

# BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

## “The Revelation Of Creation”

Genesis 1:1-2:3

2002

### Introduction

Genesis describes the beginning of everything imaginable except the beginning of God.

Why? Because God has no beginning and no ending.

Psalms 90:1-2 “Lord ... before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

Genesis 1:1 answers the most basic and yet profound questions of life:

1. What is all this?
2. How did it begin?
3. When did it begin?
4. Who is behind it?

These four fundamental questions of life are answered simply, directly and authoritatively in the opening chapter of Genesis.

### I Creation's Conception

A. The origins of life are the result of either:

1. **Random** chance

“Man is the fortuitous consequence of completely random and chance circumstances”

The most famous proponent of this evolutionary was Charles Darwin.

However, with continued advances in science, the theory of evolution is coming under increased scrutiny and is being abandoned by once-avowed evolutionists.

Researcher and renowned mathematician I.L. Cohen in his book, *Darwin Was Wrong – A Study in Probabilities*, says this:

“Mathematically speaking, based on probability concepts, there is no possibility that Evolution was the mechanism that created the approximately 6,000,000 species of plants and animals we recognize today.”

Evolutionist Michael Denton, author of *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, said this:

"The complexity of the simplest known type of cell is so great that it is impossible to accept that such an object could have been thrown together suddenly by some kind of freakish, vastly improbable, event. Such an occurrence would be indistinguishable from a miracle."

Famed evolutionary researcher Sir Fred Hoyle agrees:

He has reportedly said that supposing the first cell originated by chance is like believing "a tornado sweeping through a junk-yard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein."

## 2. **Divine** plan

"The only proper way to interpret Genesis 1 is not to 'interpret' it at all. That is, we accept the fact that it was meant to say exactly what it says." (Henry Morris)

The Bible declares that the world did not create itself or come about by chance. It was created by the all-powerful, all-loving, divine Creator God.

Rom 1:18-20 "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

## B. The author of creation [Verses 1]

**God = Elohim** = The plural form of God – pointing to His triunity.

The word "Trinity", though not found in the Bible is repeatedly alluded to throughout the scriptures. The formula adopted by the early church was: "One Essence, Three Persons."

### 1. The **Father** created everything

Heb 11:3 "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command."

### 2. The Son created everything

John 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

### 3. The **Holy Spirit** created everything

**Hovering over** = The verb reappears in Deuteronomy 32:11 to describe the eagle's movements in stirring its young into flight.

Psalms 33:6 "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath [ruwach= spirit] of his mouth."

**Created** = Bara = "To make out of nothing" (7 times in Gen 1:1-2:4: 1:1, 21, 27; 2:3-4)

This activity is the exclusive domain of God. Man cannot "bara" or "create" ex nihilo anything. We can only "fashion" or "form" things out of existing material.

**Funny story: “Get Your Own Dirt”**

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him.

The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost?"

God listened very patiently and kindly to the man. After the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well, how about this? Let's say we have a man-making contest." To which the scientist replied, "Okay, great!"

But, God added, "Now, we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt."

**II Creation's Controversies****A. The transition between verse one and two [Verses 2]**

“Now the earth was formless [Tohuw] and empty [Bohuw]”

**1. The Gap Theory (also called the re-creation theory)**

This view maintains that Genesis 1:1 describes the original creation of the earth, prior to the fall of Satan (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12ff). As a result of Satan's fall the earth lost its original state of beauty and bliss and is found in a state of chaos in Genesis 1:2. This 'gap' between verses 1 and 2 not only helps to explain Satan's fall, but it also allows for a considerable time period, which helps to harmonize the creation account with the theory of evolution.

Problems with the gap theory:

**1. It requires an unusual translation of the Hebrew verb “hayah”**

Some have translated this phrase as **the earth became without form and void** (through the destructive work of Satan). However, this is not the plain grammatical sense of the Hebrew.

**2. It cannot explain the extinction and fossilization of ancient animals. The Bible clearly states that death came by Adam (Romans 5:12), and since fossils are the result of death, they could not have happened before Adam's time.****2. The Creationist's Conviction**

Verse one is simply an opening summary statement of creation that is more clearly detailed in verse 2 and following.

Verse 2 would describe the state of the initial creation as unformed and unfilled. In other words the universe is like an untouched block of granite before the sculptor

begins to fashion it or like a lump of clay in the potter's hands. And verses 3 and following describe God's creative work in transforming it from chaos to cosmos.

#### B. The meaning of the word "Day"

One of the hot points of debate in Genesis 1 is the meaning of the Hebrew word, "Yom", or "day." Does it mean a literal 24-hour period, or does it mean a long and indefinite period of time – possibly even billions of years?

##### 1. Theistic evolutionist = "Eon or geological age"

The Hebrew word for "day" does occasionally refer to a period of time rather than to a 24-hour day. But the main reason for opting for a longer day definition in Genesis 1 is to somehow make it compatible with evolutionary theory. If it can be established that the days in Genesis were not literal, then it is possible to syncretize the creation narrative with the theory of evolution.

##### 2. Creationists = Literal "24"-hour day

Creationists believe in a literal 6-day creation and based on the genealogies of the Bible, date the earth at somewhere between 6,000-10,000 years old.

Reasons for believing that the days are 24-hour days:

- a. "Yom" is translated as a literal 24-hour day in 97% of the 2,000 occurrences.
- b. When "Yom" is combined with a numerical adjective, it always refers to a 24-hour day.
- c. The repetitive phrase "evening and morning" seems to emphasize a 24-hour day. This same phrase is used in Daniel 8:14 and refers to 2,300 days.
- d. The existence of a universal 7-day week (Exodus 20:11)
- e. The connection of the 7<sup>th</sup> day with the weekly Sabbath (Exodus 31:12-17)

### III Creation's Sequence

In the course of six days God brought about order & form and fullness & harmony to the earth and the universe through His creative word. The first three days remedy the situation of formlessness described in Genesis 1:2. The second three days, days 4-6, remedy the situation of the earth being void or empty in verse 2.

#### A. God gives form to His creation

##### 1. Day One: Light [Verses 3-5]

"And God said ..." used 10 times.

Psalms 33:6, 9 "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth ... For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."

The first step God undertook was to create light.

**Notice:** This "light" is not the product of the sun, moon, or stars but of God Himself.

Revelation 21:23-24; 22:5 tells us that in the new heavens and the new earth, there won't be any sun or moon. God Himself will be the light. There's no reason why God couldn't have started creation in the same way He will end it.

**“Good”** – used seven times (*v.31* – **“very good”**)

God is good, and only that which is of him, or from him, can be called good.

1 Tim 4:4 “For everything God created is good ...”

That is why God said light is good, because it is from him and is characteristic of his nature. Because “God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.” 1 Jn 1:5

## 2. Day Two: Sky [Verses 6-8]

The expanse or firmament – called “sky” – is the atmosphere, or layer of air between the water-covered earth and the clouds above.

"The *waters above the expanse* probably constituted a vast blanket of water vapor in the high temperature region now known as the ionosphere, and extended far into space." (Henry Morris)

This global vapor blanket would fulfill a number of critical functions:

1. It would create a global greenhouse, maintaining an essentially uniformly pleasant temperature all over the world.
2. It would create lush, tropical-like vegetation all over the world, fed not by rain, but by a rich evaporation and condensation cycle.
3. It would filter out ultraviolet radiation, cosmic rays that would otherwise bombard the planet.
4. It would provide the necessary reservoir for a potential worldwide flood.

## 3. Day Three: Land & Vegetation [Verses 9-13]

Theistic evolutionists have a real problem here: How could plants and all vegetation grow and thrive eons before the sun and the moon existed?

The phrase **according to its kind** appears ten times in Genesis chapter 1. It means God has allowed plenty of variation within a **kind**, but something of one **kind** will never develop into something of another **kind**. (28 times).

## B. God fills His creation

The first three days remedy the situation of formlessness described in Genesis 1:2. The second three days, days 4-6, deal with the state of “emptiness” of verse 2.

### 1. Day Four: Light Bearers [Verses 14-19]

a. These bearers of light have four primary physical functions:

1. They give light to the earth - verse 14
2. They govern the day and night - verses 15, 17
3. They separate light from darkness - verses 16, 18

4. They establish signs and seasons to mark and measure time and direction.

b. They also have a spiritual function:

1. They are a part of natural revelation

Psalms 19:1-4 “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”

Romans 1:18-20 “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

2. Day Five: Sea Creatures & Birds [Verses 20-23]

We see the great variety of birds and sea creatures were created at the same time, not evolving slowly over millions of years.

God then blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth.

3. Day Six: Land Animals [Verses 24-25]

Again, the critical phrase **according to its kind** is emphasized. God allows tremendous variation within a kind, but one "kind" never becomes another "kind."

For example, there are thousands of breeds of dogs. The poodle is very different from a pit bull, but they are both dogs. However, it is highly unlikely that dogs will ever mutate into sheep or horses, no matter how much breeding is done.

Evolutionists often give convincing examples of *microevolution*, the variation of a kind within its kind, adapting to the environment. For example, the ratio of black to white peppered moths may increase when pollution makes it easier for dark moths to escape detection; or finches may develop different beaks in response to their distinctive environment. But the moths are still moths, and the finches are still finches. There has been no change outside of the kind. *Microevolution does not prove macroevolution* (transitions from one species to another).

#### IV Creation's Climax

A. God created man in His **image** [Verses 26-27]

Dwayne Gish pointed out that well-known scientist Lord Zuckerman, even though he was not a creationist, asserted that “if man evolved from an ape-like creature he did so without leaving a trace of that evolution in the fossil record” (S. Zuckerman, *Beyond the Ivory Tower*, Taplinger Pub. Co., New York, 1970, p. 64).

Who was God talking to when He said, “In our image”? The only other living beings at that point in creation were animals and angels. And we know that Adam and Eve were not created in the image of animals or angels. They were created in the image of God. The “Us” in Genesis refers to the triunity of God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Gen 5:1-2 “When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.”

Romans 8:29 “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

2 Cor 3:18 “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

In what sense are we made in the image of God?

1. We possess *personality*: knowledge, feelings, and a will (vs. animals and plants).
2. We possess *morality*: we are able to make moral judgments and have a conscience.
3. We possess *spirituality*: man is made for communion with God.

B. God commissioned man to: **[Verses 28-31]**

1. Be **fruitful** and increase - Jn 15

The first thing God did for man was to bless him.

Rom 4:6-8 “David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.”

Then God commissioned man to be fruitful and multiply.

John 15:8 “This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

2. Fill the earth

Gen 9:1 “Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.”

But God’s ultimate goal is to fill the new heaven and earth with worshippers - Rev 21

Rev 7:9-10 “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

3. **Subdue** it and rule over it

God has given mankind dominion and stewardship over the earth. This brief time of life is a period of testing and preparation for the kingdom to come when we will reign and rule with Christ over the new heaven and new earth.

God's final analysis of His work of creation is that it was *very good!*

C. God **rested** from His work [Verses 2:1-3]

1. Day seven: Creation Completed - Gen 2:1-2a

God rested from His work of creation – not from His work of preservation and redemption.

John 5:17 “Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”

God blessed and set apart the seventh day for rest because on it He ceased from all His work of creation.

Heb 4:1-11 speaks extensively about the importance of entering into the rest of God.

“Now we who have believed enter that rest ... “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts ... for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.”

How do we enter that rest – that peaceful and joyous place of knowing that we have been forgiven of our sins and are assured of eternal life?

***Through the finished work of Christ!***

### **Conclusion**

Have you become a new creation in Christ? Genesis one reveals how God has taken formlessness and emptiness of the world and created order and beauty. If you have never accepted Christ as your Savior and Lord, I can say with total confidence that your life is formless and empty; like a lump of clay waiting to be fashioned by the Master Potter into the likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts ... enter His rest today!

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