

In The Beginning God . . .

*An In-Depth Study of the
First Three Chapters of Genesis*

All Truth Begins Here



The Origin of the Universe

INTRO: In the introduction to this second half of our study in the Book of Genesis we examined three essential elements in understanding the debate over the Bible and science: (1) The Bible is not a textbook of science, (2) all ideas about the origin of the universe must begin with assumption that are accepted on the basis of faith, (3) there is no conflict between the Bible and true science. In this study we want to apply these principles specifically to the origin of the universe.

I. What Does Genesis 1 Actually Say About the Creation of the Universe?

- A. The heavens and the earth were created in a single event close in time “the beginning” (v 1)
- B. There was a specific point or origin that was geocentric in nature (v 2)
 - 1. the earth was in a rough and barren state
 - 2. the earth was not formed in the sense that it would be six days later
 - 3. the earth was likely a big mass of water at its inception
- C. Immediately after the earth was created light was created (v 3) concluding the first day
- D. God made a division in the water, a firmament or expanse He called the heavens (v 6)
 - 1. it separated the central mass of water from a higher mass of water
 - 2. the middle area was called “the heavens” and it was empty space
- E. On the third day God works with the earth creating dry land and vegetation (vv 9-13)
- F. On the fourth day God makes the sun, moon, and the stars and places them in the empty space (vv14-19)
- G. This entire sequence of events was accomplished in 4 days (or 96 hours in a literal 24 hour day)

II. What Do Scientists Actually KNOW About the Nature & Origin of the Universe?

- A. They are fairly confident that the universe had a singular point of origin
- B. They are fairly confident that it is or has been expanding/expanded
- C. They are fairly confident that it is relatively flat and that it is finite
- D. They have observed that it is “running down” according to the law of entropy
 - 1. observations of stars exploding and burning out
 - 2. no observed start or birth of new stars (the talk about how it happens...they have not seen it)
- E. Other considerations that are not so confident:
 - 1. They assume it is 14.5 billion years old based on the presupposition of uniformity
 - 2. They are not sure uniformity applies to the very early stages of development
 - a. things developed upward, not deteriorated downward
 - b. objects most probably traveled faster than the speed of light
 - 3. They are not sure if it started with a big bang, a new bounce, or a steady state
 - 4. They have no idea how something could have come from nothing, it violates the 1st law of Thermo.
 - 5. They are learning that actual data collected differs from theoretical models made from earth
 - 6. They believe that the universe is also composed of anti-matter and that 90% is dark matter
- F. There is presently no agreement among scientists as to how the universe began

III. Are There Any Theories that are Consistent with the Bible?

- A. All of points A, B, C, & D, in II above are in harmony with the Biblical record
- B. D. Russel Humphreys, Ph.D. and Larry Vardiman, Ph.D. have proposed a theory of origins that harmonize with the 24 hour, 6 day creation of the universe and remain consistent with both Newtonian physics (with its limited range of application(and Einstein’s gravity and relativity theory).
- C. At present no actual evidence of science which is objectively verifiable contradicts the Biblical account and there are alternative models in theoretical physics which fully harmonize with the Bible.

NOTES

Genesis 1:1-19 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. ⁶ Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. ⁹ Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. ¹³ There was evening and there was morning, a third day. ¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. ¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

Isaiah 34:4 ⁴ And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree.

Isaiah 40:21-22 ²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

Isaiah 44:24-25 ²⁴ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone, ²⁵ Causing the omens of boasters to fail, Making fools out of diviners, Causing wise men to draw back And turning their knowledge into foolishness,

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Explain in your own words why uniformity (uniformitarianism) is essential to all humanistic theories of the evolution of the universe and why it is, itself, a step of faith.
2. Are there verses of Scripture that appear to support what we presently think we know about the actual nature of the universe? Name some and explain why they are important.
3. Share how this study has either helped you in your faith and confidence in the Bible or if it has only "muddied the waters" for you.
4. How important do you believe it is for people, specially children and youth, to study all sides of the questions surrounding the origin of the universe?