

BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINES

THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	----- Pages 1-2
INTRODUCTION	----- Page 3
CREATION THEORIES	----- Pages 4-5
THE CREATION OF THE “REALM”	----- Pages 6-8
THE CREATION OF THE “RULERS”	----- Pages 9-14
CREATION and EVOLUTION	----- Pages 15-16
CREATION and THE FLOOD	----- Pages 17-21

THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION

Have you ever considered what a Banana Chiffon Cake and Creation **have in common**? They were both made or created “**by design**.” Shelley Falor **designed** a Banana Chiffon Cake, while God **designed** a Universe, “the **totality** of all the things **that exist**” (Webster’s New World Dictionary).

Shelley’s design called for ---

2 cups of flour
1½ cups of sugar
3 teaspoons of baking powder
1 teaspoon of salt
½ cup of salad oil
½ cup of egg yolks (6 to 8)
1 cup of mashed ripe bananas (2 to 3)
1 tablespoon of lemon juice
½ teaspoon of cream of tartar
1 cup of egg whites (6 to 8)

Then Shelley had to precisely ---

Sift flour, sugar, baking powder and salt into a mixing bowl. Make a “well” in dry ingredients. Add egg yolks, oil, bananas, and lemon juice. Beat until smooth. Add cream of tartar to egg whites in large bowl and beat until stiff peaks form. Do not under beat! Gradually & gently fold banana mixture into stiff whites until just blended. Do not stir! Pour into ungreased 10 inch tube pan. Bake at 350 degrees for forty to fifty minutes. Cool in pan turned upside down.

Shelley left nothing **to chance**. Only by **melding** the above ingredients together in **the precise order called for**, could there be an inviting, delicious, Banana Chiffon Cake. Without following her **designed recipe**, the Banana Chiffon Cake would only be a **non-useable doughy mess**.

Likewise, as you study the Biblical record of the **formation of the Universe** (“the totality of all things that exist”), you will also agree **that nothing was left to chance**. Rather, you will discover that everything was made or created in **the precise order of a designed “recipe”** - especially for establishing and maintaining life on **planet earth**. This “**recipe**” was the work of **God** ---

The Master Architect (Designer)

“God founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.”
Jeremiah 10:12b

The Master Builder (Creator)

“God is the maker of all things, --- the LORD Almighty is his name.” Jeremiah 10:16
“For he commanded and they were created.” Psalm 148:5

The Master Sustainer (Upholder)

“In him (God the Son) all things hold together.” Colossians 1:17 - New International Version
“By him (God the Son) all things consist.” Colossians 1:17 - King James Version
The words “hold together”, “consist”, and “sustain” are in reference to the universe as “**standing in its place**” being **upheld** by the LORD. W. E. Vine, Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words.

BACKGROUND

Genesis 1:1-2 form **two** of the most **controversial verses** in all the Scripture.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

The **controversy** or **debate** centers on the Hebrew verb “*haytah*” as found in verse 2. Some say “*haytah*” should be translated that the earth “**became**” or “**had become**” formless and empty (*tohu wabohu*) while others say it should be translated that the earth “**was formless and empty**.”

The Case For – “The Earth Became Formless and Empty”

If, in Genesis 1:2, “*haytah*” was translated that the earth “**became**” or “had become” formless and empty, **what would that indicate?** Only **one** thing! That before the six days of God’s creative acts as recorded in Genesis 1:3-2:1 there was **a previous creation** by God which He **destroyed**, leaving the earth “*formless and empty*” (*tohu wabohu*). Hence, the six days described in Genesis 1:3-2:1 **would not** describe the **original creation** of God, but a **refashioning** or a **re-creation**. But Isaiah 45:18 states that “*God did not make it to be empty.*” So, the earth, which Genesis 1:2 describes as “empty” (*tohu*), **could not possibly be** from a previous creation --- which left the earth “empty”.

The Liberty Bible Commentary, pages 9-10, commenting on this **previous creation theory**, describes it in the following manner.

“In the far distant, dateless past God created a perfect heaven & a perfect earth. Satan was ruler of the earth which was peopled by a race of “men” **without any souls**. Eventually, **Satan**, who dwelt in a Garden of Eden composed of minerals (Ezekiel 28:13), **rebelled** by desiring to become like God (Isaiah 14). Because of Satan’s fall, sin entered the universe and brought on the earth God’s judgment in the form of a flood (indicated by the water of Genesis 1:2), and then a global ice-age when the light and heat from the sun were somehow removed. All the plant, animal, and human fossils upon the earth today **date from this** ‘Lucifer flood’ and **do not** bear any **genetic relationship** with the plants, animals, and fossils **living** upon the earth today. --- The **vast ages** of the **geologic timetable** are thought to have occurred during **this interval** (the time between the **original creation**, Genesis 1:2, and the **re-creation** outlined in Genesis 1:3-31), so that the fossils, plants and animals that are found in the crust of the earth today **are relics** of the originally perfect world **that was destroyed** before the **six literal days of creation** (or, better, **re-creation**) as recorded in Genesis 1:3-31.”

The Case For – “The Earth Was Formless and Empty”

If, however, in Genesis 1:2, “*haytah*” is translated that the earth “**was**” formless and empty, **what would that indicate?** ---

1. That Genesis 1:1 **is an introductory summary statement** of when and what God created.
“*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*”
2. That Genesis 1:2 **is a situation statement** about the earth’s **initial state** at the beginning of the six creative days as found in Genesis 1:3 - 2:1.

The earth “**was**” (Hebrew - *haytah*) **formless** (*tohu*). Its shape or features as seen in the seas, dry land, and vegetation had not yet appeared.
Also, the earth “**was**” (*haytah*) **empty** (Hebrew - *wabohu*). It was void or unfilled with inhabitants such as birds, fish, animals and man.

3. That Genesis 1:3-31 **is a narrative of the six creative days** revealing **what** and **how** and in **what order** God originally created the heavens and the earth.
4. That Genesis 2:1 **is a concluding summary statement** concerning the original creation.
“*Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array,*”

This is the position held in presenting this study of the Doctrine of Creation.

INTRODUCTION

Now, leaving the **debate** over “*haytah*” to the **theologians**, let us concentrate on the “**un-debatables**” concerning creation as taught in the **Holy Scriptures**.

The When Of Creation?

According to Genesis 1:1a, what **time element** is given for the original creation?

In Eternity Past <<<<<<<< **something began** (*bereshith* in Hebrew).

* <<<<<<<< At a point in Eternity Past, **time - creation began**.

The Who Of Creation?

In Genesis 1:1 God is revealed as “**Elohim**”, the **Almighty God with unlimited absolute power** (authority, energy) who is the **Origin** of all creation.

Elohim, a **plural noun** (shown by its **im**-ending), and used with singular verbs, reveals the truth that , within the Godhead, there is a **plurality of persons** – God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the following scripture references, **which member** of the Godhead is referred to as **the Creator**?

Deuteronomy 32:6 _____

Colossians 1:15-16 _____

Genesis 1:2 _____

The What Of Creation?

What do the following scripture verses indicate **that God created**?

Genesis 1:1 and 2:1; Exodus 20:11; John 1:3 _____

The Bible begins with God’s creative acts (Genesis 1). The Hebrew word translated “**created**” is “*bara*”. When “*bara*” is used it indicates **something new**. Where previously there had been **nothing**, now there was **something**. It is used for “matter” (Genesis 1:1); “conscious forms of life”, i.e, birds, fish, animals (Genesis 1:21) and “man” (Genesis 1:27). Two other words are used with God’s creative acts. They are “**made**” (*asah* in Hebrew – Genesis 1:6, 16, 25, 31; 2:4, 8, 22) meaning, “To make or to do” and “**formed**” (*yatsar* in Hebrew – Genesis 2:7 and 19) meaning, “To fashion.”

In order to **prove** the “Gap Theory” (page 4), some claim that these words imply **something different than “create”** (*bara*). **This is an invalid claim. Why?** Because in Genesis 2:4, “**create**” (*bara*) and “**made**” (*asah*) are used **interchangeably** as are **all three words** - create, formed, and made - in Isaiah 43:7.

The How Or Method Of Creation?

What do the following scripture references teach us as to **how created things came into being**?

Genesis 1:3, 6a, 9, 14a, 20, 26a; Psalm 33:6 and 9 _____

“By faith we understand that the universe was supernaturally formed at God’s command so what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” Hebrews 11:3

What else does God do **in relation to His creation**?

Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3 _____

The Why Of Creation?

What does Colossians 1:16b and Romans 11:36 teach concerning **the why of creation**?

CREATION THEORIES

The word genesis means “**beginning**.” In the Book of Genesis we find the beginning of **everything except God**, who is **eternal**.

Concerning the “**beginning**” or **creation** of the heavens and earth, there are **five (5)** schools of thought or interpretation.

• THE GAP THEORY or RUIN-RECONSTRUCTION THEORY

The Gap Theory is used by Christians who endeavor **to harmonize** the Biblical account of creation with the **supposed scientific facts** which date the earth to be 4-5 billion years old.

“This theory **suggests** that an **undetermined** length of time (a gap) **elapsed between the original creation** of the ‘*heavens and the earth*’ in Genesis 1:1 **and** the ‘*formless and empty*’ condition of the earth **described** in Genesis 1:2.

Most Christians who **favor** a time gap between these verses believe that the original earth **was populated** with plants and animals, and because of the fall of Satan (to the earth) **it was destroyed** by God through the means of a global flood, **was plunged** into total darkness, **and thus became** (was) ‘*formless and empty*.’” The Early Earth by John C. Whitcomb, Jr.

Genesis 1:1 _____ (THE TIME GAP THEORY) 1:2 _____ 1:3-31 _____

The original creation of the heavens and the earth.	<div>The Geological Ages</div> <div>The Geologic Table</div> <div>Plant and animal fossils</div>	Terminated by a global cataclysm / judgment prompted by the fall of Satan.	<div>The earth was / became</div> <div>Formless Empty Dark</div>	Six literal days of re-creation
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“The vast ages of the geologic timetable are thought to have occurred during this interval (gap), so that the fossil plants and animals which are found in the crust of the earth today are relics of the originally perfect world which was supposedly destroyed before the six literal days of creation (or re-creation) as revealed in Genesis 1:3-31.”

“It is usually held that some gigantic cataclysm (judgment) terminated the geologic ages, leaving earth shattered and uninhabitable and surrounded by darkness.

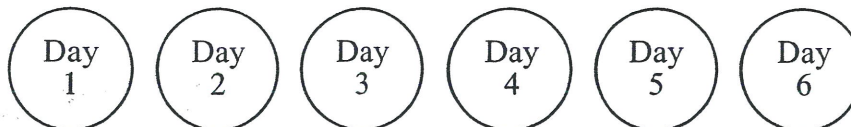
Then, according to the theory, God proceeded to “re-create” or “re-make” the earth in the six literal days described in Genesis 1:3-31.”

The Early Earth, by John C. Whitcomb, Jr. Scientific Creationism, by Henry M. Morris

• THE MULTIPLE - GAP THEORY

In the Multiple - Gap Theory, **aeons of time** are placed **between** each of the 24 hour days of creation. This view attempts to **harmonize** Genesis with science. However, there is **no indication** In Genesis chapter 1 that long periods of time **elapsed** between each 24 hour day of creation.

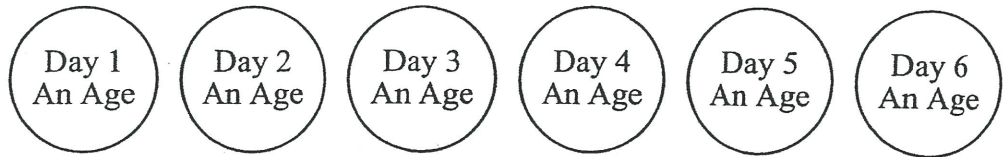
Gaps of time **between** each 24 hour day of creation.



• THE DAY - AGE THEORY

The Day - Age Theory **suggests** that the word “day” (*yom* in Hebrew) is to be understood as **equal to an “age”**. Each creative day in Genesis 1:3-31 is **not taken** as a 24 hour solar day but as **an entire age of undermined length**.

Each day equals
an age of
un-determined
length.



The Day - Age Theory also **attempts to harmonize** the geological ages and geologic tables with the **creation account** of the Book of Genesis.

The creative activity of **each day** covers geologic eras, where the fossils and the rocks and other features of the earth's crust **formed slowly** in a **uniform way** (not varying or changing in rate or degree), **over vast aeons of time**.

• THE REVELATORY - DAY THEORY

According to this view, the Creation took **vast periods of time**, but in Genesis 1:3-31 God was **only telling man in six days** what had previously taken place in those geological periods. **This view has no basis in the Scriptures**.

• THE CREATION WEEK THEORY

The Creation Week Theory **suggests** that the word “day” (*yom* in Hebrew) is to be understood as a **solar day** with each creative day being a **24-hour day**. For whenever *yom* is used with a numeral (1, 2, 3, etc.) it refers to a 24-hour day.

This Theory presents the creative account in Genesis 1:1-2:1 in the following manner.



Genesis 1:1
An **introductory**
summary state-
ment.

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

A **preliminary**
statement survey-
ing the whole
picture which is
then **elaborated**
in greater detail.

Genesis 1:2
A **situation**
statement con-
cerning the earth
at the beginning
of the **first day**
of creation.

“formless”
-incomplete features

“empty”
-unfilled with
inhabitants

“darkness”

Genesis 1:3 – 31
The **narration** of the six days
of creation.

*“For in six days the Lord
made the heavens and the
earth, the sea, and all that
is in them.” Exodus 20:11*

Genesis 2:1
A **concluding** summary
statement.

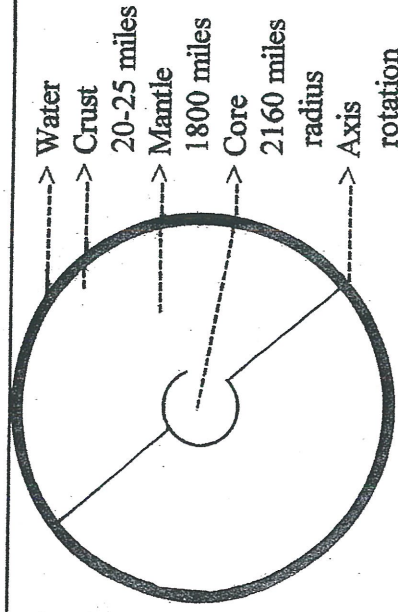
*“Thus the heavens and
the earth were comple-
ted in all their vast
array.” Genesis 2:1*

THE CREATION OF THE REALM OR DOMAIN

THE FIRST DAY - Genesis 1:1-5

The space provided for the "heavenly" planets, solar systems, and galaxies.
A boundless uninhabited expanse beyond the extreme limits of earth's atmosphere, extending without limit in all directions, and referred to as "outer space" or the "second" heaven.

The space provided for the earth's atmosphere (sky), extending up to 300 miles, and referred to as the "first" heaven. Provided with "cosmic light" (a luminous energy, an emission of any source of energy) to separate light from darkness. Light is called "Day" & darkness "Night."



THE SITUATION OF THE EARTH

- It was surrounded by water
- Darkness covered its surface
- It was "formless." Its shape / features were incomplete.
- It was "empty" or uninhabited.

THE SECOND DAY - Genesis 1:6-8

THE "SECOND" HEAVEN

Outer Space is still uninhabited but has "cosmic light."

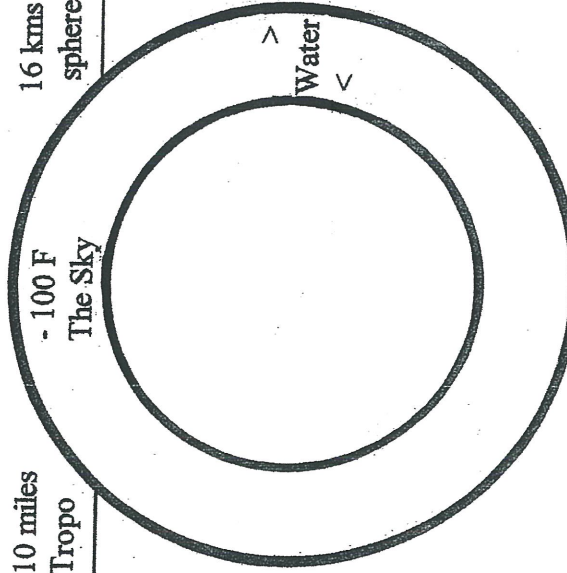
300 miles
50 miles
10 miles

+2000 F
The Ionosphere
Sub-Zero F
Tropopause

- 100 F
The Sky

480 kms
80 kms
16 kms

sphere



THE SITUATION OF THE EARTH

- The water surrounding the earth has divided and a "heaven / sky" placed in between.
- The planet earth has been provided with its atmosphere.
- The earth remains "formless", its features / shape incomplete, and uninhabited.

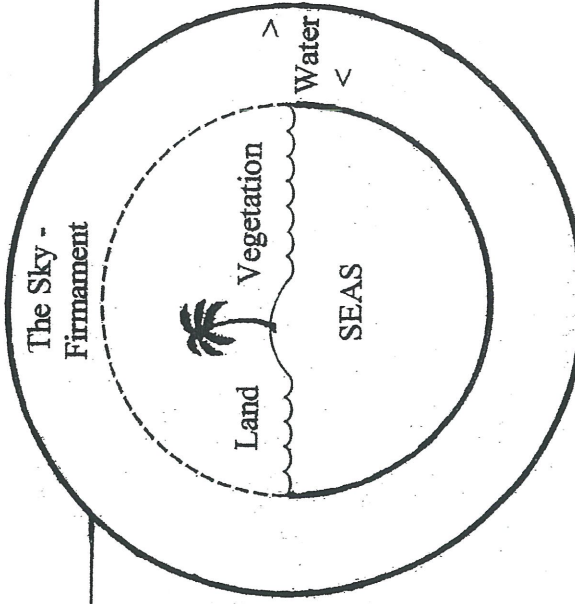
THE THIRD DAY - Genesis 1:9-13

THE "SECOND" HEAVEN

Outer space is still uninhabited but has "cosmic light."

THE "FIRST" HEAVEN

The Earth's Atmosphere
The area for air, dust, moisture, clouds, weather disturbances, etc..



THE SITUATION OF THE EARTH

- The water surrounding the earth has been gathered into "seas" and dry ground has appeared along with vegetation.
- The earth's shape / features are now complete, but it remains "empty" / uninhabited.

THE CREATION OF “THE REALM”

“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.” Ex. 20:11a

The **first three days** of creation reveal “**The Realm**”, the **domain** or **territory** that God created in **three literal, 24-hour days**.

Note: Follow the diagrams on **page 6** for more information on the first three days of creation.

DAY ONE – Genesis 1:1-5

- *“In the beginning God created **the heavens** (plural).” Genesis 1:1a*

The Scripture speaks of **three “heavens”**: God’s **dwelling place** or Paradise (Matthew 6:9-10; Hebrews 1:3 and 9:24), the **stellar “heaven”** (Genesis 1:14-19) and earth’s **atmospheric “heaven”** (Genesis 1:6-8) which is also referred to in these scripture references as the **expanse** and **the sky**.

The Stellar “Heaven”

Genesis 1:1 refers to **the space** God provided (created) for the “heavenly” planets, the solar systems and galaxies. That boundless uninhabited expanse, extending in all directions beyond the extreme limits of earth’s atmosphere, and referred to as “**outer space**” or the **second “heaven.”** (See Day 1 diagram on page 6.)

Note: This space will be **filled** or occupied on the **Fourth** Creative Day (Genesis 1:14-19).

The Earth’s Atmospheric “Heaven”

In his book “In Six Days”, pages 31-32, C. H. McGowen gives this insight regarding the earth’s **atmospheric “heaven”**.

“The earth’s atmosphere extends upwards some 300 miles from its surface. It is composed of **three** rather distinct **layers**. The **first** and most proximate to the surface of the earth is known as the troposphere. This layer extends up to a level of ten miles at the equator but only five miles at the poles. The temperature at the uppermost portion of the troposphere is minus 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the equatorial region and minus 50 degrees in the Polar Regions. The troposphere contains the air man breathes - nitrogen, oxygen, etc. - also dust, moisture, and clouds. It is in this layer that the weather is found, so planes flying above this layer can usually avoid the undesirable effects of storms.

Note: The troposphere will be **filled** or occupied on the **Fifth** Creative Day (Genesis 1:20-23).

The **second layer** of the atmosphere is known as the stratosphere. This segment reaches out to an altitude of 50 miles and its most distinctive feature is ozone, oxygen that has been converted (by cosmic radiation) from its usual two-atom (O₂) form to a three-atom (O₃) form. At the 30 mile level this ozone forms a definite layer, the tropopause, and although the stratosphere above and below this level is attended by sub-zero temperatures the ozone layer (tropopause) creates a temperature of plus 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

The **third layer** of the atmosphere is known as the ionosphere. It reaches an altitude of 300 miles and a temperature of plus 2000 degrees Fahrenheit at its uppermost level. It receives its name by virtue of its high ionic content, that is, its high concentration of electrically charged molecules.” (See Day 2 diagram on page 6.)

- *"In the beginning God created the heavens **and the earth**."* Genesis 1:1b

Within the universe, the "**earth**" God created is the planet / globe we live on. It is "**terrestrial**" or earthly as opposed to "**celestial**" or heavenly. It is the **fifth** largest planet in our solar (sun) system and the **third** in distance from the sun. The earth has a "**crust**" 20-25 miles wide / deep, a "**mantle**" 1800 miles wide / deep, and a "**core**" with a 2160 miles radius. The earth is 7918 miles in diameter.

In relation to **the sun**, the earth **rotates** on its axis once every 24 hours. This is the earth's "**Solar Day**." Also, the earth makes **one complete revolution** round the sun every 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds. This is the earth's "**Solar Year**."

On the **First** Creative Day (Genesis 1:1-5), the earth was seen as: "**formless**" - its shape / features were incomplete; It was "**empty**" - uninhabited or unfilled; It was **enveloped** or surrounded by water and darkness covered its surface; It was provided with **cosmic light**, a luminous energy, an emission of brightness, that separated the light, called **day**, from the darkness, called **night**. In all this, the Holy Spirit was actively participating (hovering). (See Day 1 diagram on page 6.)

DAY TWO – Genesis 1:6-8 (See Day 2 diagram on page 6.)

- The **space** provided for the "**stellar heaven**", outer space or the second heaven, **remains unoccupied / uninhabited**.
- The earth's "**atmospheric heaven**", the troposphere, stratosphere, tropopause, and ionosphere, **are functioning**.
- On the **Second** Creative Day (Genesis 1:6-8), what did God **create or do**? _____

- The earth remains **enveloped** in water. It is thought by some that the water above the earth came to rest in the tropopause of earth's atmosphere where the temperature is a plus 30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The earth remains "**formless**", incomplete in its features, and "**empty**" or uninhabited. The earth's sky is also **uninhabited**.

DAY THREE – Genesis 1:9-13 (See Day 3 diagram on page 6.)

- The space provided for the "**stellar heaven**", outer space or the second heaven, remains **unoccupied or uninhabited**.
- The earth's "**atmospheric heaven**" **is functioning**.
- The earth remains **enveloped** by water above and below its "**expanse**" or "**sky**", which remains **uninhabited**.
- On the **Third** Creative Day (Genesis 1:9-13), what did God **create or do**? _____

- The earth's **features** are now **complete**. It is no longer "**formless**" but remains "**empty**" or **uninhabited**.

THE CREATION OF “THE RULERS”

Creation, days **Four** through **Six**, reveal “**The Rulers**”, the **inhabitants** who occupy the space God created for them on the **first three days** of creation.

Note: Follow the diagrams on **page 10** for more information about the **last three days of creation**.

DAY FOUR – Genesis 1:14-19 (See Day Four diagram on page 10.)

On the **Fourth** Creative Day (Genesis 1:14-19), the **vast expanse** of the “stellar heaven” (“outer space” or the “second heaven”) **was filled** with its inhabitants.

- **The Vastness Of The “Stellar Heaven”**

To illustrate the **vast expanse** of the “Stellar Heaven”, Professor Wilmington from Liberty Bible College, in his “Guide To The Bible” series, uses the following “**Paper Stack Model**” example.

“Let us say the **thickness** of a sheet of paper **represents** the distance from the earth to the sun, some **93,000,000 miles**.

To **represent** the distance to the **nearest star** we would need a **71 foot high** stack of paper.

To cover the **diameter** of our Milky Way galaxy would require a **310 mile high** stack.

To reach the **edge** of the **known universe** would demand a pile of paper sheets **31 million miles high**.”

- **The Rulers / Inhabitants Of The “Stellar Heaven”**

Whereas on Day One there was an emission of luminary energy, now **lights** or **luminary bodies** inhabit the “Stellar Heaven.” The greater light was called the **Sun**, the lesser light the **Moon**, and with these are **the stars**.

These serve the following purposes: They give **light** on the earth and **govern** (separate or divide) the day from the night. They serve **as signs** to mark the **seasons, days, and years** on the earth.

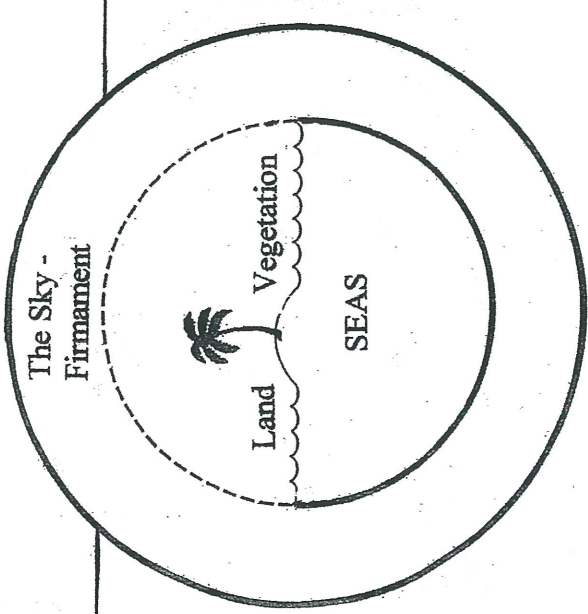
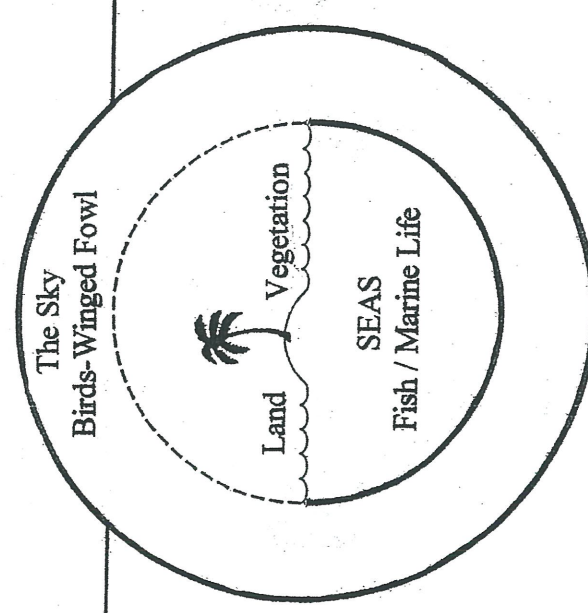
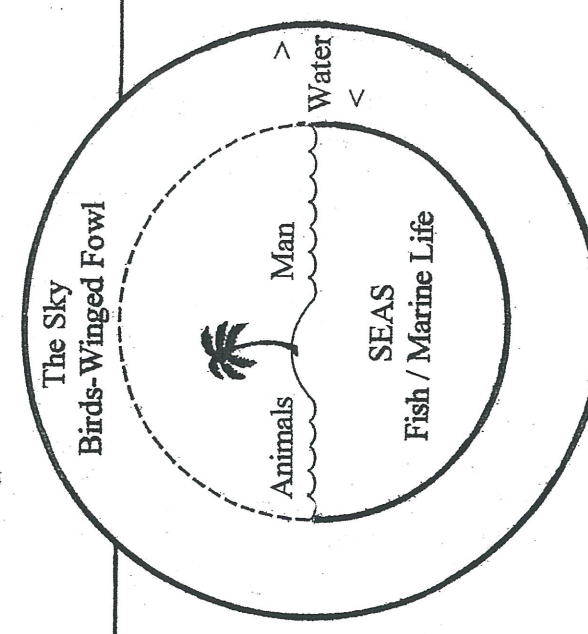
The “Stellar Heaven” is now **filled** or inhabited with its “**rulers**.” The earth’s features are **complete** but it remains **uninhabited**.

What God **did** on the **Fourth** Day of creation, when He **filled** the “Second Heaven” or outer space with **stars** and **planets** and **galaxies**, is **awesome**.

First, look at the **immensity** of earth’s galaxy, the Milky Way. In doing so, **we catch only a glimpse** of the **vastness** of the universe.

The Milky Way **stretches** over the heavens **100,000** light years in length and **10,000** light years in width.

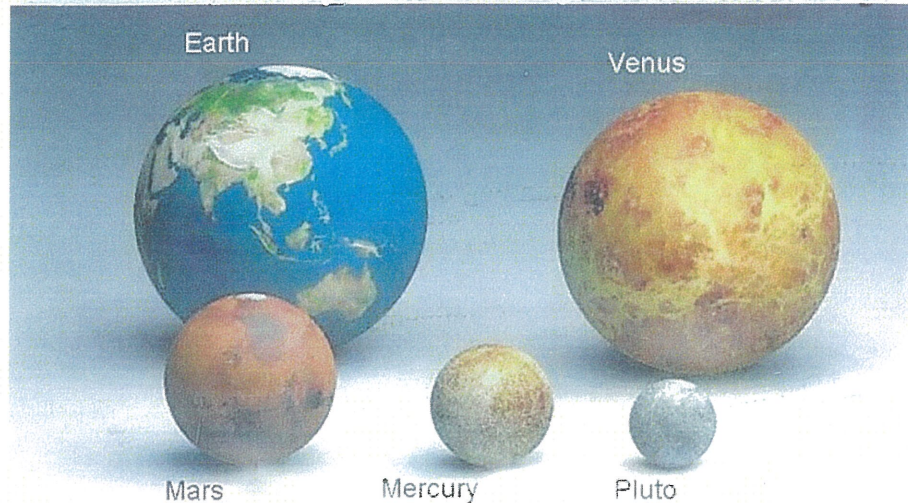
Light travels at **186,000 miles per second**. In order to calculate **one light year** in miles, we need to use **this formula**: 186,000 miles per second x 60 (seconds) x 60 (minutes) x 24 (hours) x 365 (days) **equals** one light year or 5,865,696,000,000 miles (5 trillion, 865 billion, 696 million miles or 9,385,113,600,000 kilometers). Then, **multiplying** these figures, which represent only one light year, by **100,000 light years** we would arrive at a mile figure that defies **human comprehension** or even **human imagination**.

THE CREATION OF THE RULERS OR INHABITANTS		
THE FOURTH DAY (Genesis 1:14-19)	THE FIFTH DAY (Genesis 1:20-23)	THE SIXTH DAY (Genesis 1:24-31)
<p>THE "SECOND" HEAVEN</p> <p>The creation of "lights" or luminary bodies. The Sun, Moon, and Stars for light upon the earth & to divide "Day" from "Night". The Sun to rule the "Day" and the Moon to rule the "Night". For "signs" to mark seasons, days, and years.</p> <p>Outer Space now inhabited with its "Rulers".</p>	<p>THE "SECOND" HEAVEN</p> <p>SUN</p> <p>STARS</p> <p>MOON</p> <p>PLANETS</p> <p>Outer Space "ruled" by its luminary bodies.</p>	<p>THE "SECOND" HEAVEN</p> <p>EARTH'S GALAXY THE MILKY WAY</p> <p>10,000 "Light Years" in length 100,000 "Light Years" in length Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. 186,000 x 60 x 60 x 24 x 365 = 1 Light Year or 5 (trillion), 865 (billion), 696 (million), miles. Multiplied by 100,000 - equals The Milky Way.</p>
<p>THE "FIRST" HEAVEN</p> <p>The earth's Atmosphere now illuminated by "Solar Light".</p>	<p>THE "FIRST" HEAVEN</p> <p>The earth's Atmosphere now illuminated by "Solar Light".</p>	<p>THE "FIRST" HEAVEN</p> <p>The earth's Atmosphere now illuminated by "Solar Light".</p>
 <p>The earth - formed but uninhabited with its "Rulers".</p>	 <p>The "Sky" / "Firmament" and "Seas" inhabited with its "Rulers".</p>	 <p>The Earth inhabited with its "Rulers".</p>

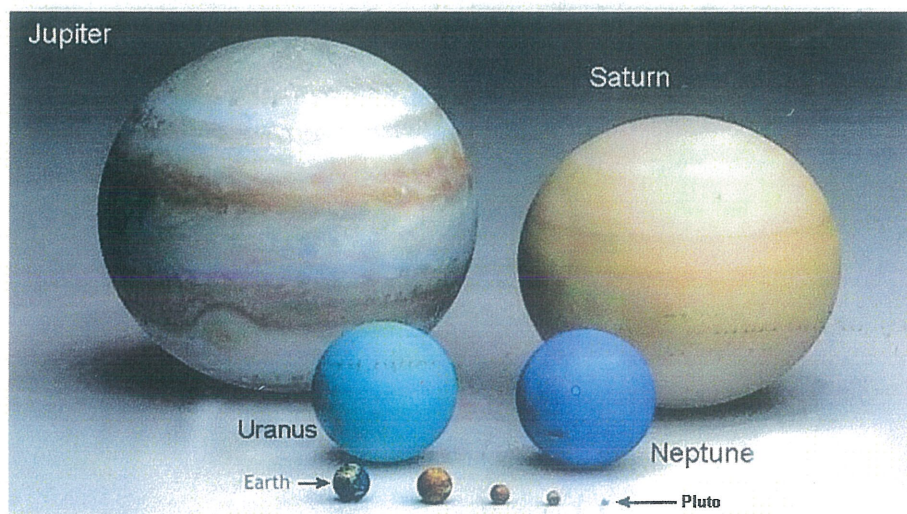
Secondly, a look at the **comparative sizes** of some of the planets God created is simply **mind boggling**.

From an article emphasizing “**How Big Is Your God**”, Ricardo Garcia sent me the following 5 pictures depicting the **comparative sizes** of some of the planets known to us.

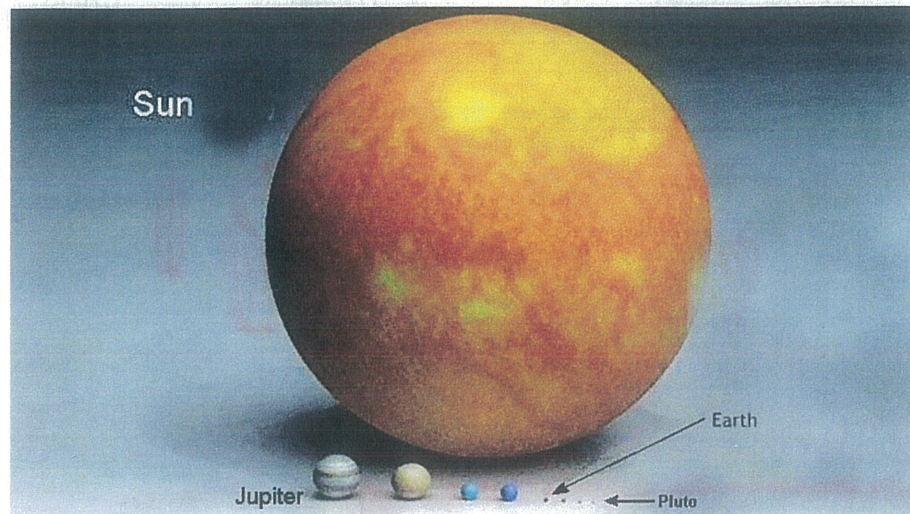
Picture #1 – Shows the size of planet Earth compared to Venus, Mars, Mercury and Pluto.



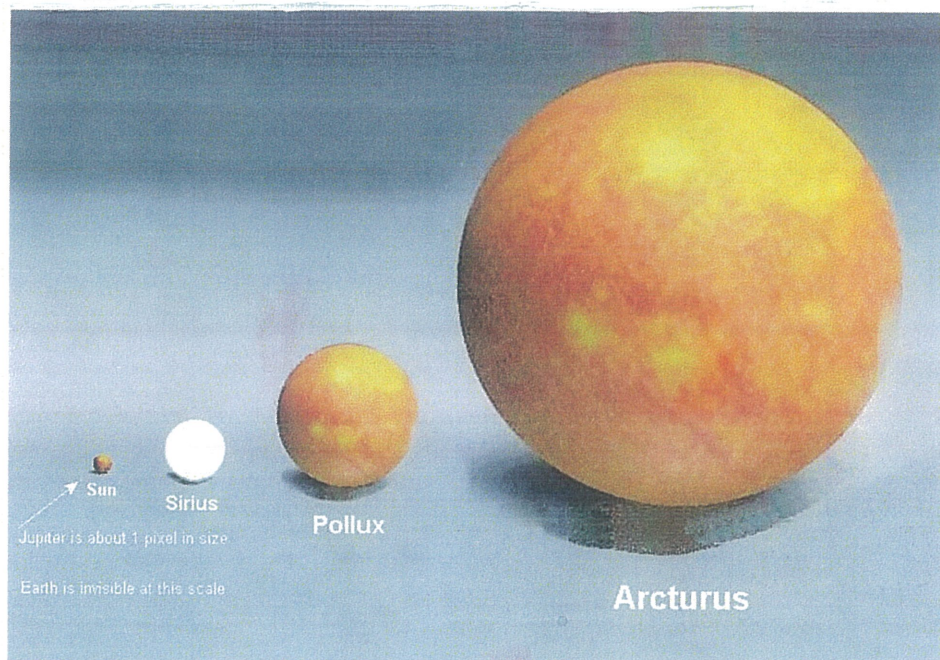
Picture #2 – However, when compared in size to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, --- Earth, Venus, Mars and Mercury are like small “ball-bearings” and Pluto is hardly seen.



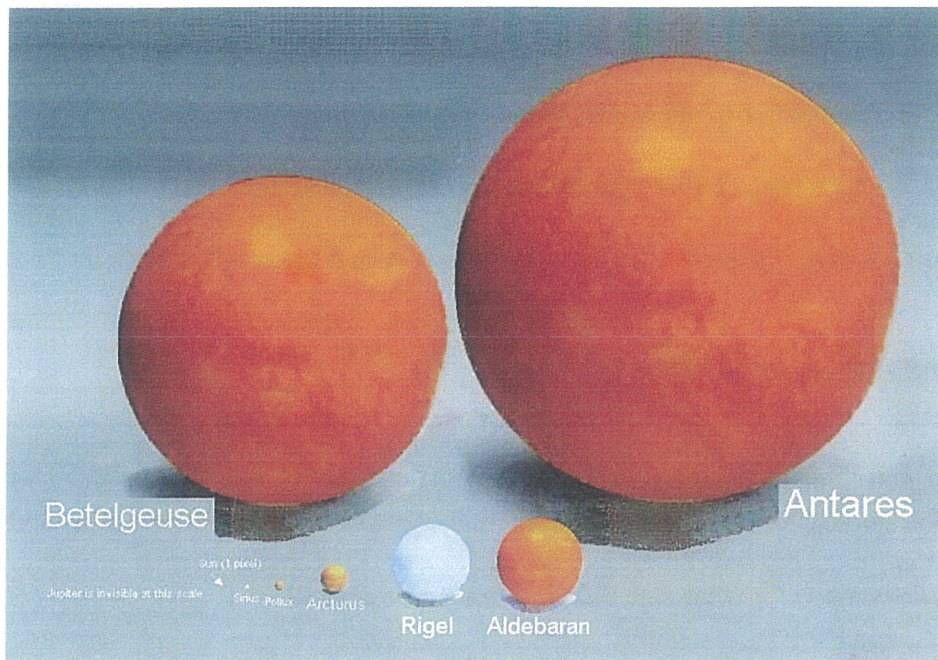
Picture #3 – Now, the “heavyweights” come into play. When compared in size to the Sun, --- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune become the “ball-bearings” --- and Earth, Venus, Mars, Mercury and Pluto are barely distinguishable.



Picture #4 – But, when compared in size to Sirius, Pollux and Arcturus, --- our Sun is like a very small “ball-bearing” --- and Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Earth, Venus, Mars, Mercury, and Pluto are indistinguishable.



Picture #5 – Finally, when compared in size to Antares, the 15th brightest star in the sky, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran and Rigel, --- Arcturus resembles the “ball-bearing” and almost all the other planets we have named are “off the map” because of their seemingly “infinitesimal” sizes.



“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?”

Psalm 8:1 and 3-4

P. S. -- If I were in a **conversation** with proponents of the “**Big Bang Theory**” there are **two questions** I would be **itching** to ask them.

1. Where did the **energy come from** that **propelled** the stars, planets, galaxies, etc. **into space**?
2. Normally, in an **explosion of energy**, such as **from** wind, fire, lightning, or atomic power, there is a **field of debris** in all shapes and forms. How is it that “**debris**” from the “**Big Bang Theory**”, that is, the stars, planets, galaxies, etc., **are spherical** (round or globular) **in shape**?

(See **supplemental material** on page 22 in relation to **astronomical distances** from earth to other planets and the enormous distances between planets and between galaxies).

DAY FIVE – Genesis 1:20-23 (See Day Five diagram on page 10.)

- **The Rulers / Inhabitants Of The Sea and Sky**

On the **Fifth** Creative Day (Genesis 1:20-23), what did God **create or make**? _____

The sea is now **inhabited** with fish / marine life, & the air above the earth with birds / winged fowl.

The earth's features are **complete** but its land **remains uninhabited**.

THE SIXTH DAY – Genesis 1:24-31 (See Day Six diagram on page 10.)

On the **Sixth** Creative Day (Genesis 1:24-31), the “**land**” (earth) was **filled** with its “**rulers**” or “**inhabitants**.”

- **First**, what did God **create or make** in Genesis 1:25? _____

These were called “**living creatures**” (Genesis 1:24). These “living creatures” were blessed with an abundance of food (Genesis 1:29) provided by the vegetation created on the **Third** Creative Day.

- **Secondly**, in Genesis 1:27, what else did God **create or make**? _____

“*In the image of God*” refers to God’s **moral characteristics**. Man was created with a will, emotion, and intellect --- the ability to love, to be faithful / true, to be just / righteous, to be kind / merciful, to be holy, etc.

Note: As originally created, man was **vegetarian** (Genesis 1:29).

- **Thirdly**, in creation, according to Genesis 1:26 and 28, what was God’s **purpose for man**? _____

- **Now**, the earth is no longer “**empty**” but **filled** with its “**rulers**” or **inhabitants**.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

“*Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.*” Genesis 2:1

“*By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.*” Genesis 2:2

We believe that out of nothing, God made the things that are: the universe; the elements; plant life, sea life, bird life, animal life (each to reproduce after its kind); and finally, man in the image of God.

Note: The **original creation** described in Genesis 1:3-31 was **destroyed** by water, the world-wide flood recorded in Genesis chapters 6-7-8 and **will be destroyed** by fire during the future “Day of The Lord.” This cleansing of the earth by **fire** prepares the way for the creation of “*a new Heaven and a new Earth, the home of righteousness.*” II Peter 3:3-7 and 10-13

CREATION and EVOLUTION

Over many years, the material in this section was gradually collected in the form of notes from various writings and authors. I am sorry that I am no longer able to recall these authors nor to give them credit for any of their thoughts which may appear in this section. William G. Arvan

EVOLUTION

Evolution is **the theory** that all organisms, man included, have been derived by spontaneous generation from **inanimate matter** (not endowed with life (animal) - spiritless).

Question: Then --- “How, **when no life existed**, did substances **come into being** which today are absolutely essential to the living systems, yet **can only be formed** by these systems?” Dr. J. E. Shelly

Evolution is a **philosophy** of uniformity and evolution in the physical processes of the universe **without the possibility** of suspension or alteration of those processes by **catastrophic events**. And, that these physical processes, acting essentially as at present, are sufficient **to account for** all past changes and for the present state of the astronomic, geologic, and biologic universe.

Evolution, in a broad sense, **implies** increasing organization and complexity in the universe and is in effect a doctrine of **continuous creation**.

Questions: **When** did this process **stop**? **Why** in the last 6000 years, have we **not seen** modern forms of new **fertile** animal and human species coming into existence from lower life forms by the so-called evolutionary process? Is it because **everything reproduces** “*according to their kinds*” (Genesis 1:24-25)?

What about the **Second Law of Thermodynamics**? The **theory** of evolution **relies** upon two main elements to accomplish its end, namely, **chance** and **enough time**. Proponents of the evolutionary theory use the age-old proposition that given enough time anything is possible when in fact, the Second Law of Thermodynamics proves just the opposite. **Simply stated**, this Law teaches that all things in nature tend to **irreversibly degenerate** from a **state of order** to **disorder**. This began when **sin** and **death** entered the creation.

BIBLICAL CREATIONISM

Biblical Creationism is **based** on the Bible as the **inerrant Word of God**.

Biblical Creationism is a **philosophy** of a **special creation** by God (six days) complete and perfect in the beginning in which all matter & energy were created through processes no longer in operation, **followed by** the introduction of a universal principle of decay & death into the world after man sinned, **culminating in a worldwide cataclysmic destruction** of the “*world at that time*” by the Genesis flood (II Peter 3:6).

Catastrophe Means: “To overturn; A disastrous overthrow or ruin; Any great and sudden calamity or disaster; Any event that disturbs or overthrows the existing order of things.”

Catastrophe is the **theory** that geological changes have been caused in general **by sudden upheavals** rather than **by gradual** (uniform) **changes**.

Biblical Catastrophism is the teaching that, at least on the occasions mentioned in Scripture, **God can** and **has directly intervened** in the normal physical processes of the universe, causing significant changes therein for a time.

The following **questions illustrate** that in the course of history “**cataclysm**” has happened

“**Why** were (what caused) dinosaurs quickly **drowned** and **buried** in sediments?

Why were (what caused) mammoths quickly **drowned** in North America, and quick **frozen** in Siberia, even with sub-tropical vegetation in their mouths and stomachs?

Why were (what caused) petrified forests found 100 miles from the South Pole by Admiral Byrd?

Why were (what caused) **land mammals** found fossilized in locations **below** sea level, while **sea animals** were found fossilized at **high elevations**?”

Donald W. Pattern, “The Noachian Flood and Mountain Uplift”
Quoted by Henry W. Morris in “Creation”, page 102

CONCLUSIONS

That evolution which teaches – “that all species of plants and animals developed from earlier forms by hereditary transmission of slight variations in successive generations”, **and that** - “man evolved from some lower form of animal life” - **does not fit** the facts of creation recorded in Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 and is therefore **to be rejected**.

Also, that evolution which teaches a “**uniformitarian**” **hypothesis**, that is, that - “all geological phenomena may be explained as resulting from observable processes that have operated in a uniform way” - to the exclusion of any “cataclysm” (any great upheaval that causes a sudden and violent changes), - **does not fit** the facts of Scripture (Genesis, chapters 6-7-8) and is therefore **to be rejected**.

In **refuting** the theory of evolution it is well to remember that **all things** created by God during the six days of creation **were created with appearance of age**. They were created **already mature**. They were created ready for use and **able to fulfill** their intended purposes. Adam and Eve were created in a mature state as were the birds, cattle, fish, vegetation, etc.

William Barclay’s “postage stamp” illustration
of Biblical Creationism



supports the remarkable facts

Mr. Barclay comments on an area of minutiae by saying:

“That a piece of human skin the size of a **postage stamp** contains four yards (12 feet) of nerves, a hundred sweat glands, fifteen oil glands, a yard (3feet) of blood vessels and three million assorted cells.”

Also, The National Geographic Magazine of February, 2007, page 46 has this information about the human body.

“It has – 60,000 miles of arteries, veins, and capillaries (in an adult body) that pulsate to a muscular rhythm of 100,000 heartbeats a day.”

What interesting “**pictures**” of God’s creation! No matter where we turn we meet signs of the skill and ability of the **Master Architect**.

CREATION and THE FLOOD

As we consider the story of the flood recorded in Genesis 6:1 - 9:17, keep in mind what happened on the **Second** Creative Day (Genesis 1:6-8). The water that surrounded the planet Earth **divided** or **separated** so that half of the water formed a “**canopy**” (a high covering) in the earth’s Tropopause and the other half continued to **envelope** the earth. The Apostle Peter describes that event in II Peter 3:5 - “*By God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by (or in) water.*”

THE CANOPY

“It is quite reasonable to assume that the water canopy existed in the Stratosphere at the **30-mile** mark, since 30-degree temperatures would be quite compatible with the maintenance of water vapor. On the contrary, the placing of the canopy **above** or **below** the ozone layer would **result** in freezing.”

“In Six Days”, by C. H. McGowen, page 32

There are **two obvious effects** such a “**canopy**” would have produced.

- **A Uniform Climate**

One effect would be a **uniform climate** throughout the earth. This is sometimes referred to as a “**greenhouse**” effect. All over the earth there would be a semi-tropical environment, constant temperature and humidity, and no weather changes. With the **removal** of the “**canopy**” during the flood, all this **changed**. Now, there are temperate zones, extreme temperature and weather changes on the earth.

- **Longevity**

From Adam (930 years) until Noah (950 years), all who lived “under the canopy” (Genesis 6 - 7:11) lived **exceptionally long lives**. They were **shielded** from the devastation of cosmic rays from beyond the Troposphere which cause ageing. They were **vegetarians** (Genesis 1:29) which also contributed to their good health. Immediately after the flood & the removal of the “**canopy**”, longevity **dramatically decreased**. By the time of Abraham (175 years – Genesis 25:7) and Isaac (180 years - Genesis 35:28), the **life span** had dropped to only 20% of what it had been “under the canopy.”

THE GENESIS FLOOD

Read Genesis 6:1 - 9:17 a couple of times and then **answer** the following questions.

1. **What** caused the flood?

Genesis 6:5 _____

Genesis 6:11-13 _____

Genesis 6:3 _____

2. **When** did the flood begin?

Genesis 7:11a _____

3. Explain the **two sources** for the flood waters.

Genesis 7:11b _____

4. **How long** did it rain?

Genesis 7:12, 17a _____

Note: It had **never rained** before this time (Genesis 2:4-5).

5. **To what height** did the waters rise?

Genesis 7:20 _____

What evidence is there that this was **more** than a “**local**” flood?

Genesis 7:19 _____

6. **When** did the flood end?

Genesis 8:13-14 _____

Note: The flood began in the 600th year - 17th day - 2nd month of Noah’s life (Genesis 7:11a). The water had dried up from the earth on the 1st day - 1st month - 601st year of Noah’s life (Genesis 8:13), and by the 27th day the earth was completely dry (Genesis 8:14). These dates **indicate** that the flood lasted **one year and ten days**.

7. **Who / what** survived the flood?

Genesis 7:13-16, 23b _____

8. **Who / what** did not survive the flood?

Genesis 17:13-23a _____

9. **What Covenant** (promise / agreement) did God make with the survivors?

Genesis 9:8-11 _____

10. **What “sign”** of this Covenant **remains** until today?

Genesis 9:12-17 _____

11. In the next “**universal**” judgment, what **material substance** will God use?

II Peter 3:3-7 _____

In considering the Genesis Flood, two controversial positions surface. That held by proponents of a **Local Flood** and that held by proponents of a **Universal** or **Global Flood**. In the following dialogue I have selected the author **Hugh Ross** to represent the thinking of Local Flood adherents and **Dr. C. H. McGowen** to represent the thinking of those of the Universal Flood persuasion.

THE FLOOD, “LOCAL” or “UNIVERSAL / GLOBAL”

Scripture - #1

“I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.” Genesis 6:17

“Only Noah was left and those with him in the ark.” Genesis 7:23b

Local Flood Adherents (Hugh Ross in “The Genesis Question”, pages 142-144)

There were major regions of the world **not settled** by humans at the time of the flood - Antarctica is an example, the whole Western Hemisphere another. The flood did not reach these regions for there was **no population** there to judge. Genesis chapters 1-9 mention places and names **only** in the **environs** of Mesopotamia. This **suggests** that at the time of the flood, all creatures **were confined** to the Mesopotamian Valley. This was “the region that constituted the **whole world** to Antediluvians.” Therefore, “we must **interpret** in light of their frame of reference, not ours.” The flood was God’s judgment on all wickedness (Genesis 6:5-8), but it was universal **only in the sense** that “it touched all the creatures God reached out to judge, no fewer and no more.”

Universal Flood Adherents (C. H. McGowen - "In Six Days", pages 59-60)

The **Local Flood Adherents position**, that 1600 years after the creation the entire population of the earth was **confined** to the Mesopotamian Valley, seems **very unlikely**.

The **Universal Flood Adherents** believe that it was possible for man, in view of his longevity and ideal living conditions, to have **large families** and fill the earth **rather quickly**. It is estimated that there could have been 6,400,000 people on earth 200 years **after** the creation of Adam and Eve. If so, how many **more people** there would be at the time of the flood 1,400 years later. It would not be possible for these **humans**, as well as all **animal** and **bird** creatures, to be **confined** to the Mesopotamian Valley.

Scripture - #2

"They (the waters) rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet."

Genesis 7:19-20

Local Flood Adherents (Hugh Ross in "The Genesis Question", pages 146-148)

Rather than a **canopy** of water surrounding the earth, Hugh Ross looks upon *"The separation of the water under the expanse (sky) from the water above"* (Genesis 1:6-8) as the **creation of earth's atmosphere** (Troposphere) "where clouds form and move" and where "humidity resides."

The *"floodgates of the heavens"* **only refer** to subterranean reservoirs, which today are called Aquifers (page 147). Ross **assumes** that the **topography** of the earth is **the same now** as it was before the flood. So, in speaking of **Mount Everest** (elevation 29,028 feet, or 8848 meters) he says, "To cover Mount Everest with water would require four and a half times the total water resources on the entire planet - and would be **pointless** if no one inhabited that region" (page 148).

Referring to Genesis 7:19 (quoted above) Ross makes the **following observations**. "From his (Noah's) viewpoint on the Ark's **upper deck** --- Noah would see nothing but **water** --- horizon to horizon. The high mountain ranges surrounding the Mesopotamian Valley would be **beyond** Noah's line of sight." Therefore (along with Genesis 8:5), "the text speaks **only** of the region **visible to Noah**, not of the **peaks** beyond the horizon" (page 146).

Universal Flood Adherents (My, The Authors Comments)

On the **second day** of creation (Genesis 1:6-8) the water that surrounded the planet Earth **divided** or **separated** so that half of the water formed a **"canopy"** in the earth's Tropopause and the other half continued to **envelope** the earth.

On the **third creative day** (Genesis 1:9-13), God gathered the water enveloping the earth into **one place** called "seas" thus allowing dry ground or land to appear. In order to do so, God had to **make** or **create** the **"place"**, the **reservoir** or reservoirs, where the waters **would go**. This could only come about by **"displacement"**, a **downward** thrust and a consequent **upward** thrust of the earth's surface. Some estimate that the **upward thrust provided** the earth with hills or mountains between 5 and 8,000 feet **above** sea level. When the *"floodgates of the heavens were opened"* (Genesis 7:11), **releasing** the water stored in the **"canopy"** in the form of rain, and the *"springs of the great deep burst forth"* (Genesis 7:11), there was **sufficient water** to cover the **highest** mountains that existed **at that time**. A literal translation of Psalm 104:7-8 reads *"At thy rebuke they (the waters) fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hastened away. The mountains went up; the valleys went down unto the place which thou hadst founded for them."*

If the **topography** of the earth is **the same** today as before the flood and the flood **localized** in the Mesopotamian Valley, as Hugh Ross claims, how could **any water accumulate** to cause a flood? Would not the water from the *"floodgates of the heavens"* and the *"springs of the great deep"*

simply have run off into the Persian Gulf and possibly the Red Sea and Indian Ocean?

Had the flood been **merely local** and **not universal** or **global**, then the Apostle Peter's analogy comparing God's **universal judgment by water** with God's future **universal judgment by fire** would be of **no relevance**, II Peter 3:3-13

- **Where Did All The Water Go?**

Local Flood Adherents (Hugh Ross in "The Genesis Question", page 149)

"As His **primary means** to disperse the floodwaters (local), God '*sent a wind over the earth*' (Genesis 8:1). This reference to the wind **suggests** that God used **evaporation**, rather than geologic upheaval, to return the floodwaters to their original places."

Universal Flood Adherents (C. H. McGowen - "In Six Days", pages 84-86)

They believe "that the tremendous weight of the floodwaters bearing down on the Earth's crust caused buckling that produced **upward thrust** in some areas and **downward thrust** in others. Examples of **the former** are the great mountain ranges of North and South America (The Rockies and Andes) and the Alps and Himalayas of Europe and Asia respectively. The six-mile deep Marianna Trench in the Pacific is an example of the **down-thrusting** of the Earth's crust."

"The second most likely place where the waters were taken up were the **Polar ice caps**. Because of the worldwide tropical climate prior to the Flood, these had not been present. However, when the canopy came down the poles were subjected to the **frigid temperatures** of the upper atmosphere and the waters in those areas of the globe began to **freeze**. In addition, snow and ice storms developed and added to the creation of the polar ice caps."

- **The Flood's Effect Upon The Earth**

Universal Flood Adherents (C. H. McGowen - "In Six Days", pages 79-80)

Dr. C. H. McGowen **paints** this vivid picture of the Flood's **effect** upon the earth.

"The environment and topography of the **pre-diluvian earth** presented a **sharp contrast** to that of the world today. --- There were **no** ragged mountain peaks capped with snow and ice, **no** volcanoes, deep canyons, barren deserts or tundra. Then came the Flood, as the '*windows of heaven*' and the '*fountains of the deep*' erupted with all their respective **hydrological consequences**. --- As the waters began to rise, water-soaked earth began to slide down the hills. Massive number of trees lost their foothold in the soil and were carried away in the mud slides. On the bottom of the oceans the picture was **much more violent**. Great volumes of boiling water and steam spewed forth from their sub-oceanic tombs. Volcanoes bust forth and the Earth's crust split apart, allowing tons of molten lava to break out of its center. The tremendous weight of the flood waters caused faulting of the Earth's crust throughout its surface. These faults in turn produced **huge tidal waves** that traveled across the globe while slashing and reshaping the Earth's surface. Then between the whirl and boil of escaping steam and lava, explosive earthquakes, and rolling tidal waves, there occurred a mixing and agitation of a worldwide ocean never seen before nor since."

Local Flood Adherents (Hugh Ross in "The Genesis Question", page 149)

"Noah and his family's Post-Flood **activities** --- **argue against** --- a geologic cataclysm hypothesis.

Genesis records that Noah and his family began **profitable agriculture** immediately after leaving the Ark - **impossible** if such extreme erosion and tectonics **rearranged the landscape**. --- The effects of such monstrous erosion, tectonics, and volcanism would be **easily measurable** by geo-

physicists **today** if it had occurred. Just as a rock dropped into a pond disappears but sends ripples radiating outward for many seconds or longer, so also huge tectonic events cause the core of the Earth to ‘**ring**’ for many tens of thousands of years. Seismologists hear **no such ringing**. Nor do geophysicists find a shred of evidence for recent volcanism and erosion on the scale nearly as great as the hypothesis demands.”

CONCLUSION

Although there are many proponents who hold to a **Local** Flood as well as a **Universal** or **Global** Flood position, **both sides believe**:

- That the Flood recorded in Genesis 6:1 – 9:17 **indeed happened**.
- That the Flood was **God’s judgment** upon the wickedness or sin of all men. Genesis 6:5-7, 11-13
- That **no one escaped** God’s judgment **except** those who were with Noah in the Ark. Genesis 7:23
- That **The Covenant** God made with Noah and his sons that - “*Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth*” (Genesis 9:8-17) is an everlasting covenant which **remains in effect** even today.

CREATION’S MESSAGE

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.
There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”* Psalm 19:1-4a

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:18-20

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL --- IN RELATION TO ASTRONOMICAL DISTANCES

Note: The following material is taken from a “Good News Gang” G-mail article entitled “**How Big (or great) Is God?**”

Astronomical distances are measured in “**Light Seconds**” or the speed of light which is equivalent or equal to 186,000 miles per second. Using this method of measurement, here are some things we learn about the vastness of the universe and the “greatness” or “grandeur” of God as its Creator.

- * Our moon is **1.25 light-seconds away** from the earth.
- * The sun, 109 times bigger than the earth, is **8 light-minutes away**.
- * Jupiter is about **40 light-minutes** from the sun.
- * Pluto is **5.5 light-hours out**.

(Take a moment to appreciate this **BIG jump** in distance.)

- * The next star is **4.5 light-years away**.

Note: A light-year is 5,880,000,000,000 miles, or 5.88 trillion miles. Traveling at the speed of light it takes 4.5 light years just to reach the closest star! But, hang on, it gets bigger.

(Take another moment to appreciate this **HUGE jump** in distance.)

- * The center of the Milky Way (our galaxy) is about **25,000 light-years away**. It can be seen at night, but we cannot “see” its size! It is composed of an estimated 100 billion plus stars spiraling around an area about **100,000 light-years across**.

(Now, take a minute to absorb this next **FANASTIC jump** in distance.)

- * The Andromeda galaxy is the next galaxy “out” from the Milky Way. It is **2 million light-years away**.

- * The nearest large cluster of galaxies (Virgo Cluster) is about **50 million light-years away**.

(**Finally**, take another minute to absorb this next **MIND-BOGGLING jump** in distance.)

- * The **edge** of the visible universe is about **13.7 billion light-years away**. And, beyond the edge of our visible universe there are galaxies which **remain unseen** from earth.

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Psalm 8:1