

THE GENESIS CREATION ACCOUNT

A Scripture study
by
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(Study # 12)

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THE CREATION ACCOUNT

In this study you will find that there is no conflict between science and the age of the Universe /Earth, but the atheist's "scientific" theory as to mankind's beginning (an unproven and unprovable theory) differs significantly from the Biblical claim.

Genesis chapters, 1 & 2 gives us the record of creation. This record was written by Moses, as inspired by God, around about 4,052 Biblical (Lunar) years after the creation of Adam (according to the Septuagint), a period of roughly 24 generations. – A lot of the information would have been passed down from father to son orally until writing started. However, there is now new archaeological evidence showing writing started well before the flood.-

Although some errors could have been passed on to Moses, we must remember that in 2 Tim. 3:16, we read; "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*". Therefore, God would have revealed the necessary corrections to Moses prior to his writing of the first five books of the Bible. (Note;- When I say Moses wrote the first five books, I mean by that , that he was the author, he would most likely have used one or more scribes who would write at his dictation. The scribe would have entered details of Moses death at the conclusion.) It was a common practice for people of importance to use scribes. From this inspired record we learn the following.-

God has no beginning, He is eternal. All things owe their beginning to Him.

God was in eternity; dwelling in a spiritual realm with other spiritual beings He had created. He existed before the creation of any material thing, before time, before Genesis.

Then God brought forth the universe into existence.

Genesis 1:1, reads;

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God tells us that it happened "In the beginning". We have not been informed as to when it happened; it could have been days or millions of years before the events of verse 3. All things are possible with God, so we need to keep an open mind on this subject.

This act of God also brought time into existence, for the law of atrophy (degeneration or State of Decay) applies to all material things including humans. Atrophy is the ticking clock for everything material. This law does not apply to the spiritual realm. Spirits are not subject to time.

The earth was unseen, in darkness, without form, its surface continually changing beneath deep water. It was also unready or void. That is, it had not been prepared for any specific purpose other than just another planet in the universe.

All God's creation is perfect. Some planets were created surrounded by ice, some by gas, and in many other wondrous forms; this one was completely covered in water and was perfect in its own right. God is an artist, and He created the Universe as a great and wonderful work of art.

Then God considered this planet (bore upon or hovered or moved over it).

Genesis 1:2, NKJV reads

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The Apostolic Bible reads; "*But the earth was unseen and unready, and darkness was upon the abyss, and spirit of God bore upon the water*". – The words "the earth was unseen and unready", can also be interpreted to read, "*The earth became without form and void*". Some use the latter to claim

that a pre-Adamic race once lived on the earth. However as there was no death before Adam's sin and Abel was the first human to die, a pre-Adamic race can be ruled out. The Bible tells us that death was a consequence of Adam's sin (1 Cor. 15: 21-22.). Therefore, there was no death before Adam's sin, and so no pre-Adamic race.

Having said that however, I believe the Apostolic Bible's translation as "*But the earth was unseen and unready*" to be the most accurate.

Another area which causes confusion in relation to the time gap between Gen. 1: 2 & Gen. 1: 3, is the brief reference to creation found in Exodus 20:11 & Exodus 31: 17. – These references have as their theme an explanation of the Sabbath, they are not there as an exposition of Creation. They refer to God's acts in Gen. 1: 7-10 of remodelling the heavens, earth, & sea and filling them with living things; they do not refer to the original act referred to in Gen.1: 1-2.

Then, God commenced His six creative acts to prepare the Earth for humankind and to place man upon it.

Day 1- Genesis 1: 3-5, reads,

³**Then God said**, "*Let there be light*"; and there was light. ⁴*And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.* ⁵*God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

I have highlighted the first three words, for they are important. Look now at the first three words of every verse in this chapter where God is commencing a new day in his six creative acts of preparing the Earth for mankind. You will find they all begin with "**Then God said**" (Other translations use "And" instead of "Then"). These words indicate **the starting point** of each of the six creative acts, and are not to be found at the beginning of verses one or two. Therefore, the first day starts at verse three.

Verse 3. Commences the first day. On this day, God caused light to shine upon the face of the water covered Earth. – John 1:5 tells us "*God is light*". This new light however, was possibly a light supplied from an independent material source. That source could have been light caused by movement of the already created universe, (for motion, also other chemicals creates light), or more likely from our present sun, which at that time was probably positioned further away from the Earth than it currently is, (verses 14 & 15 would indicate this). After this act, we are told that there was "*evening and morning day one*", and this phrase is used at the completion of each of the six creative acts.

Another problem experienced with the creation account, is that Gen. 1:3 states that God created light on the first day, then verses 14 to 18, indicates He made the sun & moon to shine on the earth on the fourth day; this is not a contradiction, as light can and does exist without the need of a sun.

It is also possible that our sun & moon were included in the original creation of Gen. 1: 1-2, but their light only shone onto the water, without penetrating to the earth beneath. – Verses 6-8 indicate that God then removed a lot of the water from the earth, creating a heavy water canopy above the earth, giving the earth a misty tropical glasshouse type atmosphere. It is also possible that the Earth could have been a bit further from the sun at this time.– Verses 14 -18 reveals that the sun & moon were then visible through what would be a heavily misty sky.

Now as to the six acts of preparing the earth for mankind; there is a lot of debate over whether or not the ‘days’ are 24 hr. periods, or lengthy periods of time. To me this is not important. God is all-powerful and is an independent Spirit and has a will of His own. If God wanted to, He could have accomplished all the acts of creation in less than a second or could have taken millions of years for each act.

The term “**evening and morning day one**”, reveals that there was a beginning and an end to this first act. Each of the six acts finishes in this way. Many accept this term as proof that each of these acts was a 24-hour period. There is however no real proof that these were indeed 24 hr periods, and aside from the events of day 6 (details later) there is no real proof that they were not 24-hour periods.

John 8:56 reads;

*“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see **My day**, and he saw it and was glad.”*

This refers to the period of Christ’s ministry as a day, but we know it to be a fact that His ministry covered about 3¹/₂ years.

2 Peter 3:8 reads

*“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord **one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day**”.*

So let us be careful we are not too dogmatic, in either claiming 24 hour days or long periods. Either way there need be no clash with modern science. Verses 1 and 2 shows us that the universe could be much older, even billions of years older than the events which commenced in verse 3.

As for the age of fossils, there remains no truly reliable dating mechanism, which would contradict the Scriptures.

In the field of geology, we also have the very unscientific way that scientists argue in circles, dating organisms by the rocks they are found in, and dating rocks by the organisms they contain.

The British geologist, R.H.Rastall, admits this when he says, *“It cannot be denied that from a strictly philosophical standpoint geologists are here arguing in a circle. The succession of organisms has been determined by a study of their remains embedded in the rocks, and the relative ages of the rocks are determined by the remains of organisms that they contain.”*

(“Geology” – Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1956, x, 168.)

These same geologists would have us believe that all these fossils appear in the rocks in a set progressive order, starting with the so-called simpler life forms from the older rocks, to the higher life forms in the newer rocks. In reality, this is often not the case. – Their reason for grasping at these straws must surely be that they are prepared to believe anything, no matter how feeble, rather than believe the Bible.

The alternative of course, is to believe God’s record as revealed in the Bible

(To view a few of the lies & deceptions inflicted on the world by some so called geologists & scientists, read Study # 8.) also visit <http://nwcreation.net/evolutionfraud.html> .

Verses 4-5 The creation of light, also meant the creation of shadow. Therefore, here we have the simple statement of God calling the lighted side of the earth, “Day” and the darkened side “Night”.

Day 2. Verses 6-8

Then God said, *“Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters*

from the waters."⁷ Thus 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.⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

This is the simple statement of the creation of a healthy breathable atmosphere. God removed a large part of the water from the earth and placed it in the heavens. God does not tell us the methods He used, and it is not important. God could have done it simply by a direct command, or by an act of moving the earth a bit closer to the sun. He could have achieved it through evaporation over a longer period of time, or maybe used some other method.

Day 3 Verses 9-13. ⁹**Then God said,** "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day.

Verses 9-10 would have been achieved by the removal of a lot of water into the heavens, as well as possible volcanic activities and earth upheavals. – Verses 11-13 gives us the creation of vegetation

Day 4 Verses 14-19

¹⁴**Then God said,** "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Here we have God calling upon the lights of the heavens for the purpose of signs, seasons, days etc. We know from Chapt.1 verse 3-5, that God had already created light on the first day, and because of that first day finishing with the use of the words "evening & morning" we can reasonably assume that the sun and moon were created at that time, but were prevented from fulfilling the roles required of them in the following verses. The reason could be, either the earth was in a position further from the sun than at present, or simply the water, which covered the earth at that time, prevented the sun's rays from penetrating to the earth beneath. Verse 15 specifically states that the purpose was to give light **on** the earth. Verse 17 shows us that God **set them** in the heavens. These words could indicate specific positioning of Sun, Moon etc. in order to make the earth a habitable place.

Day 5, Verses 20-23.

²⁰**Then God said,** "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens."²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."²³ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

The Earth now habitable; God calls forth living creatures of every kind to fill the waters, and the heavens. We need to note that God says each one is according to its kind. This order remains today.

It is impossible for one kind to evolve into another kind; it has never happened, and never will! God has however planted within the genes of each kind, the ability to adapt to its environment of diet, climate, etc., but all remain within their kind. Adaption is not evolution! (Please note; “science” has created its own divisions of creatures which it calls “species”. This probably differs in many areas as to what God calls “kinds”. A simple illustration would be to say that the first pair of dog kinds possibly involved say a male similar to a wolf and female similar to a fox or some other which between them carried the genes for all the dog varieties. In the same way Adam & Eve would each have had different appearances and carried between them the genes of all the different human races. What “scientists” keep calling evolution is no more than simple adaption within a kind.

Day6, Verses 24-31

²⁴Then God said, *"Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so.²⁵And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."²⁹And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.³⁰Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

The Bible gives us reasonably accurate genealogy and time spans, by which it is possible to calculate within an acceptable time frame the date of Adam’s creation. By using these times from the Apostolic Bible (see Study # 1) I have been able to arrive at the date of Adam’s creation (not the world) as about 5525BC.

Verses 24-25, now shows us that God turns His attention to the dry land, and creates all the land creatures. This included all free roaming creatures and all creatures that were to be easily handled and controlled by man, such as cattle & sheep. The “beasts” would have included all the gigantic creatures, such as dinosaurs etc. – Now the word “dinosaur” cannot be found in the Bible and of course the simple reason for this is that “dinosaur” is a comparatively modern word (1841) which has been given to some ancient creatures. However in the Bible, we have been given accounts of great beasts (land & water dwelling) that fit dinosaur descriptions. They are there called,

Behemoth, The description of which closely fits the Brachiosaurus. Found in, Job 40:15. The full description of it given in Job 40:15-24 and it certainly does not fit any of today’s existing creatures and verse 15 shows that this great beast was created on the same day as man was. -

Leviathan, (Also referred to as “Tanniyn” and in some places translated as “Dragon”). See, Job 41:1. - The description of it found in Job 41:1-34 describes a large fearsome amphibious reptile. A larger variety of which appears to mainly inhabit the sea and a smaller variety rivers and swamps. Again it does not fit any known existing creature. More references to this creature are found in; Psalm 104:25-26 / Isai 27:1. / Psalm 74:13-15, plus many more. The description given in the above verses, shows that this creature was much bigger and more powerful than any huge crocodile or even

Komodo dragon. (Not vulnerable to spears or arrows). (Job 41:25-34).

Verses 26-27, Brings us to the ultimate purpose of all that has gone on before. The creation of mankind.

There is quite a bit in these verses alone, and it can become easy to get side tracked, but a little needs to be said here. The first phrase; "*Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness*", is frequently used to "prove" the Trinity, but it does not really prove anything. To Christians this may indeed refer to the Trinity, but we must allow for the fact that God had around Him a multitude of angels, so He could have been saying to them, "Let us make man in the spiritual image of us", simply referring to Himself and the angels. We need to be careful as to what we use as Biblical proof, for just because something seems clear to us, it does not make it proof. However, there is ample solid proof for the Trinity (I prefer to call it "Tri-unity") throughout the Bible, and for a study on this subject, go to my Study # 2.

Then we have the words in the last part of that phrase "*according to Our likeness*"

This is not a physical image, for God is a Spirit. – Mankind was made in the image of the Creative God. We have what no other creature has; it is the ability to create. Yes, a spider can create a web, but this is just an inbuilt (by God) programme in the spider's genetic code. It is a non-thinking process. Mankind however, can think, design, create almost without limit, and this is the image of God. In addition, man has an inbuilt consciousness of spiritual things, which other creatures seem to lack.

Verse 27 reads ²⁷*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* We see here that God says He created man, and then goes on to say that He actually created man & woman. The reason for this is that God first created Adam, then later in the day (after Adam had been shown how to tend the garden of Eden, and named all creatures), Eve was created.

Verse 28, simply tells us that man was to have dominion over all the created creatures.

Verses 29,30 shows us that God provided herbs and fruit, as food for **all** His created creatures. **All creatures, including man were originally vegetarian.**

Then we find in the prophecy of Isaiah concerning the Millennium, in chapter 11: 6-9 the following.
⁶ " *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.* ⁷ *The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.* ⁸ *The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.* ⁹ *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea*

(See also Isa. 65:25 & Ezek. 34:25) These prophecies show that during the coming Millennium all creatures will again be vegetarian.

Verse 31, simply brings us to the end of the six creative acts of God to prepare the earth for mankind, and place them upon it.

When looking carefully at all which occurred on the sixth day one must consider two great issues.

The first is that nothing is too hard or impossible for God. God could have achieved all of these events in less than a second. Therefore, as far as God is concerned, there is no problem with these events being confined to a 24-hour period.

The second is that God gave us all common sense and expects us to use it.

There is no real problem in accepting that the first five days were 24 hour periods.

However, we have to acknowledge that there is indeed a lot that happened on the sixth day, which brings the 24-hour theory into question. All that which happened on the sixth day in chapter one is enough to bring the 24-hour theory into question, but chapter 2 fills in a lot more of the details of that day, and makes it even harder to accept that theory.

Again, however, I must state, that it is not an issue which we should squabble over. Believing one or the other makes no difference as far as a person's salvation is concerned, and neither view need clash with science. Remember, if God considered this issue important, He would have had it spelled out clearly for us.

Genesis Chapter 2, is not a different version of creation, rather it simply gives more details of some of the events of chapter 1, and in particular of the sixth day.

Genesis 2: 1-3 reads;

¹Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.²And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

This shows that in six days, God had completed His six creative acts of preparing the Heavens and the Earth & placing mankind upon the Earth. Then God rested from these works on the seventh day. The way these verses read, and the references to *the evening and the morning* after each of the six creative acts certainly makes it look like each of those acts occupied a 24 hour period. However, just because it **looks like** 24-hour periods, does not prove it. The events occurring in verses 8 to 25 of this chapter, obviously all occurred on the sixth day, and so makes it very hard to believe that these days are anything other than unspecified periods of time.

Genesis 2: 4-7, reads;

⁴This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,⁵before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.⁷And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Here we are told in a matter of fact way, that all we have just read, is the creation history of the Heaven & Earth, followed by plants, followed by watering, (mist & springs), and followed by mankind. For such wondrous acts, surely it is an overstatement to call this brief account a history. However, perhaps that is because God considers this is all the history we need to know. If God wanted us to know everything, He would have told us everything, but God wants us just to exercise simple faith in what He does say. I believe God does not want us to be squabbling over trivial issues, as pointed out in the following verses, which reads;

Matt 23:24

Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

Rom. 14:1

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.

1 Timothy 1:4

nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

1 Timothy 6:4

he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,

2 Timothy 2:23

But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

Titus 3:9

But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

If only Christians in the multitude of denominations and sects today would take to heart the above verses and concentrate on preaching the salvation available through the grace of Jesus Christ alone. By doing so, many more souls could be saved quickly. God wants us to be constructive, concentrating on the more important issues of redemption & salvation.

Verses 5-6

⁵*before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.*

This shows that before God made man, springs and a mist watered the earth. There was no rain. This climate appears to have continued to Noah's flood, for we read in Gen. 9: 11-17, that after the flood God gave the rainbow as a sign to all, that He would never again cause a world deluge. – This shows that the rainbow was a new thing, and is strongly indicative that there had been no rain prior to the flood.

Verse 7,

⁷*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

Here we are told simply that God formed man from the elements of the earth; and modern science agrees that we are made of : “oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous, sulfur, calcium, iron, iodine, sodium, potassium, magnesium, copper, cobalt, fluorine, selenium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, chromium” ,and these are all elements found in the dust of the Earth. – The verse goes on to tell us that God breathed into man's nostrils the **breath** of life. God has revealed this to us, to show that He alone is the giver of life. It is God's spirit alone, which is our life force. Without God, we cease to have life. – Scientists have made many vain attempts in laboratories to try to create life, but have failed miserably; indeed, without God's intervention, they never can succeed. (Note,- The word for breath can also be translated as “ spirit”.

Genesis 2: 8-25, reads;

⁸*The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed,⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and*

good for food. **The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**¹⁰ Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.¹² And the gold of that land is good. Bdelium and the onyx stone are there.¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush.¹⁴ The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."¹⁸ And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.²³ And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Verse 8,

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

This shows that still in this sixth day, God **planted** a garden in a select spot on the Earth. The word "planted" here would tend to indicate that this was not a creative act. Vegetation was created on day 3 in Chapter 1 11-12. This therefore is a separate act; not of creation, but the preparing & growing of a garden area within the already established Earth. The garden was planted "eastward" in a place God called Eden. This tells us that the garden was somewhere east of the area where God had formed Adam. God then placed Adam in this special garden.

Verse 9,

⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Here we are told that God causes the trees He had planted to grow and bear fruit. We are further told that God placed two very special trees in this garden. The first is "**The Tree of Life**", and the second is the "**Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil**". This second tree, we will deal with when we come to verse 17.

As to the first tree, (called the Tree of Life) we are not told anything here regarding the appearance of it, or its fruit. However, it is mentioned again in Revelation where we are told that it bore a different fruit every month of the year, & that its leaves were for the healing of all people.

When Adam and Eve sinned, God forbade them access to this tree, but we find in Revelation that those who have been cleansed from sin, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, will again have access to this tree.

So, what was the purpose of the tree then in the beginning, and what is its purpose in Eternity?

It is obvious from the Scriptures that mankind was originally designed to live forever.

The nucleus (centre) of every cell in our bodies (with the exception of our red blood cells) contains our Genetic code in its DNA.

Our genetic code is probably the greatest demonstrable proof of an intelligent designer creator. – This code is proof of intelligent design. Only a fool could say that such a wondrously designed code could have simply evolved.

No one would even suggest that the Morse Code system invented by Samuel F.B.Morse in 1838 (and still in use in various forms today) could possibly have evolved on its own. Its very form shows intelligent design. Yet its design is as nothing, compared with the genetic Code in our DNA. Our DNA has intelligent design (God) stamped all over it.

When God made man he was perfect in every respect. His genetic code carried all variations of skin, hair, eye colour, race, etc. As well, he had inbuilt into his D.N.A. the code, that which would enable worn or damaged body parts to regenerate. For mankind was originally designed to live forever. Even today, we still have some portions of this regenerating code retained in our bodies. An example of this is our liver, for half of our liver may be removed and the remaining portion will grow back to full size. This is also evident in some other creatures, with lizards growing new tails, and crabs growing new claws. However, we can only speculate as to what part the Tree of Life played in mankind being able to live forever. The only clue we can get, is found in Revelation, as follows. The setting is called the Paradise of God. (Rev. 2; 7).

The Paradise of God is the replacement of the Garden of Eden.

Because of sin, Adam lost the right to live forever,

Adam however, lived for 930 years, and seven generations later Methuselah managed to live to 969. Then two generations after that, Noah lived to 950.

By this time sin had taken its toll on the human genetic code, and the generations after the flood began to live for shorter and shorter times.

We find in Genesis 6: 3; ³ *And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."* Therefore, God at the time of the Flood, decreed that man's average age would drop to 120.

Then by the time of David it had been reduced to the current 70. Of course, modern medications enable us to often go a bit longer.

Psalms 90

¹⁰ *The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

In the future however, with access renewed to the Tree of Life, mankind will again enjoy eternal life.

Revelation 2:7

⁷ *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the **tree of life**, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."*

Revelation 22: 2 & 14

² *In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the **tree of life**, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

¹⁴ *Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the **tree of life**, and may enter through the gates into the city.*

The context of these verses, is that they are a prophecy concerning the provisions at the end of time, for an eternal dwelling for the saved of all time

So what part does the Tree of Life have in Eternity when there is no death? For we read in Revelation 21⁴ *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be **no more death**, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

Therefore; here we have a situation where we have, no more death, yet we have the need for the Tree of Life. Personally, I do not see any problem with this.

Adam and Eve were designed to live forever, and when believers receive their new bodies, they also

will be designed to live forever. I believe that the simple answer is that the Tree of Life will be available to us, as it was to Adam, for us to regularly partake of, and that its fruit and leaves will provide both food and healing. It seems obvious to me, that the fruits of this tree will trigger our D.N.A. to cause regeneration of any worn or damaged parts, as I believe was the case with Adam & Eve.

Verses 10-14,

¹⁰Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.¹²And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there.¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush.¹⁴The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates

Here God gives us the general original location of the Garden of Eden. However, the Great Flood, which occurred approximately 2,262 Biblical years after Adam's creation, would have changed many of the watercourses and changed a lot of the topography of the land. Even aside from the Great Flood, localised floods, storms etc. would also have changed the lands and rivers over the centuries. Only two of the rivers mentioned in these verses have been positively identified. They are the Hiddekel (modern name = Tigris) and the Euphrates, which has retained its name through the ages. Though we cannot know the exact position of Eden, (and that's probably a good thing) we do know the general location based on these Bible descriptions. Its place between the Tigris & Euphrates rivers, shows us that it was originally somewhere near Baghdad, near the modern city of Al-illah, Iraq.

Verse 15,

¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Here God takes Adam from the place of his creation (West of Eden), and places him in the prepared garden. Adam did not have to prepare the garden, but was given the job of looking after it. God knew Adam needed to keep himself busy to prevent boredom and to keep himself fit. Therefore, he had to till the land and prevent destruction by animals. His job was not that hard, for weeds and thorns etc. were not created until after Adam's sin.

Now we come to the second tree (the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil), which is mentioned in

Verses 16-17,

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

This tree existed only in Eden. Now, the question needs to be asked; why did God plant this tree in Eden if no one was allowed to eat its fruit? God named the tree "Knowledge of Good & Evil". The reason for this tree was to enable Adam and Eve the ability of free choice. Mankind could have no free choice without some means of "Obeying or Disobeying". God could easily have built mankind in some sort of robotic state with no ability whatsoever of being able to go against, or reject, God in any way. However, God would not have been able to gain any pleasure from such a creation. God wanted a world full of people, who would of their own free will love God for whom He is, freely giving their hearts, love, and allegiance to Him. For this reason God made one simple law to enable them that free choice.

It would be so easy for us to condemn Adam & Eve for failing that simple test, but we need to remember that unlike us, they did not have history to learn from. It is easy from hindsight to condemn, but they did not have the benefit of the full picture, which we now have. In their place, we

would almost certainly have made similar mistakes.

There was nothing magical about the tree. It could have been any tree or other forbidden object. It was simply something by which Adam & Eve could exercise their free choice.

Verse 18-25,

¹⁸And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.²²Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.²³And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Here we are given more details regarding the events of the 6th Day as recorded in Chapter 1, On the 6th Day,

- (1) Adam had been created. – Gen. 1:27.
- (2) Then Adam was moved to a prepared garden, and instructed on tending it.- Gen. 2:8-15.
- (3) Adam is warned, not to take from the Tree of The Knowledge of Good & Evil. _ Gen. 2:16-17.
- (4) Adam is brought **all** the birds & beasts to name. This would have taken a considerable time. Gen. 2:19-20.
- (5) None of the birds or animals could satisfy Adams need for a companion, so God then formed Woman from his ribs. – Gen. 2: 19-25. - So Eve was formed after Adam had learned how to tend the garden, and named all the birds & animals.

Now we need to look carefully at all these events of the 6th Day, and ask ourselves; could this all happen in 24 hours? – We therefore can make good arguments either way. We must at this point remember that God has not chosen to give us all the details of creation. Nor does God want us to waste time, or cause unnecessary ill feelings, arguing over these issues. – Sufficient to say, that there is no contradiction with genuine science, whichever view you choose to take. Nor will the belief in either of these views make any difference to a person's state of salvation.

At this point, due to the reference to the two trees in Chapter 2, and the part they play, it is necessary for us to look at a portion of Genesis 3, which contains the record of the Temptation and Fall of Man.

Genesis 3:1-6

¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹Then the LORD God called to Adam and

said to him, "Where are you?"¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

No sin can be hidden from God, and here God confronts Adam. Adam's response was not one of repentance, for we find he actually blames both Eve and God. He blames Eve for giving him the fruit, and God for giving him Eve. – By divine authority man is responsible for his wife
Gen. 3: 16 reads,

¹⁶To the woman He said: " I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, **And he shall rule over you.**"

1 Pet. 3:5, reads;

⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands,**

Adam, instead of accepting the fruit, should have rebuked his wife. So ultimately, though both had sinned, Adam was mainly responsible. Due also to the fact that Adam had not accepted responsibility, nor shown any repentance, God had to pass the following judgment.

Genesis 3:17-19 reads;

¹⁷Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': " Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.¹⁹In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

Note; In Gen.2:2, God had said that he had finished His work & rested on the seventh day, yet here (verse 18) He is working still, creating thorns & weeds. There is no contradiction in this; for what God was saying in Gen. 2:2, was simply that He had completed his six creative acts of preparing the earth for mankind. God has never ceased from working in one way or another for we read in; **John 5:17** But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

Genesis 3:22-24

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the **tree of life**, and eat, and live forever" -

²³therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the **tree of life**.

Once they had committed this act of disobedience, the realisation of what they had done would have sunk in, and this to them was the knowledge of good and evil.

So we see from the above, that due to Adam & Eve's sin of disobedience in Gen. 3: 22-24, it was necessary to remove them from access to the Tree of Life. - Adam was placed back from whence he had come, somewhere west of Eden.

The tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil is a type of the Law. The tree reveals sin and brings forth death.

The Tree of Life however, is a type of Jesus Christ. It brings healing & unmerited eternal life.

Therefore, through Adam's sin, man lost access to eternal life. Death, both physical and spiritual had entered the human race.

God's purpose was to populate the world with a people who would be free from sin, and who would give their love to him, above all else, of their own free will.

Adam's sin had made a breach in this plan. Therefore, God immediately put into effect what we might call plan "B". We find the basis of this plan in Genesis 3: 12-15, as follows.

¹²Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I

ate."¹³And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent: " Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.¹⁵And **I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."**

The serpent is representative of Satan. The Serpent was at that time a beautiful creature, it almost certainly was a winged creature. Because it allowed itself to be used of Satan, it was punished by God. It now lost its wings and was doomed to forever crawl in the dust of the ground. This is a picture of the fall of Satan.- Satan was once the highest of the angels of God. He was called the Light Bringer or Lucifer, but he became the father of sin. He caused pride to rise up within himself and led a rebellious coup, leading a third of the created angels in an attempt to overthrow God. The coup failed, and Satan and his angels were cast out from the presence of God. - Just as Satan was cast out, so the serpent (a type of Satan) was cast from the tree to the dust of the earth. The seed of the woman referred to here is none other than Jesus Christ. He Jesus, would bruise the serpents head by His victory on the cross, becoming victorious over death and the grave.

Revelation 1:18

¹⁸ *I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*

In the process of Jesus sacrificial death however, Satan was able to bruise the heels of Jesus on the cross as those cruel nails were driven into his feet.

Because of Jesus love for us, He willingly submitted to that terrible death on the cross in order to deliver us from sins penalty and consequence. He died that we might live, then rose, victorious over death that we may share in the resurrection (Rapture)..

The first three chapters of Genesis is not about educating us on all the how's, why's, when's, and where's, of creation. We have simply been given sufficient information to know the bare basics of it all. **God does not want us to argue over these issues.** How we interpret Scripture on the issues of Creation will not affect whether we are saved or not. The important details we are given in these Scriptures are the facts that God is the Creator of all. That He is Holy and sin cannot abide in His presence and that from the very beginning God greatly loved His creation, and had a plan to deliver it from the powers of Satan and sin. He wanted to populate the earth with a people who would happily and of their own free will, love and worship their Creator.

John 1; 1-4, reads,

¹*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.²He was in the beginning with God.³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

John 1: 9-14, reads,

⁹*That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became 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.*

Do you dear reader; truly appreciate all that God has done for you. He is not only your creator. - He loved you enough to send His Son to die in place of you, for your sins. He died that you might live in eternity with Him.

John 3 : 16-18 reads, “¹⁶*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* ¹⁷*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.* ¹⁸*He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*”.

God’s blessings be upon you dear reader, and may we meet in the new Eden (Paradise).

END

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