - dig deep enough, look far enough - you'll see a million galaxies in that space.

Today, *star formation* is the most popular topic in modern astronomy. Books abound on the subject. Yet God gives us a simple five word explanation, “He made the stars also.” Obviously, our priorities are not God's priorities. The Bible gives five words to the stars, but devotes 50 chapters to the tabernacle, the place where God met with His people. *We're preoccupied with creation, but God cares more about our redemption.*

Verse 17, “God set them (the sun, moon, and stars) in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.” Astronomers say “The Earth is in the best place in the universe, to see the rest of the universe.” And this is no accident. God set the stars in our sky and gave them orbits. And we’re told why, in verse 14, the stars are for mankind... “for signs and seasons.”

We know seasons, but what about “signs?” There’s a theory that before Satan corrupted it, the Zodiac preached the Gospel in the stars. Psalm 147:4 tells us, “(God) counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.” Adam named the animals, God the stars.

The Mazzaroth was the Hebrew Zodiac, or the path the Earth travels through the stars. Today, it starts with Aires, but originally it began with Virgo. And this is how the Gospel begins, *a virgin conceives*. Jesus came the first time via a virgin. Yet in Revelation He’ll come a second time as “the lion of Judah.” And the last or twelfth sign of the ancient Zodiac, was *Leo, the lion*.

Don’t misunderstand, after man’s fall Satan corrupted the Zodiac; thus, the Bible forbids us from consulting the stars, but originally stars were *signs* to mankind.

One more thing about the creation of the stars... the reason astronomers assume the universe is 13.7 billion years old is the distance between the earth and the stars. There are stars millions of light years away.

A light year is the distance light travels in a year. So if we see a star 14 billion light years away; the universe needs to be at least 14 billion years old - *or does it? How many of you have thrown a roll of toilet paper? Be honest! Probably quite a few.* Well, God could’ve hurled the stars into their orbits as He unrolled the light. Starlight could’ve been created in transit, as the star itself was created. If plants were created with maturity why not starlight? The stars were signs to earth’s inhabitants. This way they became signs immediately. On their first day, Adam and Eve gazed at the stars.

One other thought impacting distant starlight is the speed of light itself. We assume 186,000 miles per second is a constant, but how do we know space doesn’t contain time-warps where light speeds up, or gravitational wells where time slows down?

What if God created the stars closer to Earth than they are today. The universe is now expanding. Isaiah 44:24 puts it, “I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone...” Seventeen times the Bible says God stretches out the heavens. Maybe today we’re seeing stars at a distance that were once closer to us... *There’s just a lot we don’t know!*

Verse 20, “Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” Notice, God is **filling** in Days 4-6 what He **formed** in Days 1-3. On Day Four He fills the sky with bearers of the light He created on Day One... On Day Five He creates fish and birds to fill the hydrosphere and atmosphere He made on Day Two... On Day Six He fills the land with creatures that eat the vegetation He made on Day Three. And on Day Seven God rests.

This re-assembly begins with an earth “unformed and unfilled.” In the first three days God forms it to support life - then over the next three days He fills it with life.

This is what God does spiritually in *the new creations* He’s making of us. He forms in us a new identity; then He fills us with the life and blessings that accompany it.

Here in verse 20 God is filling the sky with birds, and the sea with fish. But this is a new and different kind of life. Grass, herbs, and trees are alive, but plant life is distinct from animal life. Animals have a *consciousness* and *awareness* that plants lack. Thus, in verse 21, when we’re told, “So God created...” Again it’s the Hebrew word “bara” which is “to create out of nothing.” God is creating a new, unique *animal consciousness*.

The term “bara” is used one more time, verse 27, when man is created... All life is not the same. There are qualitative differences. *Plants have a body. Animals are soul and body. Humans are body, soul, and spirit.* Thus, when God creates a new type of life He “baras.”

“So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind.” Here’s a surprise, the term “great sea creatures” in Hebrew is “Tanniym.” Some English translations render it simply “whales,” but others offer a more ominous translation “sea-monsters” or “dragons.”

Remember, the Bible is the story of a battle between God and the sea serpent, and this was a familiar story in the ancient Middle East. Other cultural epics had similar imagery. The difference though was the pagans viewed the battle as their God fighting an equal, wrestling the world from the grasp of a demigod. But not so with the biblical story. Elohim *creates* the sea serpent and is sovereign over him. Psalm 104:26 speaks of the dragon by name, Leviathan, and says “There is Leviathan which you have made to play.” This serpent is the Almighty’s pet - not equal. This dragon (and all God’s enemies) are under His dominion.

“And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.”

On Day 6, God creates *the creepy crawlers* - the insects and land animals. Verse 24, “Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.” Ten times in Genesis 1 we’re told God created all living things, “according to its kind.”

It’s true, God designed our genetic make-up with a degree of flexibility. Living things can adapt or mutate to their environment. But there’re limitations. Genetic codes are fixed by God so life reproduces only within its natural family, or “kind.” **Nature knows mutations, not transmutations.** A fish doesn’t become a bird.

Thank the Lord for mutations. All my kids turned out better looking than me... *but they’re still Adams’*. At times they act like monkeys, but they’re still Adams’, and they’re reproducing Adams’... Each generation is multiplying “*according to its kind...*” This is the great failure of evolution. With all the fossils that have been found all over the Earth there’s a glaring absence of transitional forms. *The missing link is still missing!*

In just six days God reassembles the earth, and makes it fit for His crowning creation - *the humans*.

Which brings up a question, *were the six days of creation literal twenty-four hour days, or long ages?* The Hebrew term “day” or “yom” appears over 1400 times in the OT and is translated 51 different ways, so from “yom” we can’t be dogmatic. But if you take the days as geological ages of millions of years you’ve got problems... Plants created on Day Three require the pollination of insects to survive, but insects don’t appear until Day Five. If those two days are separated by millions of years; plants would’ve never survived.

In Exodus 20:11 God commands, “Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.” Obviously, the Sabbath Day is a 24 hour period, and God considered the other six days of creation the same sort of day.

The phrase “the evening and the morning” - a sunrise and sunset - also imply the same type of 24 hour day.

But here's another question. How long ago did those six days occur? Was it 4.5 billion years ago? *No one knows!* For me the earth's age depends on how long of a time gap exists between Genesis 1, verses 1 and 2.

Was it hours, days, or billions of years? It's possible the universe is quite old, but the *reassembling* of the earth, and the creation of mankind, was a recent event. It's true, recorded human history and the Bible's genealogies only take us back 6000 to 10,000 years.

Actually, I believe there're multiple scientific reasons to believe in an earth *as young as 6000 years...* *The decay rate of the earth's magnetic field, the mineral composition of the oceans, the existence of short-period comets...* all are reasons to favor a young earth.

But what about radioactive dating or carbon-14, don't they prove an old Earth? Again be careful what you assume! *Varying decay rates, assumptions about initial compositions, seepage problems* all distort accuracy - especially when you're dating something really old.

When Bob Hope interviewed Neal Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, he asked, "Before your historic mission, what was your greatest fear?" Neal said the astronauts were warned of a huge layer of loosely compacted debris on the surface of the moon.

After billions of years and no protective atmosphere the moon should've been quite dusty. This is why the lunar module's landing pads were at the end of long, extended legs. NASA feared it would sink in the dust. Instead, the dust layer was so shallow Armstrong had difficulty hammering his flag into the hard surface. The moon was covered, not with millions of years of dust, but with just a few thousand years of cosmic dust.

There's another consideration, *how old did Adam look the day after his creation?* He was one day old, but seemed an adult. **He was created with maturity.** So were the trees. They had fruit on day one. The trees in Eden probably had annular rings. *Did Adam have a belly button?* If he did, it was *an appearance of age.*

Where there appears to be physical evidence for lengthy ages, and billions of years, possibly it's the result of God creating the earth in a state of maturity.

In verse 26 the stage is set for the capstone of God's creation. After the earth has been *reformed* and *refilled* to support human life, "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

All of life was created according to its kind. The offspring reflected the parent. But God goes one step further with humanity. We were made in **God's image!**

And that image is reflected in numerous ways. Like God we're *spiritual, moral, rational, creative, relational, volitional*. Like God we're self-determining - we make our own choices... But first and foremost, we were made in God's likeness, in that, **we were made to rule.**

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Notice throughout Genesis 1 God separates. His creation has been about making distinctions. He separated light from darkness, the waters above from the waters below, the sea from the land; plants and animals were separated according to their own kind.

In a sense, there're only two religions in the world.

One-ism says we're all one. *No distinctions*. Even God and nature are one. Thus, feminism disavows the distinctions between men and women. We're all one.

But the Bible is **Two-ism**. God is separate from His creation, and in creation He insists on us maintaining distinctions. Since God created *“male and female”* He expects men to be men and women to be women. *And there are just two genders.* Binary is God's blueprint.

In verses 28-29 God says to the man and woman, and every human thereafter... **“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.”**

God spent six days reforming and refilling the planet to support the creatures He loves most. His image-bearers. Earth was for the humans and their offspring.

The flora and fauna, the fish and fowl, all God created was provided to the humans to help them survive and thrive! **Nature is not to be abused, but it is God's gift to mankind to use for our good pleasure.**

Mankind was given dominion over the Earth, and authority to rule over nature. And this understanding is the dividing line between Western and Eastern culture.

Western civilization, with its Judeo-Christian heritage, has through advances in science and technology harnessed nature for humanity's benefit. We've taken dominion. The Bible teaches that man is separate from nature, and it's our job to subdue and use its power.

Whereas, Eastern civilization and pantheism teaches that man is part of nature, even one with nature, and rather than take dominion, man's role is to harmonize with his environment. Thus, cows roam freely in India while people die of starvation. *Holy cow!* Hinduism deifies nature, rather than subdues it... *In the end it's religion that either holds us back or advances us.*

Verse 30, "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so." Note, at this point all the animals and birds are vegetarian - eating only greens.

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was **very good.**" Not just good - "*very good.*"

"So the evening and the morning were the sixth day." And there you have it - in six days God *reformed* and *refilled* planet Earth, placed the object of His affection on its throne, and on the seventh day He rested.