

## How Did We Get Here?

Did you hear about the group of scientists and engineers that spent years gathering information to determine the origin of all things? As the thousands of bits of information came in, they were fed into a giant computer. Finally the day came when all the information had been programmed. The scientists and engineers gathered around the giant computer as the instruction was punched in, *"Produce a detailed account of the creation of the earth."* Breathlessly the group waited. The great computer hummed and rattled; and finally the printer typed out, *"See Genesis chapter 1."*

There are primarily two views for the existence of all things.

- \* There is the view that God created all things as held by the Creationist.
- \* Then there is the view that all things evolved over billions of years as held by the Evolutionist.

The most popular theory of the evolutionist is the *"Explosive Creation"* theory, which is often called the *"Big Bang"* theory.

In the book *"The Amazing Universe,"* Herbert Friedman (an evolutionist), chief scientist for E.O. Hulburt Center for Space research, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, writes: *"The big bang assumes that all the material of the universe was originally bound in super-hot, super dense mass. Its temperature was more than a trillion degrees, and all matter was homogenized into hydrogen and helium. There was an explosion of this fireball that kicked out matter with enormous velocity in all directions. A billion years later, the clouds of matter began to condense into galaxies of stars. Everything in the solar system -- including our bodies has been reprocessed from material left behind by earlier stellar explosion. With the evolution of a planetary geological structure and the development of a stable planetary atmosphere, life became possible."*

Friedman again says: *"As the sum of knowledge grows, the astronomer continues to seek answers to man's most profound questions: What is the grand design of the universe? How was it created? How did we get here? What are we? Are we alone?"*

HOW WAS IT ALL CREATED? To use a southern expression, *"how in the world did it all get here?"* To find the answer you have to ask the only **"One"** that knows.

Scientists tell us that our Milky Way is over 15 billion years old. (Again quoting Friedman.) The problem with that theory is that there was no one around 15 billion years ago. So how do Scientists know that's how old the Milky Way is? The simple truth is they don't. They just assume that is how old it is.

The Evolutionist tells us that over billions of years all things have evolved. But the problem is, no one has ever seen anything evolve. They just

ASSUME that's what happened.

They remind me of a little boy on his way to school. He caught a bumblebee, put it in a cork bottle, and put it in his back pocket. He got to school and sat down. During the course of the day, the cork came out of the bottle and the bumblebee got loose in his pants. He was squirming around, slapping at his backside, and the teacher asked, "Jimmy! What are you doing?" He said, "Teacher, there is something going on back there that you don't know anything about."

What did go on "back there?" The simple truth is that what went on "back there" the scientists, geologists, astronomers, and the evolutionist can't dogmatically say. They can propose their theories, but to say with absolute certainty, they cannot. Not unless they ask the One Who was there!

The plain truth is, the only one who knows what actually went on "BACK THERE" is God. He was there! Furthermore, He was the only one there. He is the only one that can really tell us what happened.

I like the way a black preacher described it. He said: *"God stepped from behind the curtain of nowhere, onto the platform of nothing, and spoke a world into existence. The reason God came from nowhere is because there wasn't anywhere for Him to come from. And coming from nowhere He stood on nothing, and the reason He stood on nothing was because there was nowhere for Him to stand. And standing on nothing, He reached out where there was nowhere, and caught something when there was nothing to catch, and hung something on nothing and told it to stay there. Then standing on nothing He took the hammer of His own will and He struck the anvil of His omnipotence and sparks flew everywhere. He caught these sparks from the tips of His fingers and flung them into space and bedecked the heavens with stars. And nobody said a word. The reason nobody said anything was because there wasn't anybody there to say anything. So God Himself said, 'That's Good!'"* I agree. That's good!

In Genesis chapter 1 there are 13 steps to creation. Science generally agrees with these 13 steps and the order in which they appear. They are 13 steps that are scientifically correct and scientifically accurate and scientifically in order. Now, the great question is, how did Moses (the human author of Genesis) know the order of creation?

One mathematician named Peter Stoner said that the chance of Moses getting these steps in order would amount to one chance in 31 sextillion (31 followed by 21 zeros.) Dr. Stoner gives an illustration to show what this chance means. He imagines a raffle with 31 sextillion tickets. He says: *"To print that number of tickets would call for 8 million printing presses each capable of producing 2000 tickets a minute, running day and night without stopping for 5 million years. Only one of the 31 sextillion tickets is marked. Our chance of drawing that one ticket on the first try would be the same as Moses' chance of writing Genesis 1 by accident."* ("Exploring Genesis" by John Phillips.)

How did Moses get it right? The One who was there told him what happened! How in the world did the world get here? To answer that question let's ask the only One Who knows and see what He says. In Genesis chapter 1 we find His answer.

First, we see:

### **I. THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATION.**

Genesis 1:1, tells us that creation did not involve a process but a Person. It was not a **Big Bang** that produced this world and universe, but rather a **Big God!**

In Genesis 1 we see that by:

#### **A) God's Word The Mystery Of Creation Is Answered.**

Again I quote Dr. Herbert Friedman: *"At present, the evidence favors the big bang. But no matter how far we push back the veil of ignorance to reveal the existing universe, we shall always be stumped by the basic issue: What lies behind creation?"*

If you believe in God and believe the Bible the mystery is solved. We might not understand all that happened and how it happened, but we know what happened. *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*

A Gallop Poll found that the greatest number of Americans hold to the strict creationist view. Most other Americans believe in some combination of evolution and creationism. Only 9% of Americans believe in strict evolution. ("Christian News," May 1993.)

Evolution purports to explain the origin of all things by natural processes. Yet the Bible declares it was a SUPERNATURAL POWER that brought all things into existence.

If you believe Darwin then the mystery still exists. But if you believe God the mystery is solved. If you cling to man's theories you are still stumped. But if you believe God's Truth you are settled.

We also see that by:

#### **B) God's Word The Method Of Creation Is Accepted.**

We read in Hebrews 11:3: *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."*

This matter of understanding how all things were created is a matter of faith. God tells us how it happened and we believe that.

The evolutionist might come along and say that he rests his case on facts,

not faith. But if an evolutionist is honest, he will have to admit that his case is not built on facts, but theories, assumptions, and speculations. He might argue that what science has discovered causes him to lean toward evolution. At the same time, what science has discovered can create strong leanings to the creationist view as well.

It boils down to faith in either case. The evolutionist has faith in his theories, and the Christian has faith in his God.

If this Bible is true, then Genesis Chapter One is true. If Genesis Chapter One is a lie, then John 3:16 is a lie. The Bible is true, thus Genesis 1:1 is true. I have no doubts about the truth of the Word of God for I have no doubts about the God of the Word.

Second, we see in Genesis 1:

## **II. THE PROCESS RECORDED FOR CREATION.**

Genesis 1:1 tells us that God "**created**" the heavens and the earth.

The word "*created*" is the Hebrew word "*bara*." The word means "*to create something out of nothing*."

The verb never refers to what man can do, but always and only to what God can do. You see, only God can create.

The difference between God and man is the difference between a Creator and a carpenter. A carpenter can take something and make something else with it. He can make something out of something. But he can't make something out of nothing. Only God can make something out of nothing.

Some years ago researchers announced they had been able TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL PROTEIN in the laboratory. This took the scientific world by storm since protein is a building block of life.

The "Saturday Evening Post" interviewed a number of notables to get their reaction. Dr. Vincent Allfrey of the Rockefeller Institute declared: "*This is the biggest story of the century*."

A famous bio-chemist said, "*This century will go down in history as the century when life ceased to be a mystery. Life is only chemistry*."

A British scientist even went as far to say, "*I no longer find it necessary to believe in God*." Then Post then interviewed some Churchmen, including a man named George A. Kelly. He said, "*When a bio-chemist is able to create matter and energy out of nothing, then I would like to talk to him*." I say, "Amen!"

The fairly recent story of Dollie, a sheep in Scotland that was created from the DNA of another sheep, left many reeling from its implications. I would not argue that it is an amazing achievement. But then again, they had DNA to work with. They took something and made something. God took

nothing and made something with it.

The Bible tells us that over the course of 6 days God created the heaven and earth. There are some that view these "*days*", not as 24 hour days, but as epochs, ages, or vast periods of time. It is my opinion that the Bible is referring to literal 24-hour days. Let's look at these 6 days and notice the process of creation over these days.

First, we see how:

### **A) God Formed The Earth.**

The Bible speaks of 6 days of creation.

In the first 3 days there was a specific work that God did. As well, there was a specific work that God did in the second 3 days.

The first 3 days were spent forming the earth. We read in verse 2, "*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*"

In the first 3 days God brought the heavens and earth into existence.

On DAY ONE God brought light into existence. We read in Genesis 1:3-5: "*And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light; that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*"

There was no sun at this point, so at first one might argue, how could there be light? We are now aware that light is a form of energy that we call radiant energy. We only see a tiny part of that energy. This part is called visible light or simply light.

On the first day God filled the heaven and earth with this energy. This energy (light) is at the heart of the famous equation  $E=mc^2$  (energy equals mass multiplied by the speed of light squared), which in turn ushered in the atomic age.

On DAY TWO God formed the atmosphere. We read in Genesis 1:6-8: "*And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.*"

On the second day God divided the waters leaving the earth under water and putting water in the clouds or the atmosphere. God was setting in heaven a sprinkler system He would use to take care of the earth He was creating.

On DAY THREE God formed the continents and the seas. We read in Genesis 1:9-10: *"And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto 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 called he Seas: and God saw that it was good."*

At this point the earth was completely under water. God called the waters into certain places and gave us our three great oceans; the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Indian Ocean, as well as the twenty-six seas of the world. Dry land appeared and God gave us the seven continents of the world: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia.

You will also notice that on the 3rd day God gave the world plant life. We read in verses 11-13: *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day."* On the dry land God placed grass (seedless life), herb-yielding seed (seed bearing life), and fruit trees yielding fruit (fruit bearing life). God was providing a place for man to live and the provisions for man to live. Even to this day botanists divide plants into three divisions: Acotylidons (seedless plants), Monocotylidons (seed bearing plants), and Dicotylidons (fruit-bearing plants).

I want you to notice that it was on day 3 that a phrase came up that occurs several times in this chapter. It is a phrase that describes a basic fact of life. It is the phrase *"after his kind."* In the beginning God decreed that there may be mutation within the species, but there will never be transmutation from one species to another.

Simply put, little calves become big cows, and little trees become big trees, but little calves do not become big trees and little trees do not become big cows.

We not only see how God formed the earth, but also how:

## **B. God Filled The Earth.**

On the first 3 days God formed the earth and on the second 3 days God filled the earth. On DAY FOUR God filled the heavens. We read in verses 14-19: *"And 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 for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And 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. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon 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. And the evening and the morning were the*

*fourth day."*

On day four God made the sun. The sun is our nuclear plant in the sky. It runs on a 10 trillion supply of hydrogen fuel, producing a steady flow of heat and light for all life on earth. At 8 cents per kilowatt-hour, New Yorkers alone would have to pay up to 400 million dollars a day to provide the light that comes to them free from the sun.

God placed the sun 90 million miles away from this earth. If you boarded a jet and traveled 1000 mph it would take you 10 years to get the sun. Yet God placed it right where it had to be. If it had been farther away the earth would have been frozen. If He had placed it closer it would have burned up.

God also placed the moon in the sky on the fourth day. It is interesting that God identified the Sun as the greater light. If you look up in the sky, to the eye the moon would seem bigger. But since God created it He knew which one was bigger. It is also interesting that God called the Sun the greater of two lights: the sun and moon. He did not call the Sun the greatest light. There are stars and planets out there much larger than the sun and moon. The star Antares is so large that it could swallow up 64 million suns the size of ours. He also put the stars in the sky on the fourth day.

In 1920 astronomers estimated that there were 300 billion stars. Sir James Jeans came along and said that there were more stars in the heavens than there are grains of sand on all the seashores of the world.

We are now at the point where no one would even dare attempt to number the stars. Yet God calls them all by name.

On DAY FIVE God filled the seas and skies. We read in verses 20-23: *"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that has life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: 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 fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day."*

God said for the waters to bring forth abundantly (teem with life). God put the whales, fish, and 1000's of living creatures in the water. In fact, the waters of the earth are so abundant, that a single drop of water can have up to 500 million microscopic creatures so small that a teaspoonful of water would be to them what the Atlantic is to us.

God filled the skies with birds. It is estimated that there are around 10 thousand species of birds.

On DAY SIX God filled the earth with various creatures. We read in verses 24-25: *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his*

kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so, And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creeps upon the earth after his kind; and God saw that it was good."

God brought the animal kingdom into existence. Three classes are given.

There is cattle (four-footed domestic animals). There is creeping things (creatures that move along the ground). There is beasts (wild animals). Scientists have classified millions of different species of animals, including more than 800,000 kinds of insects, 6,000 kinds of reptiles, 3,000 kinds of amphibians, and 5,000 kinds of mammals.

Finally, on the 6th day God created man. We will look at the creation of man in a later study.

How did God create it all? He simply spoke the word and it was so. Over and over again we read, "**And God said.**"

Genesis 1:3 *"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."*

Genesis 1:9 *"And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so."*

Genesis 1:11 *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so."*

How in the world did the world get here? God spoke it all into existence. God formed the earth and filled the earth with but His word! This is God's description of what happened.

Last, notice:

### **III. THE PURPOSE REVEALED FOR CREATION.**

What is God's purpose for all He has created? The Bible tells us that this universe and world were created for:

#### **A) The Enjoyment Of Man.**

We read in I Timothy 6:17, that God *"gives us richly all things to enjoy."* This world was created for the good and happiness of man. This world was created to sustain man and satisfy man. The world in and on which we live is a gift from God. He created all things with man in mind.

Furthermore, we see that this universe and world were created for:

#### **B) The Exaltation And Glory Of God.**

We read in Revelation 4:11: *"Thou art worthy, O Lord to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created."*



This world was created to be a testimony to the greatness and glory of God.

This world was created with a two-fold purpose. It was created for man's good and God's glory.

Where did we come from and how did we get here? The One Who was there has told us!

Reference material:

1. "The Amazing Universe" by Herbert Friedman
2. "Exploring Genesis" by John Phillips
3. "Christian News," May 1993
4. "Saturday Evening Post," July 1965, quoted in Exploring Genesis by John Phillips