

Creation - 3

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Introduction

We began to examine how God spoke (inspired) Creation into existence.

God took seven days to create and rest as a teaching ministry to us. There are three primary reasons God took 7 days.

1. God taught us a work cycle and the importance of rest.
 2. God shows the progression of our Salvation.
 3. God used the days of Creation to teach of Jesus.

Today we will begin to look at the Days of Creation.

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Day 2

Genesis 1:6-8

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.

We need to ask ourselves what is a "firmament"? This is a source of controversy with many of the "critics" of the Bible. In my view, there is a major difference between critics and scholars. Biblical Scholars research the Bible to come to a clear understanding of what God is saying and His purpose. Critics reject the idea of inspiration and see the Bible as the words and ideas of men and undermine its authority.

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Many modern translations use the word *expanse*. Though this carries the meaning of the passage, its normal meaning implies something solid. It is used in Exodus 39:3 to refer to the beating of metal into thin strips. It can also refer to something like a bowl or plate. The critics claim that the men who wrote Genesis believed the earth was flat and saw the the space above them as a giant bowl. This is not the truth, nor what the passage is teaching!

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There are things that we do not understand from our vantage point in history. God states that He separated the waters above and below the firmament. Many state that the water above is clouds – I believe it is more.

If we had a worldwide average rainstorm, it would take only 2 to 3 hours to deplete the atmosphere of its water content. Yet we know that it rained 40 days and nights during "Noah's Flood".

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Many (myself included) believe that there was a water canopy that surrounded the earth before the flood. Many theologians believe that it did not rain before the flood as God caused water to come up to water plant life (Genesis 2:6).

The critics scoff at the idea of a water canopy, stating that the atmospheric pressure would make life impossible.

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The fossil record is filled with various types of flying dinosaurs. Some of these have a wing span of over 40 feet, yet their wings are only 2-3 feet wide. Scientists are puzzled as it is impossible for these dinosaurs to fly in our present atmosphere – it is too thin. The skeptic claim that a water canopy would increase atmospheric pressure two or more times than it is today. These dinosaurs would be able to fly in such an atmosphere.

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Dr. Carl Baugh, a creation scientist, built the first hyperbaric chamber. He built this to test the canopy theory and to answer the critics. He increased the pressure to predicted levels and placed a variety of organisms into the chamber. Moss which can only grow to about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch grew to 6 inches which is what is found in the fossil record. The two-inch brown scorpion grew to 6 inches. He also discovered that healing increased. Today these chambers are used for medical purposes to promote healing.

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In all reality, there may have been some type of structure made of ice or some other material that surrounded the earth.

Genesis 7:11 states, "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened." Some state that this is just poetical language to say that it rained – a lot. However, it could also refer to the collapse of the canopy.

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Though the word can mean a beaten sheet of metal, it also carries the idea of "stretched out thinness". When you think of the atmosphere it is stretched out and thin.

The word was also used for the metal of a shield used for protection. Our atmosphere does act as a giant shield. It protects us from cosmic radiation but is perfect in that it lets the right light through to sustain life. It also deflects and/or burns up meteors. NASA estimates that about 50 metric tons of space dust and rock burn up in our atmosphere every day.

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Day 2 - Jesus

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Jesus is our protector. Like the atmosphere He defends us from the fiery darts of the Devil. We can not take on the forces of evil by ourselves, but Jesus can. He is our fortress and defender (Psalm 121:1-8; 2 Samuel 22:3).

We breath to maintain life. Jesus is the source of life – both physical and spiritual.

In Christ, we live and move and find our existence (Acts 17:28).

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The firmament also was a divider.

Jesus will divide mankind into two groups. Those who accept Jesus' offer of forgiveness and those who do not. Their fates will be very different. Some will be separated above and into Heaven (the abiding place of God). Those who reject will be cast out below and into outer darkness (Matthew 25:31-46).

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Day 2 - Salvation

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When I first became a Christian, Jesus had to do some major housecleaning. He brought separation into my life. He separated me from the consequences of my sin, but also began a process of separating me from my former sinful lifestyle.

Jesus separated me from my sin, but He also separated me to Himself. He adopted me into His family, and clothed me in His own righteousness.

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So What ...

What about your life?

Are you living by faith in Christ, or self?

One future day we each will stand before God. Where you will spend eternity is based on what you did with Jesus. You can never be good enough to make up for the wrong you have done. Jesus, as God in human form, paid for all your sin upon the cross. The only way you can get to Heaven is to accept Jesus' gift of salvation!

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