



# "IN THE BEGINNING"

Volume 1, Issue 1

A Biblical Study of the Book of Genesis

THE FOUNDATION OF THE GOSPEL: SIX LITERAL DAYS OF CREATION

## AN OVERVIEW

1. Begin by reading Genesis 1. List some questions that might come to mind:
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)
2. What are some questions addressed by the Lord in Job 38?
  - 1) Vs. 4-7
  - 2) Vs. 16-21
  - 3) Vs. 24-28
  - 4) Vs. 33-38
3. How is a child of God to understand creation? Hebrews 11:1-3; Eph. 1:4; John 1:1-5
4. Why was the world created? Colossians 1:16; Isaiah 46:9-10; Psalm 19:1

## GOD'S ATTRIBUTES SEEN IN GENESIS 1

5. How is God's splendid power and GREATNESS displayed in creation? Isaiah 40:12

*"Today we know that our galaxy is spinning like a gigantic pinwheel extending for 104,000 light-years from one end to the other. Our sun is 25,000 light-years from the center of this gigantic spiral and rotates around its center once every million years. Above and below the spiral of our galaxy are about one hundred cluster of stars with one-million stars in each cluster, and some of them have a diameter of 16 million miles. We are but part of one of thousands of galaxies. Certainly God's vast creation reveals something of His own greatness." - Bruce K. Waltke*

6. How is God's WISDOM displayed in the order of creation? Isaiah 40:13-14; 1 Cor. 2:16

*"On the first day temporal separation was achieved by the separation of light from darkness. On the second and third days spatial separation was achieved...Only with the separation of land, the third life supportive system, did God pronounce the spatial separation as good or complete. The parallelism of the last three days with the first three is apparent. Whereas on the first day there was light, on the fourth day the light was localized into luminaries; whereas on the second day the water and the sky were separated, on the fifth day the fish were created to fill the seas and the birds were to fill the skies; whereas land and vegetation were created on the third day, on the sixth day the land animals and man were formed to live on the land and to be sustained by its vegetation." - B. Waltke*



"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old."  
- Prov. 8:22

7. How are God's people taught about the Creator's GOODNESS? Gen. 1:26; Psalm 8:3-8

*"The heavenly bodies not only served as an example of rulership but also served to enable man to observe the seasons and times as he took part in the historical process, in which sphere the Creator was pleased to display His other sublime moral attributes of justice, righteousness, grace and truth. The animals were under man's sway, and the herbs, vegetation, and fruit provided for his physical needs. It was not good that man should be alone, and so God made him a counterpart equal to himself." - B. Waltke*

8. What is the relevance of Proverbs 8:22-31 concerning creation and the gospel?

## THEORIES OF CREATION

- 1) Theistic Evolution
- 2) Day-Age View
- 3) Gap Theory
- 4) Literary Framework

## Support for Six Literal Days

- ◆ Although the Hebrew word for "day" (yom) can refer to a time period longer than 24 hours, its attachment to a numerical adjective (ie. "second day") restricts its meaning to 24 hours
- ◆ The formula "evening and morning" indicate a 24-hour cycle of the earth's rotation (Dan. 8:26)
- ◆ No Israelite would have understood God's days of creation to be longer than 24 hours, especially because of the clear analogy with man's weekly cycle of work and rest (Ex. 31:15-17)
- ◆ The "days" of Genesis 1:14 must be literal or the word "years" in the same verse would be meaningless.
- ◆ The "day" of II Pet. 3:8 must be a literal day in order for the contrast with "a thousand years" to be protected.
- ◆ Since the "day" of Gen. 2:4 lacks the numerical adjective, it could refer either to the first day or to the entire creation week.
- ◆ Nothing is really gained by lengthening the creation days to accommodate the evolutionary timetable of earth history, for the revealed events are often in reverse order from that which evolution requires (e.g. earth before sun; whales before land animals; birds before reptiles).