

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. In Greek, the word "beginning" is "Geneseos", or "Genesis".

Everything begins in Genesis... *the universe... our solar system... the earth's atmosphere and hydrosphere... life... humanity... marriage... evil... language... government... culture... God's people, Israel... and God's plan for redemption.*

Hey, every major Bible doctrine has its roots in Genesis. The book of Genesis is the foundation on which the other sixty-five books of the Bible are erected.

That's 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 archeology the more confidence we gain in the Genesis account.

Never forget, no less an authority than our Lord Jesus quoted Genesis. Jesus considered the Genesis record historically accurate and scientifically reliable.

And if our Lord Jesus held to a literal interpretation of Genesis... *so should we!*

The Bible begins, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

It's amazing that the most ancient, and explosive, and far-reaching moment in history of the universe gets covered in

one short, concise, sweeping statement...

Just ten words... **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

Here are ten words as rich, and pregnant with meaning, as any other ten words ever written. One verse answers all life’s big questions— *Who, what, when, where*.

Who are we? God’s creation! *What’s our purpose?* A creation is supposed 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.

Henry Morris points out that this one verse, Genesis 1:1, refutes all the world’s false religions: *Atheism...* because the universe was created *by God*. *Pantheism...* for God is separate from what He created. *Polytheism...* for one God created all things. *Materialism...* for matter had a beginning. *Humanism...* since God, not man, is the ultimate reality. And *evolutionism...* because God *created* all things.

Again, verse 1 tells us, **“In the beginning God...”**

Notice, there’s no date, just *“in the beginning”*! How old is the universe? 20 billion years? 10 billion? 10,000 years old? We can venture our theories, but we really don’t know. The only person present at the time was God, and He has chosen not to tell us... Apparently, it’s not all that important that we know!

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

Genesis 1:1 doesn’t say *“in the beginning of God”* – it says,

“In the beginning God...” The Bible tells us that God is eternal. He had no beginning, and He has no end. King David sings in 1 Chronicles 16:36, **“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting.”** God has always been, and He will always be.

It’s interesting also, to note the word **“God”**. It’s the Hebrew word, *“Elohim”*.

Understand, the Old Testament uses three Hebrew names for God... First, is the name *“Jehovah”* that speaks of His faithfulness toward His people. Second, is the name *“Adonai”* which means *Lord*. It speaks of His sovereignty over life.

But third is the name, *“El”*, which speaks of God’s raw, awesome, majestic power! Elohim is another way of referring to the Almighty, Omnipotent God! Verse 1 is a picture of God with His shirtsleeves rolled up, and His muscles bulging!

But here’s an important innuendo – the name used in verse 1, *“Elohim”*, is the plural form of the word *“El”*. God is one God, but He exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The triune nature of God shows up again when He creates man in verse 26. There, God says, **“Let Us make man in Our image.”** Notice the plural pronouns, *“Us”* and *“Our”*. The Trinity is at work in creation.

It reminds us of how John opens his Gospel, **“In the beginning was the Word (a name he uses for Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”** Jesus was also involved in creation.

Just 80 years ago the prevailing consensus among scientists was that matter, and the universe, was eternal – that it had no beginning. This assertion squared nicely with all the world’s major religions - except Judaism and Christianity.

Today though, the consensus has changed radically.

Very few scientists suggest any longer that matter is forever. Instead, today’s scientists speak of "*The Day of Creation*". Scientists now believe that the universe is both, expanding and decelerating – meaning, that it once had a beginning!

Today the prevailing hypothesis for the origin of the universe is "*The Big Bang*". It theorizes that around 20 billion years ago a hydrogen gas cloud exploded and from that explosion evolved the galaxies, the solar systems, and the planets.

Of course, the major problem with the Big Bang theory is where did the original hydrogen come from? And how did a random explosion produce orderly systems?

One recent version of the Big Bang is "*the Inflationary Big Bang*". It suggests the universe organized and matured very early - in its first moments of existence. You had an initial infusion of energy – *a bang* – followed by almost immediate development... Rather than Carl Sagan, that’s sounds more like Genesis 1:1

It’s humorous that many of today’s evolutionary scientists - without wanting to admit it - are moving closer and closer toward the Biblical account of creation.

In his book, "*God and the Astronomers*", cosmologist, Dr. Robert Jastrow makes this concession, "[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 has 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, (and) he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

And while we're talking about the Bible's scientific sophistication and accuracy, I hope you realize the Bible is always way ahead of the scientist and astronomer...

Centuries ago, while man's brightest minds assumed the earth was flat, Isaiah 40:22 spoke of "the circle of the earth". Nearly 3500 years ago, Job 26:7 said that God "hangs the earth on nothing" – *a thoroughly modern scientific observation.*

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 that even modern minds consider sophisticated and brilliant. How did Moses compose such an accurate

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 other 31,173 verses in the Bible. For if God created the universe, and sat its laws in motion; then He can intervene or interrupt those laws, if and how He so chooses.

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

In fact, if God created the universe the problems you're facing are no challenge to Him... The God who created the heavens can fix a cracked marriage, or corral a rebellious teen, or heal a sickness, or find you a job, or give 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 heaven and earth with nothing but His Word!

Another Hebrew word can be translated "create" - the word "asah" – when you hear it, think of the word "assemble". If we bara this podium we would produce it out of thin air! But if we

asah this podium it would mean we went to Home Depot, bought a few boards, a box of nails, some varnish – then put it all together.

And here is where the plot thickens... In Exodus 31:17 we're told, "in six days the LORD made (or *asah-ed*) the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed." In Genesis 1:1 the universe is created from nothing. In Exodus 31 we're told it was made out of existing materials. Which is it? *It's both.*

Verse 2, "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep." This scene is not what we would expect. In chapter 1 each aspect of God's creation is considered "good". In verse 31 it's summarized, "very good".

But here the earth is *unformed* and *unfilled*. The Hebrew phrase is "*tohu wabohu*". The terminology usually describes the aftermath of judgment. In verse 2 the earth is a shapeless, empty mess... just a vast sea shrouded in darkness.

It reminds me of a joke I heard yesterday. A doctor, an engineer, and a lawyer were arguing over whose profession should be considered the oldest...

The doctor noted that God had performed surgery on Adam when he created Eve. He opened up Adam's side - proving that the medical profession was oldest.

The engineer though, pointed to the creation. In just six days God started with chaos and confusion, and constructed the universe... But that's when the lawyer jumped in. He said,

“Where do you think the chaos and confusion came from?”

Isaiah 45:18 casts a light on verse 2, “Thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited...” Isaiah says the earth was not created *in vain* - or “*tohu*”. The same word used in Genesis 1:2.

In other words, Genesis says the earth was created *tohu* – or unformed. Isaiah says it was *not*. It was formed and inhabitable. *Which is it?* Perhaps it was both!

Some scholars believe a gap of time exists between verses 1 and 2 in Genesis.

Hey, when were the angels created? Genesis doesn't say, but Job 38 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 also 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 in his revolt. Jesus commented in Luke 10:18, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” It could be that Satan's fall brought a horrible judgment that damaged God's original creation.

Some scholars believe God created a beautiful earth, and put Lucifer in charge.

But the angelic rebellion brought cataclysmic judgments on the pre-Adamic world. Thus, verse 2 is essentially the

recreating or reassembling of the earth.

There is a Hebrew tradition which explains why Satan fell. He got wind of God's plan to create man, and give him dominion over the earth. Lucifer was proud. No way would he serve little dust balls, so he revolts and tries to thwart God's plan.

He first appears in the sea opposing the creation. Job 26 speaks of creation in an unexpected way, "He hangs the earth on nothing. He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it...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."

God pierces a fleeing serpent as He creates the earth.

We don't usually think of creation as a battle, but it was the first skirmish in a long-running war. The serpent appears again in Genesis 3 to tempt Adam and Eve.

Apparently, if Satan can't stop creation he'll try to spoil it...

In Psalm 74 we see a sea serpent in the waters of the Red Sea opposing the exodus. In Revelation 12, a dragon appears at the end of the age to attack Israel. And in Revelation 13:1 the antichrist is depicted as a beast rising out of the sea.

From beginning to end, the Bible is the story of a battle...

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 that's destroyed by Satan's revolt. Now He starts over... *He reforms and refills.* And God does it by the power of His word. Light doesn't develop over long eons. God speaks and it appears instantly.

In his book, "*Genesis and the Big Bang*", Gerald Schroeder theorizes the term "*waters*" in verse 2 could refer to "*plasmas*" – a kind of pre-molecular soup. The Spirit of God energized and organized the 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 are what give off the ultraviolet light needed for the plant growth that occurs on Day 3... even though the sun doesn't appear until Day 4.

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

The Bible says, "*God is light*". Light seems to be the unveiling of the glory of God. Psalm 104:2 says that God covers Himself "*with light as with a garment.*"

Again, don't get confused with the existence of light before the creation of the sun. Revelation 22:5 states that there's no sun in heaven, "*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. Unlike us, their evening comes before their morning...

A secular day ends with nightfall. A biblical day ends with sunlight... *God wants His kids to know no matter how dark it gets, at the end of day the sun will shine.*

Verse 6, “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 the sky – the atmosphere), 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 separated the water covering the earth's surface from the water suspended above the earth. He established a hydrosphere and an atmosphere.

Those of us who live in Georgia know humidity. We realize the atmosphere is saturated with water vapor, but did you realize the amount of water suspended in the atmosphere is staggering? 54 trillion, 460 billion tons of water hang in thin air.

Our hydrologic cycle is an amazing feat of God's engineering.

And the amount of water vapor may've even been heavier before the time of Noah than it is today. It's believed that one of the physical causes of Noah's flood was the collapse of a giant vapor canopy that at the time shrouded the earth.

Verse 8 ends Day 2, “**And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.**” Remember there are three “*heavens.*”

The earth’s atmosphere is heaven number 1 – that’s mentioned here. Outer space is heaven number 2. And God’s throne room is called “**the third heaven.**”

It’s interesting, that after all six days of creation God said that “**it was good**”, except for one day? *It was the second day.* And the question follows, *why?*

It could be that God knew the vapor canopy He had created would be used to judge the world... He also knew Satan would become the prince of the power of the air (He’d created)... There’s another possible reason I’ll mention later...

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.

Remember, on Day 1 God separates light from dark. On Day 2 He separates the hydrosphere and atmosphere. On Day 3 He separates the sea and the land.

God establishes boundaries, and says that “**it was good**”. 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 according to its 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." Notice the grasses, and herbs, and trees didn't evolve. Everything was created "according to its kind".

"So the evening and the morning were the third day."

I believe the third day marked a decisive victory in the battle over creation. Satan would've vigorously fought God over the emergence of the dry ground. While the sea covered the earth there was no dirt for God to create man...

It's also interesting, that thousands of years later another decisive victory was won on the third day. Jesus rose from the dead on *the third day*. The Bible calls Him "the first fruits of our resurrection". Again, life appeared 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 unveiled and released the light. On Day 4, He now harnesses that light and concentrates it in the sun and stars.

"Then God made two great lights (the sun and the moon): the greater light (the sun) to rule the day, and the lesser light (the moon) to rule the night." The ancients had it reversed... Because of their apparent size in the sky, they thought the moon was the greater light, and the sun, the lesser. The Bible

though, had it right.

Verse 16, **“He made the stars also.”**

Modern astronomy tells us there are 100 billion trillion stars, and 100 trillion galaxies. And there are probably that many books that try to offer an explanation as to their formation. Here’s a subject of intense human interest – *star formation*.

But God gives us just a five word explanation, **“He made the stars also”**.

It just goes to prove that our priorities are not God’s priorities. The Bible gives five little words to the formation of the stars - whereas, it devotes fifty chapters to the discussion of the tabernacle – the place where God met with Israel.

We’re preoccupied with creation. God is far more concerned with redemption.

Verse 17, **“God set them (the sun, and 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.”

In verse 17 God sets the stars in the firmament. In other words, He gives them their orbit. And He tells us why in verse 14... they’ll, **“be for signs and seasons”**.

We know about the seasons, but what about the signs?

There is a theory that before it was corrupted by Satan, the Zodiac preached the Gospel. Psalm 147:4 tells us, **“He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.”** Adam named the animals, but God named the stars.

The Zodiac, of course, is the path the earth travels through the stars.

Today, it begins with Aires, but originally it was Virgo – and isn't interesting that the Gospel begins when a virgin conceives. Jesus came the first time through a virgin, but Revelation tells us He'll come a second time as “the lion of the tribe of Judah.” And the last, and twelfth sign of the ancient Zodiac, was Leo, the lion.

Don't misunderstand, Satan has corrupted the Zodiac, and today, the Bible forbids us from consulting the stars – but originally the stars were for “*signs*”.

Let me make one more point about the creation of the stars...

One reason astronomers assume the universe is 15-20 billion years old is the distance between the earth and stars. There are stars millions of light years away.

A light year is the distance light travels in a year. If we see a star 4 billion light years away, then the earth needs to be at least 4 billion years old - *or does it?*

How many of you have every thrown a roll of toilet paper? Most of you! God may've hurled the stars into their orbits while He was unrolling the light. Star light could've been created in transit - either before or as the star itself was created.

There are other possibilities that also preclude an old earth...

How do we know that the speed of light travels at the same rate throughout the universe? There may be warps in space

where the light dramatically speeds up.

And how do we know the speed of light has been consistent over time?

Australian scientist, Barry Setterfield, has done some research that suggests the speed of light may have decayed over time. He contends light traveled four times faster in the days of Abraham than today. *There's much 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." God has formed the earth, now He begins to fill the earth with life.

"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." God fills the sky with birds and the seas with fish.

"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 that God created, "according to its kind".

It's true that God created in life's genetic make-up a degree of flexibility. Living things can adapt to their environment. These adaptations are called, "*mutations*".

But there are limits to these adaptations. The genetic structure of living things is fixed by God so that life reproduces only within its natural family, or "**kinds**".

Mutations are possible, but 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 all still Adams'*. Granted, at times they act like monkeys, but they're still Adams', and they'll reproduce Adams'... Each generation "*according to its kind*".

This is the great failure of evolution – with all the fossils that have been found there is 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 - man. Which brings up an interesting question, *were the six days of creation literal twenty-four hour days - or long periods of time, or ages?*

The Hebrew word for "*day*" or "*yom*" appears 1,424 times in the Old Testament and is translated 51 different ways, so from the word "*yom*" we can't be dogmatic.

But if you take these days as long, geological ages of millions of years you've got problems... For example, plants

are created on the third day that requires the pollination of insects to survive, but insects don't appear until Day Five. If the two days were separated by millions of years such plants would've never survived.

I personally believe the language suggests six twenty-four hour periods of time. To me the phrase "the evening and the morning" supports this idea.

Here's another question. How long ago did those 6 days occur? Was it 4.5 billion years ago? *No one knows*. The age of the earth depends on how long of a time gap exists between Genesis 1:1 and 2... Was it hours 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. Recorded human history and the Bible's genealogies only take us back maybe 6000 to 10,000 years.

Actually, I believe there are scientific reasons to believe in a very young earth – even as young as 10,000 years old. If the speed of light has decayed over time, then it would throw off the atomic clocks, and the radioactive dating techniques.

Carbon-14 and its companions have their problems anyway... *Varying decay rates, assumptions about initial compositions, seepage possibilities* - all distort the accuracy of these types of methods – especially when it comes to really old ages.

Other factors also point to a young earth: *the decay rate of the earth's magnetic field, the mineral composition of the*

oceans, the existence of short-period comets.

When Bob Hope interviewed Neal Armstrong he asked the first moon-walker, “before your historic mission, what was your greatest fear?” He said the astronauts were warned of a huge layer of loosely compacted debris on the moon’s surface.

Scientists assumed that after billions of years and no protective atmosphere the moon would’ve been quite dusty. This is why NASA placed the lunar module’s landing pads at the end of long, extended legs. They feared the module would sink.

Instead there was so little dust Armstrong had difficulty hammering the American flag into the hard surface. The moon was covered, not with billions of years of dust, or even millions, but just a few thousand years of cosmic dust.

There’s another point to consider – how old did Adam look the day after his creation? He was one day old, but he was the perfect human specimen. He probably had the body of a 46 year-old man! He was created in maturity.

Remember, the trees in the Garden of Eden also appeared in a mature form. They were created with fruit on their branches. No doubt, God created eggs with yokes. The trees in the Garden of Eden probably had annular rings.

Did Adam have a belly button? If he did, it was an example of *the appearance of age*. Where there appears to be physical evidence for lengthy ages, and billions of years, it’s possible 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 creation. Earth's systems have 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." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

All life was created according to its kind – the offspring reflects the parent. But God goes one step further with humanity. We alone are made in God's image. We not only reflect our earthly father, but we also resemble our heavenly Father...

Humanity is made in the image of God in numerous ways: *our spirituality, our morality, our rationality, our creativity. Both God and man are relational, and enjoy fellowship. Both are self-determining – we make our own choices.* But I think, first and foremost, humans were made in God's image in that, *we were made to rule.*

In verses 28-29 God tells 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 earth to support the creature He

loves most, and made in his image. Earth was made for man.

What I'm about to say is not politically correct in environmental circles, but the flora and fauna, the fish and the fowl were made for our survival and enjoyment.

We shouldn't abuse nature, but nature is ours to use for the good of mankind.

Man was given dominion over the earth – authority to rule over nature. And this understanding is the difference between Western and Eastern Civilization...

The West, reared on Judeo-Christian thought, has through advances in science and technology learned to harness nature for our own benefit. The Bible teaches that man is separate from nature, and it's his job to subdue and use its power.

Whereas the East is dominated by pantheism – the belief that man is a part of nature – one with nature - and rather than subdue nature our role is to harmonize with our surroundings. This is why cows roam freely in India while people die of starvation. Hinduism teaches it's adherents to deify nature rather than subdue it.

It's a society's religion that either holds it back or motivates its development.

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. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

There you have it - in six days God *reformed* and *refilled* planet Earth – placed the object of His affections on its throne – and on the seventh day He rested.

Let me make one more observation from Genesis 1... I definitely believe in the literalness of what we've read, but I also believe that Scripture teaches lessons on several levels... And the creation story is a classic example of the Bible's reach...

Genesis 1 records the birth of planet earth, but it's bigger than that... God's *creation* parallels His *re-creation*... The very Gospel is imbedded in Genesis 1.

On **Day 1**, God brought forth light. And the Gospel begins when Jesus, the light of the world, shines into the darkness.

On **Day 2**, a separation occurs – and that's what happens on the cross. Jesus bore our sin and was separated from the Father so we could be united. Because it points to the cross, maybe that's why it's the day God doesn't call "*good*".

On **Day 3**, plant life appears. Likewise it was on the third day that Jesus rose from the dead, and new life appeared. Because Jesus overcame the darkness, we too can live beyond the grave... He has become the first fruits of our resurrection.

On **Day 4** the stars were put in place as signs to the earth's inhabitants. Today we carry on the job of the stars, and preach the Gospel. Like the moon we have no light of our own, but when we reflect the sun we shine light into the dark.

On **Day 5**, God fills the sea and sky – the wind and waves. This is the work of the Holy Spirit... His power is like a mighty wind. His Word washes like water.

On **Day 6**, man is created to take dominion over the earth. And at the second coming of Jesus, the last Adam, Jesus Christ will return to rule over the planet.

And just as **Day 7** is a day of rest, the second coming of Jesus will be followed by a Sabbath rest of 1000 years. This troubled earth will rest under Christ the king.

The story of creation foreshadows the story of redemption. From the beginning, even before Adam sinned, God loved us so much He was already planning our salvation. Jesus is truly, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.