

Bible Study # 7  
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Old Testament Series—Genesis 1—3

We are going to be getting into our study on the book of Genesis, **getting, specifically, into the first three chapters of Genesis.** We will go through some of the material in the first three chapters. We will also **go over and review the Bible study questions** that we passed out for this evening, and then I have more to pass out that will be for the next Bible study. One of the things that sometimes comes out is: where did Moses get all the information that is in the book of Genesis? Ever wonder about that? Where did Moses come up with all the information? How did he know some of these things? Did God just supernaturally tell him every word of it or did he get some of it from some other source?

The reality is that there are at least eleven documents, or books, that are included in the book of Genesis that had been preserved from different periods of time. There is at least one that traces all the way back to Adam, himself. It was compiled during his lifetime and was, evidently, preserved on board the ark. Then it came down through the family of Shem and Abraham—right down to being preserved by the family in Egypt. It was a book that Moses would have had access to. We might notice, as we go through, references to that.

To begin with, you might notice in Genesis 5:1, “This is the book of the genealogy of Adam...” Now this is, actually, a document that is referred to—“This is the book...”—and it goes through and gives a detailed account.

You might notice back here in Genesis 2.

Genesis 2:4, “These are the history [Lit. “generations”] of the heavens and the earth when they were created in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.” A little later we come to the book of the generations of Noah (Genesis 6:9). We find references in Genesis 10. Genesis 10:1, “Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth...” It goes through and is a document that preserves names and genealogies.

In Genesis 11:27, “This is the genealogy of Terah...” Terah was the ancestor of Abraham. If we were to go through the book of Genesis, we would find, at a later stage, the genealogy of Ishmael in Genesis 25:12. We would find the genealogy of Isaac in Genesis 25:19. Also, in

Genesis 11:10, Genesis 25:19, Genesis 36:1 and Genesis 37:2, we find various genealogies.

What it amounts to is that Moses would have had access to a number of records, or books, that in some cases, were simply family genealogical records where certain things were compiled, preserved and maintained in the family that came down. Moses would have had access to it, and it served as a basis for his compilation of much of the early material in the book of Genesis. There were a number of written accounts.

We are not going to get into it this time, but next Bible study we will go into some things about the very origin of writing. You might be surprised to note the man who invented writing. He invented writing with a stylus, a pen, and his name is mentioned in the Bible. We can basically pinpoint approximately the time that the human family began to use writing, and it was, certainly, within the lifetime of Adam. You might be surprised that man is mentioned. I won't tell you where his name is mentioned or who he is, but we will go into that next Bible study. If you're curious, then you might want to be here.

There were a number of written documents—a number of things that were preserved.

We note in Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The word for “heaven” is plural. “In the beginning”—there is a lot involved here that is sometimes overlooked and not understood.

Verses 1-3. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” This is the way that it reads in the New King James Bible. This period, “In the beginning God”—this beginning that you read of in Genesis 1:1—involves the origin of the very universe, the bringing into existence of physical matter. There was a time when only God existed—the One that we know as God the Father and as Jesus Christ. There was a time when only God existed and God formulated a certain plan. God brought into existence the angelic order (that we read of) prior to the beginning of the physical universe.

Isaiah 57:15, we are told, “...God who inhabits eternity...” That is a dimension that you and I cannot really comprehend because we inhabit time. We have a finite universe that is bounded by distance and time.

Do you realize that prior to the beginning of the physical creation, there was no such thing as time? Time did not exist prior to the bringing

into existence the universe. That is kind of a mind-boggling concept, but what is time? Time is measured by the relationship of the heavenly bodies toward one another. Time is defined by the length of time it takes the earth to rotate on its axis. That's a day; twenty-four hours. A year is defined by the length of time it takes the earth to revolve around the sun. Time is based upon the relationship of the physical objects of the universe. When there was no physical universe, there was no time. There was no physical relationship there to define time. There was no such thing as time. After all, God does not inhabit time; God inhabits eternity. Time didn't exist until God brought the physical universe into being. When God brought the physical into being, time began.

God had existed prior to that, and there was a spiritual creation—the angelic order. We know that the angels existed prior to this because we are told in Job 38:7 that when God brought the physical universe into being, the angels sang for joy. The angels couldn't sing for joy unless they were already there; they already existed. There was a creation on that level.

God inhabits eternity, and time had no existence or meaning until God brought forth the physical universe. God took the Spirit essence that flows out from Him—the Spirit that emanates out from God and from God's mind—and brought matter into existence. God is spirit, and His Spirit emanates out from Him. The purest form of energy that originates with God emanates out from the very mind of God.

God performed a miracle. God changed, or transformed, pure spirit energy into matter. God brought matter into existence. We are told, in Hebrew 11:3, that He made the things that we see of things that do not appear—things that are invisible. He made it of His spirit. That is the basic building block.

Man keeps breaking down the atom and keeps trying to divide and sub-divide. What is matter composed of? It is composed of atoms. Then we divide down, and what is the atom composed of? We look at electrons and neutrons and protons. We keep dividing and sub-dividing and see certain things, and they divide things down a little further. If you have ever read some of these things, it's very intriguing things, and they keep dividing it down. Well, what is smaller than that? What comes beyond that? What is the fundamental building block? They will never get to the bottom of it because the bottom of it is spirit.

God transformed pure spirit energy into matter. Which came first, matter or energy? Energy did. It originated from God. Pure spirit energy transformed into matter; the physical universe was brought into being.

Scientists speculate on the idea (and there are various reasons to speculate on that) that it was a period of time, approximately five billion years ago—give or take a billion—that the physical universe was brought into being. They throw around billions as though it was the U.S. government spending dollar or something. Time, when you are talking in terms of billions of years, hasn't any relevance to human beings or human life. It's not a conception of time that human beings can comprehend. That is time only angels can comprehend. God brought into being the physical universe, and it talks about the angels singing for joy. Prior to that, it is pointless to speculate as to how long prior because prior to the beginning of the universe, there was no time. There was no basis of measuring time. Time did not exist because God inhabits eternity. He inhabits a dimension where time didn't exist.

Some of these concepts are a little bit mind-boggling, and we have trouble grasping. We understand things based on what we know and see. Can you imagine trying to explain a television to somebody who had never seen or heard of such a thing? Maybe your father or great-grandfather died prior to the turn of the century or what if someone who died two hundred years ago was suddenly resurrected. How would you explain the television? Would it make any sense to them at all? Is there any way you could explain it, that they could really comprehend the idea, that you have this box; you turn it on and see what's happening on the other side of the world. They're not really people in there, but you're actually seeing this great big ceremony that's going on over in China (which is halfway around the world), and you're seeing it while it's happening. You see all these things, and you see it close up. You see the groups or scenes. You can switch to another channel, and all of a sudden, you're watching somebody in London or someone commenting on what is going on in China while you're sitting there in your living room. That's kind of mind-boggling. We take it for granted because we are familiar with it.

I remember something that very deeply impressed me. I remember exactly where I was at the time—the time when the first men walked on the moon. One of the things that I specifically remember about that evening as a group of us

were watching the moon landing on television, we saw the lunar module set down and Neil Armstrong step out and take the step. As we were watching these events live coverage, I stepped outside on the balcony. I looked up and could see the moon. It was a beautiful full moon. Standing there on the balcony of the men's dorm in Pasadena, California, I could look up in the sky and look at the moon suspended, hanging up there. I could look in through the doors, and on the television set, I could see a close-up of men walking around on the moon. That's kind of mind-boggling—looking up there and then looking across the room and seeing a close-up picture of what's actually happening right there. Realize—it's very difficult for us to conceive certain things because they are outside of our realm of experience, in terms of understanding what it means to inhabit eternity. We will understand it when we inhabit eternity because at the resurrection, we will put on immortality. We will step out of this dimension that is bound by time—that dimension of time—and we will step out into eternity. We will put on immortality, and then we will grasp what it means to inhabit eternity in a way that we simply cannot fully fathom right now.

God has created the spirit realm. He has created the angelic beings. There had been training of these angelic beings—instruction, plans—things that were thought out when God brought the physical universe into existence. All of the physical laws that regulate the universe had to be conceived, planned out and defined. The relationship of matter, energy and all of these things had to be thought out and defined, and it was brought into existence.

God took Lucifer and the angels and placed them on this planet earth. God introduced on this planet certain life forms. Instructions were given to Lucifer and the angels under him, in terms of the implementation of God's government. It was an opportunity for them to learn and to practice the exercise of God's government and to bring this earth to a state of preparation for the next phase in God's plan. It was apparent, early-on, that Lucifer began to diverge from God's intent—from the proper exercise of God's government.

We are told in Acts 3:19 (referring to the time after Christ's return), "...so that times of refreshing [KJV, "restitution?"] may come from the presence of the Lord." —A time of restoring. What is it going to be like during the reign of the Messiah?

We are told in Isaiah 11:9, "'They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain....'" This is characteristic of the World Tomorrow. It is characteristic of the way the earth will be administered through the government of God when Jesus Christ is directly administering it.

It is apparent from the geologic record that is not the way Lucifer administered the earth because there is the geologic evidences that very clearly show, at that time, there was violence. You look at certain creatures, and there are the literal remains of violence that they did to one another.

John 8:44, Jesus refers to Satan the devil and he told the Pharisees, "'You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.'"

He was a liar, and he abode not in the truth—two aspects. He didn't say he was an adulterer from the beginning or that he was a thief from the beginning. It says he was a murderer from the beginning—the spirit of violence. Evidently, from a very early point, Lucifer decided that the way to excellence lay through competition, strife and the "survival-of-the-fittest approach." It was the way of competition, the way of strife, the way that only the survivors would remain. He was convinced that competition was the way to excellence—not cooperation.

God, over a period of time, had the universe come into being—that probably was in the nature of perhaps billions of years. There is nothing in the Bible to at all contradict that. If science wants to say, based on the evidence that can be discerned, that the physical universe came into existence four or five billion years ago, there is nothing in Scripture to contradict that. There is no reason for saying that was not the case. But there was a point when God introduced certain life forms.

Lucifer was given responsibility and he approached his responsibility from his own way. God allowed things to progress to certain points. There were certain points at which God simply eliminated certain forms of life and introduced, suddenly, different forms of life—more complex and more sophisticated forms of life—forms of life that were capable of more things. It was an opportunity for Lucifer and his angels to gain experience—practical experience in government. It was an opportunity for God to see what they would do. God worked with them over a period of time—that probably was in the nature of

perhaps billions of years—to instruct them in His ways. God saw that it was not the way that was going to lead to where He wanted to go. Things proceeded to a certain point and God simply stopped the experiment. He eliminated certain forms of life.

Science looks at the geologic record, and they can't understand why certain forms of life, such as the dinosaurs, simply ceased. There was just a point where they ceased. They didn't turn into something else. They didn't evolve into some other form; they simply ceased. And, all of a sudden, there are other forms of life that are extant.

Things proceeded on for a period of time, and during this time, Lucifer became ever increasingly embittered. He began to nurture a spirit of bitterness—a root of bitterness—because God didn't see things his way. He proceeded from a spirit of murder to a spirit of lying and began to lie and slander to the angels under him.

From the state of things, from what was happening and from the forms of life that God had placed on the earth, it became apparent to God that the very next step would be the introduction of creatures made in the very image of God that would be capable of being transformed from matter into spirit as a part of the very Family of God to rule over him. The thought of something such as that was beyond Lucifer. It became apparent to Lucifer that God was not going to allow him to continue doing the things he was doing. And there came a point where Lucifer simply rebelled. You read of it in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14.

In Isaiah 14:13, he said, "...“I will exalt my throne above the stars of God [above the angels]....””

Verse 14, ““I will ascend above the heights of the clouds [this shows that he was below the heights of the clouds]; I will be like the Most High.”” He was thrust back down to this earth (Revelation 12:9).

The result when that occurred, we read of in Genesis 1:2, when it says, “The earth was without form and void....”

The word “was” here in Genesis 1:2 is exactly the same word “became” that is used in Genesis 19:26, where we read of Lot and his wife leaving Sodom and Gomorrah. His wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt. Was Lot's wife always a pillar of salt? No, she became a pillar of salt. The word that is translated “became” is exactly the same word, in the Hebrew, that was

translated “was” in Genesis 1:2. “The earth was without form and void.”

The earth was not always without form. God did not create it without form. It became without form, just as Lot's wife became a pillar of salt. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth became without form and void.” It became void, which means “empty.” The Hebrew words that are translated “without form” and “void” are “*tahu*” and “*bohu*.” The earth became “*tohu*” and “*bohu*.” It became without form. It became chaotic, empty and desolate. ‘It became chaotic and desolate’ is another way it can be translated. God did not create the earth in a chaotic, desolate state.

That is made plain in Isaiah 45.

Isaiah 45:18, “For 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....”

The word translated “in vain” in Isaiah 45:1 is the Hebrew word “*tobu*.” It says here God Himself formed the earth. He made and established it. He did not create it “*tohu*.” Yet when you read in Genesis 1:2, we find that the earth had become “*tobu*.” But Isaiah 45:18 says God did not create it “*tohu*”; so, what are we told? ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth but the earth became chaotic.’ God did not create it chaotic. It became “*tohu*”; God did not create it “*tohu*.”

I Corinthians 14:33, “For God is not the author of confusion....” He did not create the earth chaotic and desolate. The earth became chaotic and desolate as a result of Satan's rebellion.

The stage was being set, over a period of time, which is simply incomprehensible to us as human beings. It was a period through which God worked with Lucifer and the angels under him and allowed certain things to transpire. God allowed certain influences to be exerted as Lucifer was adamant that his way of competition and survival-of-the-fittest approach was the way to excellence. He was convinced that it was the way that would produce something that would have good results. God allowed certain things to take place to demonstrate that this kind of survival-of-the-fittest mentality did not lead to excellence in the true sense. It led to strife. It led to a planet being filled with violence.

When you hear the term “survival of the fittest” used in an evolutionary context, realize that the survival of the fittest does not, at all, explain the arrival of the fittest. The fittest may have survived, but from whence did they arrive?

Where did they come from? The fact that they survived is irrelevant. The point is: where did they come from? Where did they originate? Their survival does not explain their origin. Certainly, the most fit survived, but that doesn't tell you where they came from in the beginning. God created the heavens and the earth, but the earth became without form. It became void, chaotic and desolate and it became dark.

Notice the description in v. 2, "...darkness was on the face of the deep..." What was the result of Satan's rebellion? —Absolute pitch-black darkness. There was chaos, desolation, destruction, darkness and there was death. Those were the results of Satan's way.

In the aftermath of Satan's rebellion (his being thrown back down to the earth and the destruction that took place), light, as we know it, simply ceased on the planet. Everything was flooded and overwhelmed with water. There was absolute pitch-black darkness. Undoubtedly, there would have been gigantic volcanic eruptions and all kinds of debris, poisoned gasses, fumes that spewed into the atmosphere, and there was a thick poisonous pall that hung over the planet. Everything was flooded and covered with water. Instead of an atmosphere, there was nothing but pitch-black darkness. If you were standing on the face of the earth, you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. There was a thick black pall, noxious, poisonous gasses and debris that had been thrown into the atmosphere until all light had been blocked out.

When God stepped in, God, through the power of His Spirit, began a process of refashioning and molding the face of the earth through the period of one week. The **first day** was the starting point.

Verse 3, "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." —The first thing that has to occur. There are spiritual lessons we learn. There is a reason why God progressed in the way that He did.

Realize! That's where Satan's way always led. It's where it led physically. It led to destruction, it led to darkness. Satan's way is characterized by darkness. Even from a physical and human realm, there are things that people like to do under cover of darkness that they would simply not think of doing in the bright light of day. It's not an accident that certain places are not noted for being well lit. You don't expect to go into a bar and expect to have the bright light of day or a bright, shining atmosphere.

John 3:19, "...men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." They like

the lights turned down really dim and low because they may be up to something that they wouldn't be doing out in the middle of the noonday sun—trying to pull some of those "shenanigans." It would be a little uncomfortable to be out—standing on the street corner in the bright light of noonday sun—trying to pull some of the shenanigans that they would try to get by with under cover of darkness in some very dim, secluded spot. Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

God started with, "let there be light." The very first thing that occurred was some of the debris and things that were extant in the atmosphere were cleared out to where light could penetrate to the surface. It was still as though it was a heavy overcast, cloudy day, or a foggy day would be a better comparison. It would have been as though it were a very foggy day. The poison and the debris were cleared out of the atmosphere, and it was simply a thick water vapor—thick fog—that remained.

You can travel on a foggy day (sometimes you cross the Atchafalaya, the swamp, between Lafayette and Baton Rouge), and the fog can be so thick, but you can tell whether it is daylight or dark because light penetrates. You can tell that it is daytime, but that's about all that you can say about it. You can be in a fog so thick that you can just barely see past the end of your car.

God said, "Let there be light" That was the first thing. God made that distinction. He cleared the atmosphere to where light was apparent and it now made possible the distinction between day and night. If it is dark all the time, you can't tell when the day starts and the night stops or vice versa. This was the first day.

The **second day** God said, v. 6: "...Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters..." "Firmament" is an old English word that we don't commonly use; it simply means "an expanse." It could be used to refer to anything. You can beat metal and make an expanse of metal, or you could stretch a tent and make an expanse of canvas. "Firmament" simply means "a big something that is spread out," and in this context—the sky. If you look it up in a dictionary (even a Webster's plain unabridged dictionary) the word "firmament" is simply an old English word that refers to the sky—the area of the earth's atmosphere. The Hebrew word that is translated firmament is simply a word that means "expanse." It means "something spread out." God made an expanse in the midst of the waters, and He divided waters from the waters (v. 6). In other words, the thick fog was lifted.

Now there was a thick fog cover and water, but there was an expanse in-between. There was atmosphere now—an expanse in-between. It was not just a continuous pea-soup fog that existed. God cleared that out of the way and made an expanse in between.

Then on the **third day**, God brought forth dry land. God brought forth the continents. When He brought forth the continents, it caused the waters to recede from the continents (vv. 8-9).

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.’” Notice that when life was introduced, it was to reproduce after its own kind. It didn’t evolve from one thing into something else. It reproduced after its kind. Now, obviously, there is variety within a kind. We look around in this room, and we look at human beings. We are all human beings and ultimately the same family.

Acts 17:26, “...‘made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth...’” But, look around at all the different sizes, colors and shapes—all the variety. Yet we are all human beings. Eve’s very name means “living” because she was the mother of all living. All human beings come from Adam and Eve, but God built in to where there could be variety.

Look at various plants. Some of you have been involved in agriculture and realize there are different breeds, maybe different breeds of cattle. Strains maybe developed of certain plants, but it’s still what it was. You can have a wide variety of dogs, but they are still dogs. They don’t turn into cats or something else; they stay dogs. You can even breed a wide variety of cattle. You can have shorthorns, longhorns and polled varieties. You can have a wide variety, but they are still cows. None of them turn into horses, camels, zebras or something else.

Life reproduces after its own kind. There’s room for variety, and there can be specialization, whether you are talking about roses or different varieties of sugarcane. There is room for variety, but it still reproduces after its kind. There are bounds beyond which it simply doesn’t go. It doesn’t change from one kind into another. You simply cannot believe the Genesis record and believe in evolution because evolution implies that you have a progression of life with one kind developing from another kind. It says here that it brings forth after his kind. God brought forth the dry land and plant life into existence on the third day.

Then on the **fourth day**, Genesis 1:14-16, “Then 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 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. Then 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.”

The word that is translated “made” in Genesis 1:16 is a totally different word than is used in Genesis 1:1 when it says God “created.” The term that is used here that is translated “made” simply means “God set two great lights.” He appointed two great lights. This is not an account of the creation of the sun and the moon. God created the sun and the moon when He created the heavens and the earth. That’s a part of the heavens. If God was just making the sun, the moon and the stars—well, what were the heavens that He created way back in the beginning?

We started off with total darkness and all kinds of debris and noxious, poisonous gasses that just absolutely covered everything. It was thick pea soup that contained so many contaminants and foreign particles that there was simply no light that could penetrate the surface of the earth. The first thing God did was remove the debris, and then it was just like you were in a thick fog. The next thing He did was to remove the fog; now you had a thick cloud cover and water, but you had an expanse of open air in-between. Then He brought forth the continents. He caused the water to recede to where the continents appeared and plant life appeared on the land. Then the next thing He did was to clear away this thick cloud cover to where, now, not only was light visible from the surface of the earth, but you could clearly distinguish the sun and the moon and stars. Also, evidently, at this time there was something else that occurred.

What is it that gives us the seasons? What are the seasonal variations? That is based on the earth’s revolution around the sun. If you look at a globe you will find that globes, set on a stand, are always set at a tilt. It is always set at exactly the same tilt. That is known as the earth’s axis, which just simply means an imaginary line. If you somehow could step out into space, you would find that the earth is aligned and hangs out there in a particular way. The tilting of the earth gives us seasons. God had in mind a certain seasonal configuration that was to take place involving the southern and northern hemisphere.

He had in mind a plan from the very beginning. God's Holy Days outline God's plan. God had His plan involved before He ever brought this into being. He didn't sanctify the seventh day because He worked really hard, and it took Him six days to finish, and it just so happened that the seventh day He rested. If it had taken Him a little longer, He would have rested on the eight or ninth day. If He had been a little faster, maybe He could have gotten things done earlier and rested on the fifth day. It's not just an accident. It didn't just happen that He rested on the seventh day because it just kind of came up that way.

God ordered what He did during creation week. He built to a climax on the sixth day so that He would rest on the seventh because He had in mind a seven-thousand year plan and illustrated it here with the seven-day week. He inaugurated a seven-day week to give to man the outline of His plan. Before He ever started, He had in mind a plan that we find outlined in the Holy Days.

In Revelation 13:8, for instance, it talks about Christ, "...the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world." What does that mean? It means that in God's plan there was a Passover. God had a plan outlined. He knew what was going to happen. It was important that seasons be as they are.

One of the things that science can demonstrate is that the earth's axis has not always been as it is now. They know it has been different because the areas where the earth's axis penetrates—the areas that are the Polar Regions today—are frigid. There is no way those regions can be anything but frigid because those are the areas with the least amount of direct sunlight. It's just a matter of the way the planet is tilted. But it's apparent from things that have been discovered in Antarctica and other places, the earth's axis has not always been the way it is. There are areas in the Polar Region that at one time were fairly tropical that are now frozen wastes.

God had in mind a plan. He knew where His plan was going to center, in terms of geography—the Middle East in the northern hemisphere. All of these things were thought out. God already knew where the tribes of Israel were going to be. Do you think God was surprised to find out that all the oil wound up over in the Middle East? You think that was an accident? God designed that would be the Middle East. That's where He wanted attention directed at the end time. God had it all thought through. He knew where He was going to end up before He ever started.

In Isaiah 46:9-10, God declared the end from the beginning.

Some of you have been in construction. If you set out to build a very involved building, you wouldn't have somebody just dump some lumber and blocks. You get out there and somebody says, 'What are you going to build?' And you say, 'Well, I don't know. I will just kind of start hammering some things together and see what evolves.' I'd hate to see the building that would develop. You don't just kind of dump all the materials out and randomly start hammering things together and hope that something kind of evolves. The more sophisticated and complex a building is, the more time it takes. In some cases, architects spend years designing all these things, making models, etc. The more elaborate and involved it is—before they do the first thing—the more it has to be designed and every detail figured out. How you are going to do this; what are you going to do there, and all the various things have to be designed and thought through. God knew where He was going to be in the end before He ever started in the beginning.

Here, in Genesis 1:14, it says, "...let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years.'" The earth's orbit was ordered to be exactly the way that it is. The tilt of the axis was changed. God wanted the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere to have their present configuration, with the Middle East having the configuration in terms of climate. God wanted a progression of seasons with the spring, summer, fall and winter that would illustrate His plan. There is a progression of the seasons. The northern hemisphere was to illustrate the plan and purpose God was going to work out because that was the area where He was working. It would be centered—starting originally with Israel—there in the Middle East, which is in the northern hemisphere.

You don't get the same picture in the southern hemisphere where they have the Feast of Tabernacles in the spring and Passover in the fall. Their seasons are reversed. You simply don't get, from nature around you, the same idea. Spring is a time of new growth, new beginnings. The first month of spring, "Abib" means "green ears" or "new growth." God has set and ordered this to where the proper seasonal variations were designed and set at this time. It was appointed and set at this time—not created.

There were modifications that were made in terms of the length of time for the rotation of the earth on its axis, a revolution of the earth around the sun, the orbit—any adjustment that needed to

be made because of things that had occurred during Satan's rebellion. The sun, stars and moon were all readily visible now from the face of the earth.

On the **fifth day**, God brought forth all of the sea life—the moving creatures that have life. Look at v. 20 (KJV), "...the moving creatures that have life...."

—The moving creatures. The word "creature" is "*nephesh*." The word "moving" is "*sherets*." In Hebrew it means "wiggling" or "moving"—the "*sherets nephesh*"—the wiggling souls. "*Nephesh*" is the Hebrew word for "soul." God breathed into Adam the breath of life, and Adam became a living soul (2:7). "Soul" is exactly the same word (*nephesh*) that is used in v. 20. If a soul (*nephesh*) is immortal, then fish have one, too. And not only fish, but all kinds of little wiggling creatures. God brought forth the sea life and the flying creatures (vv. 20-21). He blessed them and told them to reproduce to replenish the earth (v. 22).

Then on the **sixth day**, God began introducing all the land animals—all of the creatures on earth—and all of these were to bring forth after its kind (vv. 24-25). It is emphasized that life begat like life. They brought forth after their own kind.

Verse 26, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness....'" Not after the animal kind (the monkey or cow or cat or dog kind) or any other kind but after Our kind, after Our image, after Our likeness. Man was made in the outward shape and similitude of God, and man was made with the potential to have God's very nature and character. Man was given dominion (v. 26). He was given rulership. Man was given characteristics of God, and not only that, he was made to become God. He was given responsibility and rulership.

Verse 27, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female created He them." The term "man" here is the generic term. It means "mankind" or "human beings"—male and female.

Verse 28, "...God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over....'" They were to exercise responsibility.

Then instruction is given about diet, concerning the things that they were to eat (vv. 29-30). This concluded the sixth day.

Genesis 2:2, "And on the **seventh day** God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day...." He created the Sabbath on the seventh day.

Verse 3, "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it...."

There is a progression through seven days. God worked six days and rested the seventh. He set it apart. He sanctified it. He blessed it. He hallowed it. He instructed man, 'You can work six days, but you rest on the seventh because that's Mine. That belongs to Me.' That was to typify God's whole plan of allowing mankind six, one-thousand year days, but reserving that seventh one-thousand year day for Himself.

We have a summary in chapter 1.

One thing I might mention.

We noted in v. 26, "Let Us make man...." The word for God in Genesis 1:1 is the Hebrew word "ELOHIM." The "IM" ending in Hebrew is a plural ending. Just as we use "s" in English, the "IM" ending is a plural ending. God (ELOHIM) consisted of more than one being.

John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, 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."

Verse 14, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...." —The Word, Jesus Christ. He was in the beginning with God the Father, and He also was God.

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God [ELOHIM]...."

Verse 26, "Then God [ELOHIM] said, 'Let Us make man in Our image....'"

I will give you something interesting on that. You are familiar with the statement that Jesus made in Matthew 27 when He was hanging there being crucified. Remember what He said as He hung there? —Some of His very last words.

Matthew 27:46, "...Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani,' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'" Remember that? It quotes it in the original Aramaic (the language that He spoke) and then gave the translation into Greek. We have it translated into English, but even in the New King James Bible, it preserves the exact quotation that He said in Aramaic. Aramaic is akin to Hebrew.

One of the things that is very interesting to note is that the term that is translated God—"My God, My God"—"Eli, Eli" is the singular form. Throughout the Old Testament you don't find the singular form used. It's always Elohim, the plural. When Jesus addressed the Father, He didn't say "Elohim, Elohim, lama sabachthani," because it wasn't plural. Since one of the two that comprised God was on earth speaking to the other who was in heaven, He used the singular,

“Eli.” It’s an interesting term and one of the things that can demonstrate that the plural form is used in Genesis 1. And that doesn’t have to be limited to two. We can compare it in the New Testament, when Christ addressed the Father. He never used the plural. He used the singular, which shows that there were only two. If you have plural and you take out one, that leaves you singular. Then, it’s one and one is two. That’s kind of simple to figure.

Genesis 2 is a detailed account of God’s creation of man.

Genesis 2:4 (a document), “This is the history [Lit. “generations”] of the heavens and the earth when they were created...” It gives a detailed account.

Verses 7-9, “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The Lord God planted a Garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

There were two trees in the midst of this garden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We read of the tree of life in other places such as Ezekiel and Revelation. At the end of the book of Revelation, you read of the tree of life that is going to be there.

Revelation 22:1-3, “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of the street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse...” Notice in Revelation 22, you have what answers to Genesis 2 and 3. We read of man being cut off from God in Genesis 3:23-24; in Revelation 22, we read of man completely reconciled to God. In Genesis 3:24, we read of man being denied access to the tree of life; in Revelation 22, we read of man being restored to access to the tree of life.

Revelation 22:14, “...that they may have the right to the tree of life...” God placed these literal trees to symbolize certain things.

Genesis 2:9, “...and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” The word “knowledge” carries with it the connotation of experience. When man partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, by the very act of reaching out and taking

what God told him not to take, he had experienced evil. He had experienced something that he wasn’t supposed to do or experience.

The word “knowledge” is kind of an interesting term. It’s the same word that is used when it says that Adam knew his wife and she conceived. It has to do with more than simply an academic thing. He didn’t look her up in the encyclopedia and say, ‘Yeah, that’s the woman alright.’ That’s not what that means. The connotation of the word in Hebrew has to do with experience. It goes beyond just simply an academic knowledge. Man experienced good and evil. He became involved with good and evil by partaking of this, by doing what God told him not to do.

God made the woman (Eve) and presented her to Adam.

Before we go too much further, I’d like to go back and comment on the questions. Some of them we have commented upon.

### Questions

1. Give the Hebrew name for “God” in Genesis 1:1 and explain its significance.

The Hebrew name for God is Elohim, and the significance is that it shows that God consists of more than one individual because it is the plural form.

2. What would be a better translation in the first part of v. 2?

It is the fact that the earth became without form. It became void. It had not always been that way. God did not create it that way. It became that way.

3. Cite at least one other scripture elsewhere in the Bible that proves whether or not the earth was created formless and void.

Isaiah 45:18, “...God created the earth not in vain...” –Not “*tohu*.” You could quote I Corinthians 14:33 that, “God is not the author of confusion.”

4. What is the meaning of the term “firmament”? It literally means “an expanse.” The Hebrew word that is translated “firmament” means “an expanse.” Firmament refers basically to the sky—to an open area or an expanse.

5. Explain the meaning of Genesis 1:7.

God made the firmament and divided the waters. In other words, He separated the clouds (fog) from the waters that were covering the earth. The

pea-soup fog disappeared—it lifted—and now you had clouds and water and an expanse of sky in-between.

6. Does Genesis 1:14-19 mean that the sun and the moon were not created until the fourth day of creation week? Explain the significance of these verses.

Genesis 1:14-19 doesn't mean that the sun and moon were created the fourth day. That was created in the beginning, probably billions of years before. What you read in Genesis 1:14-19 is referring to (we went into detail)—it is plain—that they were appointed or set in their present orbits, and things were arranged to produce the seasonal variations in the way that we have them today, as well as the cloud (fog) cover being cleared to make the sun, moon and the stars very easily visible from the face of the earth.

7. What is the Hebrew word for “soul” and what is its significance?

The Hebrew word for “soul” is “*nephesh*,” and its significance is the fact that it does not have any connotation of immortality. The word “soul” in the Hebrew is “*nephesh*,” and “*nephesh*” does not refer to immortality. In Genesis 1:20, it's used to refer to fish. They have a soul, too? If Adam became a living soul, well God said, “Let the waters bring forth the *sheret nephesh* (the wiggling souls) that have life.” All these little wiggling souls came forth. Somebody might get all “buggy” if they go back to Ezekiel and read about all the fish being resurrected. Remember a couple of Sabbaths ago, we went through what's going to happen when the pure water goes out, and how all these fish are going to be resurrected. That doesn't mean they are going to have immortal souls and go to heaven when they die—when you eat them or something like that. “*Nephesh*” just refers to a creature.

8. What does the term “an help meet for him” mean?

God said in Genesis 2:18, “‘It is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a help meet for him.’” In other words, a “helper” that is exactly compatible to him. One rendering of the Hebrew is to surround him exactly—in other words, someone who is exactly compatible. ‘I am going to make him a helper that exactly fits.’ God did not make men and women to be exactly alike. He made them to fit together mentally, emotionally and physically. They mutually complement one another. That's the implication here.

Satan wants and desires people to be frustrated. He hates humanity. He wants people frustrated. One of the great lies that has permeated our western world is the fact that, ‘Women, you have to be just like a man. You have to get out and act like a man, dress and act like a man, walk and talk like a man, function as a man in a man's world, compete like a man.’ God didn't make men and women to be exactly alike. He made them to complement one another—to fit together. He made “a help” suitable for, and exactly compatible with, Adam. God made somebody that just exactly fit with Adam as a partner, as a helper. God didn't make somebody that was exactly *like* Adam; God made somebody that exactly *fit with* Adam—and there is a difference.

The only way that any of us are truly happy is when we are fulfilling the role for which God designed us. When we try to fulfill the role that Satan tries to hoist off on us as a substitute for what God designed, all we're going to have is frustration. That's one of the reasons the whole western world is so bogged down in frustration, tension and stress because male and female is at the basis of the family relationship. When you destroy a concept of male and female—in proper relationships of male and female—you destroy any basis of understanding of what a family is and how it ought to function. When you destroy the family and the basis by which it ought to function, you deprive man of that which is unique on the human level and a picture of what's on the God level.

Animals don't have families. They reproduce, but they don't have families. They don't establish a family. A while back (a year or two ago), my cat had kittens, and I gave one of the kittens to my brother. If we go there and our cat is with us, our cat and his cat aren't glad to see each other. It's not “old homecoming” where they have to sit down, and it's a son and Mom and ‘It's good to see you again.’ They don't want anything to do with each other. There's no family relationship. Animals have a certain nurturing instinct when the young are small. They nurture and protect them, but they get grown up and go their way. There's not some family relationship that's established, and they come back and say, ‘Glad to see you Mom and Dad.’ There's no concept of that. That's unique to human beings, and Satan desires, desperately, to destroy that.

9. Who spoke the words recorded in Genesis 2:24? Prove.

God did, or to be more literally correct, Jesus Christ was the member of the God Family that spoke this. “Therefore shall a man leave father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall be one flesh.”

You can prove that by going to Matthew 19:4-5, “And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning “made them male and female,” and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh?”’”

If you just read it in Genesis 2, you might think that Adam said these words. But you can clearly show from what Jesus said in Matthew 19 that this is what God Himself said. This is the record of the first wedding ceremony. God presented Eve to Adam, and He instructed them. That’s why we follow a basic format from Scripture at the time of the wedding. God explained what marriage was to Adam, and we ought to understand something about marriage just from reading this. If somebody wants to know how many wives God thought a man should have, how many did He make for Adam? He didn’t present Adam with a harem. He didn’t make half a dozen—take your choice; rotate around. He didn’t create one woman and a bunch of men. He created one man and one woman. God clearly defined as to what He intended in terms of marriage and He instructed Adam about it. He gave them an explanation.

10. What does this tell us about God’s will concerning marriage?

It tells us that God intends one man and one woman to love each other, to establish a home, to live together and to become one—until death do them part. Anything else is going to involve sin somewhere along the line. It clearly shows in Matthew 19 where Jesus quoted this scripture when the Pharisees wanted to argue and “wrangle” about divorce. They wanted to “tangle Him up,” arguing about a particular verse in Deuteronomy.

Matthew 19:4-5, “And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’”

We are told in Genesis 2:25, “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.” From what source did they learn a sense of shame and guilt about sex and about their own bodies? Did they get it from God? No.

God explained to them, and He told them to multiply and replenish the earth. I think He went into a little more detail than that because I think a certain amount of explanation would have been called for. The explanation God gave when He presented Eve to Adam—He explained about marriage. He told them that they were to cleave together. They were to become one flesh. In other words, God gave them instruction about sex. He explained to them what it was all about. He explained to Adam why he was having all these sensations and feelings that he didn’t quite understand, and the same with Eve. He explained to them what was going on.

11. What was the first recorded lie? What is its significance?

Genesis 3:4, “And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You shall not surely die.’” —The first recorded lie.

The devil said, Genesis 3:1, “...And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”’” The serpent said, ‘God said you can’t have any of the trees.’

Verses 2-3, “And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”’” Eve said, ‘Sure we can. We can have them all, except this one. God said, “don’t eat of this one, don’t touch it and don’t do anything with it, lest you die.”’

Verse 4, “And the serpent [devil] said to the woman, ‘You shall not surely die.’” That was a lie.

Eve was deceived (II Corinthians 11:3). She decided that the way to find out whether the devil was telling the truth or not was to try what he suggested and see if it worked. That’s the reverse. Instead of trying what the devil suggests to see if it works, why not try what God suggests. God doesn’t say concerning tithing, ‘Don’t tithe and see if you are cursed.’

He says, Malachi 3:10, “‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...and prove me now in this,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.’” You prove God by doing what God says. That’s the way you set out to do it. That’s what Eve should have done, but she took the devil’s word. She performed an experiment.

12. From what source did Adam and Eve learn a sense of shame and guilt about sex and about their bodies?

There was nothing God told them that made them embarrassed or ashamed. There was no sense of shame that they got from God's instructions, very likely, late on a Friday afternoon or evening. The instruction they got from God just at the conclusion of creation or just at the beginning of the Sabbath marked the beginning of their marriage—of their union as husband and wife. There was nothing that gave them a sense of shame from what God said.

But a little later, we find a sense of shame that entered in—a sense that something was dirty, something was bad. They were trying to hide—hide from one another and hide from God. Where did they get it? The only other one that is introduced on the scene between Genesis 2:25 and Genesis 3:9-11 (the point where we find them hiding) is the devil. So it's a pretty good conclusion. Where did they get the sense of shame? They got it from the devil. He was a liar and the father of a lie. He took a very subtle form. He came along, and he was "peddling his wares."

I will refer you to the section in Mr. Armstrong's book, The Missing Dimension in Sex. There is a chapter, "Where did this sense of shame arise?" He goes through this account in Genesis 3 very clearly. He goes in great details and explains about the relationship, of the sense of shame and guilt connected with sex. He ties it in with the pagan concept of the immortality of the soul and goes back to Genesis 3. I would simply refer you to that section of the Missing Dimension as a very detailed commentary of this account that explains what happened.

13. Explain Genesis 3:15.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, you shall bruise His heel." The "Seed of woman," in the ultimate sense, refers to Jesus Christ. It's interesting. It's referred to as the Seed of woman because He was born of a female parent but not of a human male parent. The enmity was to be put between Satan and his followers and Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to certain ones in John 8:44, "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."

What are we shown here? We are shown that those who are of the seed of the serpent—those who are of their father the devil, those who were the adherents of Satan's way—ultimately sought to destroy Jesus the Messiah. They very temporarily seemed to triumph over Him. They put Him to death, but He triumphed over death. He is going to destroy death and sin and completely triumph over and put away Satan. You destroy a serpent by crushing its head. The sense of it is, 'I am going to put enmity there.' The ultimate sense of it is there are two ways of life. Culminating in Jesus the Messiah, the Seed of woman will triumph over Satan and his followers. Even though He may be wounded by them, He will crush them. They wound Him, but He crushes them. 'You will bruise His heel, but He will crush your head.'

14. Cite a verse that proves that all human beings who have ever lived trace their ancestry back to Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:20, "Adam called his wife's name Eve [Hebrew, "*chavvah*"] because she was the mother of all living." "*Chavvah*" means "life."

Acts 17:26, "And He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth...." All human beings trace their ancestry back to Adam and Eve.

15. What did the tree of the knowledge of good and evil signify?

It signified man's way—the way that man has pursued, the way of human experience, the way of experimentation, of trying—for man had a choice. There were two trees. God expelled Adam and Eve because they were not going to be given access to the tree of life. The tree of life certainly symbolized something. It evidently was a literal tree, and that tree is going to be readily available.