

CREATION CHAOS AND RESTORATION

INTRODUCTION

God is the creator of all things. From the outset in the book of Genesis, the focus of the creation turns upon Almighty God. He is the beginning, the cause and the source of all that is. In the creation and later the restoration God brought into being all that fits into His plan for the ages. God miraculously spoke into existence all physical matter necessary for His purposes of creation and restoration.

With the phrase, "In the beginning (BERESHITH in the Hebrew)," Moses, under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit, takes the reader back before time, into the unfathomable reaches of eternity. He seeks to suggest the state of things before time was. Moses under the inspiration of the Spirit gives no hint of a tangible date for this beginning. The creation account reaches back into a "space" before there was a dating of events.

The sublime sovereignty of the revelation is based on this one mighty assertion. God did it. Nothing more astounding could be declared: "In the beginning ELOHIM created out of absolutely nothing planet Earth and all surrounding celestials, both seen and unseen, known and unknown."

EL is the usual word for "God" in Hebrew, Aramaic and Arabic. In all three languages it is actually plural in form, but it is used with verbs in the singular. In ELOHIM is united all the powers of eternity and infinity, the Beginning, and the end, the Alpha and the Omega.

Created (BARA in the Hebrew) is a verb used exclusively for an act of God. Man cannot reach up to the powers inherent in this word, for it describes a miracle where undefined perfection was created from absolutely nothing, but by the sovereign, originative power of God. Something absolutely new and original was first brought into being, only to later be scarred and then restored.

THE BASICS AND BEYOND

Let's begin with several basic Scriptures from both the Old and New Testaments.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Gen 1:2 Now the earth was (HAYAH in the Hebrew) formless (TOHU in the Hebrew) and empty (BOHU in the Hebrew), darkness was over the surface of the deep ...

Isa 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain (TOHU), he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

Isaiah raises a question re: the proper translation of Hayah: a question we will later answer in significant detail.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made ...

The Scriptures direct our attention toward a tiny little planet called Earth and the many created beings that would ultimately live upon it. In the phrase, "In the beginning God created" includes the completed universe as it was known or might come to be known.

We once believed our galaxy contained more than 100 billion stars, and that our sun was 150 trillion miles from the center of our galaxy. It was once estimated that the stars numbered 100 quintillion. We now know our galaxy is only one of a small cluster of many galaxies, the nearest of which is thirty million light years from us (150 million trillion miles). The candle power of one such galaxy was said to equal that of 400 million suns. Research scientists, by using powerful telescopes, have discovered more than a billion galaxies, and as better telescopes are constructed the number grows.

As man looks on this vast creation and compares what he sees with Moses's inspired account of its origin; objective minds cannot help but be filled with awe, reverence, respect, dread and wonder. Right now most, and that includes many avid agnostics, agree the Big Bang theory is the best guess as to how the universe began. Let's note how similar this new found theory is to the ageless theory of Creation by Fiat.

When a scientist writes about God his colleagues assume he is over the hill or going bonkers. Ben Stein in his movie (*Expelled*) provides details of how such scientists are ostracized in the scientific community and thus the title of his movie.

I want to provide a quote from my *Doctrine of Evolution*—the complete doctrine can be found on our website (www.westbankbiblechurch.com). You will find the doctrine, under the heading "Pastor Merritt's Study Books."

"As I peruse the latest scientific literature describing the origin of the planet, I am fascinated by what seems to be a sea change. Rather than an evolving origin we find a sharply defined punctilious beginning, i.e., creation began at a certain moment in time. Was the creative agent one of the forces of evolution or was it as the Old Testament says: 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth?' The essential elements of what is now called the Big Bang theory are similar to what we find in the book of Genesis.

"According to the Big Bang theory, everything began suddenly, with a great flash and a release of energy. Many scientists are unhappy that the world apparently began in this way. Until recently most were more comfortable with the steady state theory of development because it was consistent with the theory of Evolution. The best science now concludes there was a sudden beginning. The Big Bang theory was first postulated in 1912 at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff Arizona, where several galaxies were observed to be moving away from planet Earth at speeds of millions of miles an hour.

“The new findings were not reported until 1914 at a scientific meeting. From these empirical observations, Dr. Edwin Hubbell developed a new scenario for all beginning; it is now called The Big Bang theory. Dr. Albert Einstein at first was appalled, because such theorizing did not agree with his mathematics; ergo he rejected the new empiricism. In fact he would write ‘this circumstance of an expanding universe irritates me.’ He later, however, was convinced of the correctness of the theory after meeting with Dr. Hubbell.

“The theory suffered from the age-old problem ‘from where came the original spark of energy which caused that first explosion?’ Thus the natural question, ‘since we now have a beginning, what came before the beginning?’ Some of the bolder have asked ‘who was the prime mover? And was there some intelligent design?’ Theologians are generally happy with the new theory, but most astronomers are very upset.

“Philip Morrison, a well-recognized astronomer said on BBC ‘I would like to reject the Big Bang theory, but I must accept the facts. As a scientist who has always lived his life by tracing cause and effect and who has lived his life in the power of reason, this story ends like a bad dream. At the end of the nightmare I see several of us scientist climbing the mountain of ignorance and as we reach the last pinnacle, even as we claw our way over the last barrier, there I find thousands of grinning theologians who have been sitting there waiting for us for 2000 years.’”

It is difficult not to recognize the hand of God in the beauty and order of the solar system. The word "beginning," appearing in Gen 1:1 and Joh 1:1 is used in a specialized, absolute sense. The beginning is thus separate from that which begins, both preceding and transcending time. The beginning refers to that which occurred before God invented time for mortal man. According to Scripture, when categorically studied in the original language, the creation account is the first in a series of acts. There was first a creation, which Isaiah in Isa 45:18 tells us was “not created imperfect but formed to be inhabited.”

Isa 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

Gen 1:2 in corrected translation, tells us this perfect creation "became without form and void."

Gen 1:2 And the earth became formless and void, empty of any good; and darkness, totally devoid of any heat was upon the face of the raging waters surrounding planet earth. And the Spirit of God hovered over those raging waters and provided incubating heat.

What caused the perfect creation to become imperfect cries out for an explanation, and that we will develop later. That there was a perfect creation which became "without form and void" is clearly taught in Scripture.

Heb 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning (**ARCHE**) hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

Psa 102:25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

The creation was an immediate act of God, prior to time as we know it. The restoration began our account of time. Time is an "invention" of God, and we both use and abuse it. Creation was an independent act by an independent God Who pre-existed all things and this included "time as we know it."

Joh 1:1 states that the **LOGOS**, "the Word" (Christ Jesus) by which the eternal and invisible God is revealed to man, was with God (the Father) "before time was." The Father, the Son and God the Holy Spirit are presented in Scripture as coequal, co-infinite and coeternal. Before anything was, the Trinity was there. John, for our edification distinguishes Jesus--the Word with the other two members of the Trinity. For you see only Christ visited planet Earth as the Godman; He came into the world and lived among us.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God ...

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Lord Jesus Christ is called the Beginning (**ARCHE**) and is said to pre-exist all things by both Paul (Col 1:17-18) and John (Rev 21:5-6).

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the Beginning (**ARCHE**), the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Notice Who was the active agent of the creation; it is Jesus the Christ, "and by him all things consist."

Rev 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Rev 21:6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning (**ARCHE**) and the end ..."

Now let's briefly explore this much maligned theory called Creation by Fiat. The work of God in bringing all things into existence is described in Genesis chapter one verse one. Upon this abbreviated description rests much of what we call creation theology. Although basic, it is unknown and overlooked by most Christians. God the Creator is a personal Trinity, He is among other things, sovereign, righteous, just, love, eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, immutable and true.

God alone is eternal, and He is both imminent (existing and remaining within, and thus, an inherent being) and transcendent, (preeminent and supreme) with respect to all things.

God's act of creation occurred before anything was; this is what the verb **BARA** communicates. It is translated "created" in the KJV of Gen 1:1. The idea that the present universe has been developed out of prior materials, though commonly held by many religions and philosophies, begs the question.

Sadly enough there are many "Bible-believing Christians," who in their desire to accommodate other explanations have adopted the blasphemy that God used evolution to create and perpetuate the planet and its inhabitants. Such well-meaning heterodoxy has no basis in either Scripture or physical science. It is of paramount importance to recognize that Scripture teaches a finished creation, a fall, a failure and a restoration. A Scripture or two with comment will best illustrate. And yes I know, several of these Scriptures have already been mentioned. But a little repetition with comment is needed.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God (**ELOHIM**) created (**BARA**) the heaven (**SHAMAYIM**) and the earth (**ARETZ**).

Gen 1:2 And the earth was (**HAYAH**) without form, and void (**TOHU VA BOHU**); and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Isa 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created (**BARA**) the heavens (**SHAMAYIM**); God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created (**BARA**) it not in vain (**TOHU**), he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

What we have just seen in Scripture is a description of a perfect creation becoming "formless and empty." What caused this change begs to be answered. Is there any event in Scripture which might help us unravel this conundrum? As we search the Scriptures for a possible answer, we soon arrive at one clear and compelling event; one of such size and importance as to set in motion that which would alter the history of planet Earth. That event was Satan's fall! Before time was, Satan chose in his arrogance to fall from heaven. He said in his heart, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will be like the most high."

He along with one-third of all the angels elected to leave the third heaven and take up residence on planet Earth, "in the sides of the north upon the mount of the congregation. When Isa 14:12-15 is compared with Psa 48:2, we begin to see a picture of angelic revolution of no small proportion being played out on a tiny little planet called Earth.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, you who did weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, **in the sides of the north:**

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isa 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Psa 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, **on the sides of the north** (planet earth), the city of the great King.

A once perfect creature, Lucifer, fell and chose planet Earth as the battlefield, and a perfect creature, Christ, entered that same battlefield where in perfection He went to the cross on behalf of mankind to resolve what we now call the Angelic Conflict. Satan's beauty, fall and destruction is described by Ezekiel.

Eze 28:12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty ...

Eze 28:14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

Eze 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

Eze 28:16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

Eze 28:17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

Eze 28:18 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.

Eze 28:19 All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more."

God created the heavens and the earth absolutely perfect, Satan rejected God's authority creating chaos on planet Earth and God in grace restored the planet in preparation for the ultimate victory of Christ over sin and evil.

Now that we have a cause for the perfect creation becoming "without form and void," let's look further at the process. Scripture teaches that after the restoration, there was no creation process in the physical sense, especially as it relates to matter. Certainly there was change but not evolution in the strict sense of the word.

Scientific study of present processes can therefore lead to no understanding of creation. These events were brought about by divine fiat and thus beyond useful scientific investigation. This teaching of Scripture is supported scientifically by the law of conservation of mass and energy, the first law of thermodynamics, which is one of the most basic and best-proved laws of physics.

This first law of thermodynamics postulates that "neither energy nor mass is now being either created or destroyed." Things may change but nothing new is ever created. Science teaches "all has been created that was created." The universal reservoir of energy (which really includes everything in the physical universe) must therefore date from a punctilious point, just as the Bible and the Big Bang theory, in part declares. There is therefore no valid scientific reason to doubt the accuracy of the events recorded in the creation and restoration passages. The restoration events occupied a six-day period. Each act was complete and each was judged by God to be "good." The total restoration He called "very good" (Gen 1:31).

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

It would certainly seem possible that the things restored in the six literal days might, at the instant of their creation, have had an "appearance of age." This is most obvious in the case of Adam and Eve, who were created as mature humans. Therefore, it would be logical to assume such might be for all other objects, both animate and inanimate. All flora and fauna may have likewise been so created. For example, trees could have been created with rings depicting years of growth.

RESTORATION

The restoration, according to Scripture, was accomplished as a series of divine acts. They were done in six literal days. These acts were highly organized and functioning from "their inception." The restoration was completed and finished during a special period in the past, following which God "rested" because he had done everything good for man. Thus, there remains no reason why we cannot or should not accept the creation and restoration recorded in Genesis as an historical, literal and factual account of the specific events which took place just as God declared. I would offer again, a caution to our brothers and sisters in Christ. In our study I hope you noticed there is no indication of how long the planet has been around. Given the fact we have no idea how long the Earth existed in perfection before the fall of Satan, and given the fact we have no idea how long it took Satan to destroy God's perfection, we must not assert an age for the planet nor should we attempt to describe what was occurring on earth during either the age of perfection or the age of chaos. There is certainly room for dinosaurs roaming the earth during Satan's failed attempt to restructure planet earth to his liking.

CONCLUSION

I want to conclude this doctrine with several quotations.

Michael Behe, Professor of Biochemistry at Lehigh University in his book *Darwin's Black Box* has written, "Albert Lehninger, a fine teacher has written a very successful biochemistry text book ... the new addition ... contains two references to evolution ... "We find that the new addition uses the word evolution as a wand to wave over mysteries ... For example, one citation is to evolution, adaptation of the sperm whale.

“When we flip to the indicated page, we learn that sperm whales have several tons of oil in their heads which becomes more dense at colder temperatures. This allows the whale to match the density of the water at the great depths where it often dives and so swim more easily. After describing the whale the textbook remarks, ‘Thus we see in the sperm whale a remarkable anatomical and biochemical adaptation, perfected by evolution.’ But that single line is all that’s said! The whale is stamped ‘perfected by evolution’ and everybody goes home. The authors make no attempt to explain how the sperm whale came to have the structure it has.”

David Bolton Davidheiser, a biology professor with a Ph.D. from John Hopkins University has written in his book *Evolution and the Christian Faith*. “Opinions about some of the things *related to evolution* may still change, but the point is that when it comes to evolution, scientist are not all objective or even honest in their approach to problems ... It is the opinion of evolutionists, expressed over and over, that only the uninformed, the ignorant, and the bigoted do not accept evolution as a fact. This has been repeated so many times that people are afraid of being called ignorant if they express any doubts about the truth of evolution.”

Ann Coulter in her New York Times best-selling book *Godless* has written, “Evolution is not selective breeding, which produces thoroughbred horses, pedigreed dogs ... and so on. Evolution is not the capacity of bacteria to develop antibiotic resistance, but which never evolves into anything but more bacteria. Evolution is not the phenomenon of an existing species changing over the course of many years ... In fact; evolution is not adaptive characteristic developing within a species at all. Darwin’s theory says we get a new species, not a taller version of the same species. Evolutionists call such adaptations “microevolution” only to confuse people.”

Doctors Hoyle and Wickramasinghe (winners of the Dag Hammarskjold 1986 God Medal for Science award) are both atheists. Consequently, they have some odd ideas about the origin of life—but they know enough about science to know evolution does not provide a viable explanation for the creation of life. Hoyle ran some numbers to determine the mathematical probability of the basic enzymes of life arising by random processes. They concluded that the odds were 1 to 1 followed by 40,000 zeroes, or “so utterly minuscule” as to make Darwin’s theory of evolution absurd.

Phillip E. Johnson in his book *Darwin on Trial* has written, “For those who have chosen to devote their lives to exploring exactly how humans evolved from apes, persons who doubt the basic premise are by definition creationists, and hence are not to be taken seriously ... Recall we have no reliable fossil evidence of human evolution.”

Solly Zuckerman, one of Britain’s leading primate experts, regards the evolution of man from apes as self-evident, but who also regards much of the fossil evidence as poppycock. Zuckerman concluded that “the anatomical basis for the claim that certain primates walked and ran upright like man” is flimsy and without any real scientific basis. He concludes their gate was a variant of that seen in subhuman primates. Creation by Fiat provides an alternative *theory* to evolution. Perhaps the apostle John said it best.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.

Joh 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made ...

If you want to know more about creation, chaos and restoration I would urge you to get a copy of R. B. Thieme's book entitled *Creation, Chaos and Restoration* and Clarence Larkin's book entitled *The Greatest Book on Dispensational Truth in the World*.