

Genesis Commentary by Mike Wells

Genesis Chapter 1

Overview: The first chapter of Genesis describes the story of creation. It solidly supports that the world and everything in it was created in 6 literal 24 hour period days. There is a theory known as the “Gap Theory” that presumes there was a gap between verses two and three. There is no evidence to support this theory what so ever. The Hebrew word translated as day is “yom” which means a single day and night cycle. Also, Exodus 20:11 says *“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day.”*

Genesis 1 : 1 - *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

- When the beginning began, God already was.
- His eternal pre-existence is clearly implied.
- The first name in the Bible for God is “**Elohim**”.
- It is the plural form of ‘**El**’ and literally means ‘mighty one’.
- The plurality is the first biblical implication of the Trinity.
- God is one yet comprised of three distinct personalities.
- If we cross reference Genesis 1:1 with John 1:3 or Colossians 1:16-17, or Ephesians 3:9, it becomes clear that it is the Son, Jesus Christ that was assigned to do the actual work of creation.
- The word translated as “created” is the word “**baraw**” – It implies creating something out of nothing.
- Most Theologians agree that the year of creation was 4004 BC.
- They cite the Chronologies of Genesis 5 and 11 as compared to undisputed date markers and work backwards to arrive at this year.
- Bishop Ussher of the King James era was the first to arrive at that date.
- More recently computers programs from Harvard have reinforced that the year 4004BC was the year.

Genesis 1 : 2 - *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

- The word translated as without form “**towhu**” has the sense of wilderness or wasteland.
- The phrase then and the earth was without form, and void could be rendered “And the earth was a wilderness and empty”
- The new earth was also dark – there was no light
- “*The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters*” – This is the first mention of God’s spirit
- The Hebrew word is “**ruakh**” which refers to “breath or wind”.
- This is a foreshadow of the later ministries of the Holy Spirit (See Acts 2).

- The word moved comes from the word “**rawkaph**” and means to “hover over or to flutter”.
- The entire surface of the earth is covered with water at this point.

Genesis 1 : 3 - *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light*

- There is no evidence to presume a “gap” between verses two and three.
- The gap theory is a something humans came up with to try and accommodate Scripture with Evolution
- The theory was never considered prior to the popularization of evolution in the mid-nineteenth century.
- “***And God said***” – God spoke things into creation – Isn’t that powerful??
- “***And God said***” is found nine times in the creation account.
- God created light – This light is a physical phenomenon
- There is no mention of the source of the light such as the sun until the 4th day.
- The first few days the light was most likely the light from God Himself.

Genesis 1 : 4 - *And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness*

- In seeing the physical light God noted it was good.
- The word good comes from “**towd**” which means pleasant or delightful.
- Light by it’s very nature divides darkness.
- To this day, this is true both physically and spiritually.
- In physics, darkness is the absence of light and not the vice versa.
- Light is a created entity, while darkness is not.
- Darkness already existed, it is the equivalent of nothing.

Genesis 1 : 5 - *And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

- The creation of light was called Day, while darkness in the absence of light was called Night.
- The Hebrew word translated as day in both cases here is “**yom**” which in the context it is used here clearly defines it as “evening and morning were the first day.”
- That limits the time frame to a one day and night cycle or a 24 hour period.
- The word “**yom**” is translated as literal day Two-thousand and eight times.
- The creative week can only then be that of a seven day weeks with seven evening and morning cycles.
- Evening is noted first because the Hebrew day, even today, begins at sundown.

Genesis 1 : 6 - *And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the water*

- On the 2nd day of creation God commanded that there be a firmament in the midst of the waters to divide the waters from the waters.
- The word translated as firmament is “**raqiya**” and it has the sense of an “*expanse*”
- Later in Verse 8, God calls this expanse Heaven.
- It refers to our atmosphere above us.

Genesis 1 : 7 - *And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.*

- It is noted that this firmament (atmosphere) divided the waters which were above and below from one another.
- In the original creation, there was a sphere or canopy of water above the atmospheric heavens.
- Later during the great flood, there was a deluge “*the windows of heaven were opened*”
- If all the water in the present atmosphere could be precipitated out, the ocean levels would rise only slightly.
- There was obviously a major source of water there that is not there now.
- God had created a “*canopy*” of water over the earth which gave a true “greenhouse” effect to the earth.
- The original climate conditions on the earth were sub-tropical across the entire planet.
- Archaeological finds in both the Arctic and Antarctic have revealed that at one time even the polar regions were subtropical in climate.
- That would have been the effect of such a water canopy above the firmament (atmosphere).

Genesis 1 : 8 - *And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.*

- God called the firmament Heaven.
- It should be noted that throughout the Bible there are three degrees of heaven.
- First is the atmospheric heavens which are called the firmament that we just covered.
- Second is the stellar (stars) heavens which is referred to as the 2nd heaven.
- Then the third heaven is the Home of God. (see 1 Corinthians 12:2)
- With the creation of the firmament the second day was complete.
- Again – Note that it was an evening, morning – literal 24 hours cycle day.

Genesis 1 : 9 - *And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so*

- On the third day, God raised the continents out of the oceans making dry land

Genesis 1 : 10 - *And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good*

- The dry land was called Earth which comes from the Hebrew word “**erets**”
- It is also commonly translated as land
- The gathering of water on the earth were then called the Seas.
- Again, God said it was good. (He didn't say this on the 2nd day for some reason)

Genesis 1 : 11 - *And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

- On the 3rd day, God created the “**flora**” of the earth (the plant kingdom)
- God mentions “*grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree all yielding fruit after his kind.*”
- This is the first mention of living organisms being created.
- Also note, that 3 times in this verse and the next that it is noted that the fruit of the various forms of plant-life would bring forth “*after his kind*”.
- The word kind comes from the Hebrew word “**miyn**” which means species.
- This clearly implies what we know as genetics.
- One species can and will not be cross-bred. An apple tree cannot be cross-bred with a pumpkin plant.

Genesis 1 : 12 - *And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good*

- Again, God saw His creative work and said it is good.
- Notice again, then emphasis on each and every plant form yielding seed or fruit after its kind.
- The basic laws of genetic precludes the possibility of evolution
- It is not possible.
- One kind or species cannot mutate into another kind.

Genesis 1 : 13 - *And the evening and the morning were the third day.*

- The third creative day is defined again noting the beginning of the day as evening.

Genesis 1 : 14 - *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*

- On the 4th day, God created specific natural sources of light.
- There was already light as an entity from Him, but now he created natural sources of Light.
- Those lights would be visible “*in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night*”

Genesis 1 : 15 - *And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so*

- The heavenly lights would also become the defining characteristics for the institution of time.
- The various heavenly bodies would define such parameters as a day, month, a year, and later seasons.
- A day of course is described by the rotation of the earth in reference to the sun rising and setting.
- Months are defined by cycles of the moon.
- Years are described by the cycle of the earth around the sun.

Genesis 1 : 16 - *And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.*

- Specifically, God made the greater light to rule the day (sun) and the lesser light (moon) to rule the night.

Genesis 1 : 17 - *And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth*

- The most obvious purpose of the heavenly lights was to provide light upon the earth.

Genesis 1 : 18 - *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*

- Again God noted that it was good

Genesis 1 : 19 - *And the evening and the morning were the fourth day*

- The 4th day is concluded.
- Note again the evening and morning make a day.

Genesis 1 : 20 - *And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven*

- On the 5th day God created the first of the animal kingdom (the non-mammalian creatures).
- He began with the creatures of the waters, fish, all aquatic life, then he created the birds.

Genesis 1 : 21 - *And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good*

- The mention of the Great Whales is of interest.
- The word translated into Whales is “**tanniyn**”.
- This same word is also translated in other parts of the bible as dragon, serpent, or sea monster.
- This would have also been were water based dinosaurs were created.
- Notice the emphasis once again on their procreation being strictly limited to their kind.

Genesis 1 : 22 - *And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth*

- The creatures were commanded by God to reproduce abundantly.

Genesis 1 : 23 - *And the evening and the morning were the fifth day*

- The 5th day of creation is now complete, once again notice the sequence of evening and morning.

Genesis 1 : 24 - *And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so*

- The 6th created day was divided into two acts.
- First God created what was most likely the mammalian creatures of the earth (this could have included insects as well).
- Every form of land based animals were created here.

- This would include behemah – land based dinosaurs

Genesis 1 : 25 - *And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*

- Again, each species or kind of land animal was strictly defined.
- Laws of genetics preclude one species from evolving or mutating to another.
- As God completed this aspect of His creative work, He once again saw that it was Good.

Genesis 1 : 26 - *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth*

- The 2nd major creative act on the 6th day was the creation of man.
- Notice that God said “*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness*”
- Again, the use of the plural implies the plurality within the God head (the trinity).
- In the image of God and after His likeness has some deep implications.
- It is a reference to how man has been created spiritually like unto God.
- We have intelligence, a will, emotions, and a conscience that has the holy nature of God imprinted on it.
- This is in contrast to Animals, God created man with a spirit.
- God also in His omniscience, knowing that His Son would someday take upon Him a perfect body, designed the human body in that likeness and image.
- God also noted that man is to have dominion over the animal kingdom.
- Contrary to current thought, man is not just another animal or species of animal.
- Man is also not morally equivalent to the animals.
- God created us to have dominion over the animal kingdom.
- They were created for our benefit.

Genesis 1 : 27 - *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them*

- This summarizes how God created both male and female.
- God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.
- Clearly implied are the two distinct genders and their respective natural roles.
- Three times in these two verses it is mentioned how mankind was made in the image of God.

Genesis 1 : 28 - *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth*

- Similar to how God blessed the animal kingdom, He now blesses Mankind.
- The details of Eve's creation is noted in chapter 2, but the overview of the completion of God's creation is noted here.
- God told Adam and Eve (them) to multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it or have dominion over it and the animal kingdom.
- The replenish comes from the word "**mawlay**" which means to fill.
- He is simply telling Adam and Eve to have children and fill the earth.
- Adam was also told to subdue the earth which comes from the word "**kabash**" which means to dominate or bring into subjection.
- Earth is not our mother, neither is it to be worshiped.
- It was created for man's benefit and is his to conquer.
- God also gave the animal and plant kingdom for man's benefit.

Genesis 1 : 29 - *And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat*

- The plant kingdom was designed by God for man's food.
- The word translated as meat "**oklah**" basically means food.

Genesis 1 : 30 - *And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life , I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.*

- Man's original diet was intended to be vegetarian.
- Even the original animals were designed to be vegetarian
- After the fall all of that changed.
- Even the animal kingdom was altered because of man's sin

Genesis 1 : 31 - *And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

- As God stepped back and looked upon His creative work, He saw that it was very good.
- In distinction to the previous days which he saw as good, his total work creative work collectively added together on the last day was Very Good.
- It was completed on the 6th day.