



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- On day #1, God added light and so separated the darkness from the light. (darkness was not removed)
- On day #2, God created a space for life in the midst of the waters by separating the waters into “waters below” and “waters above”.
- On day #3, God separated the waters from the dry land and created vegetation, plants and trees.



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- Gen 1:14 Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. 15 Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. 16 God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, 18 to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.



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- We have here in this text the answers to many of the questions astronomers have asked for centuries – how did all of the galaxies, planets, moons, and stars come to be?
- The evolutionists have to twist themselves into pretzels with exotic explanations of where all of the celestial bodies came from.
- Proverbs 3:5 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart*; do not depend on your own understanding.



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- Job 38:5 (speaking of creation) Who determined its dimensions *and stretched out the surveying line?*
- Isaiah 42:5 God, the Lord, *created the heavens and stretched them out.*
- Isaiah 44:24 This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer and Creator: “I am the Lord, who made all things. *I alone stretched out the heavens.*”



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- Isaiah 45:12 I am the one who made the earth and created people to live on it. *With my hands I stretched out the heavens.* All the stars are at my command.
- Isaiah 51:13 Yet you have forgotten the Lord, your Creator, *the one who stretched out the sky like a canopy and laid the foundations of the earth.*
- Isaiah 51:16 And I have put my words in your mouth and hidden you safely in my hand. *I stretched out the sky like a canopy and laid the foundations of the earth.*



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- Jer 10:12 But the Lord made the earth by his power, and he preserves it by his wisdom. ***With his own understanding he stretched out the heavens.***
- Jer 51:15 The Lord made the earth by his power, and he preserves it by his wisdom. ***With his own understanding he stretched out the heavens.***
- Zech 12:1 “This message is from the Lord, ***who stretched out the heavens,*** laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the human spirit.”



In the Beginning

- I included all of those scriptures to underscore something that God underscored by repeating it multiple times – He stretched out, and is still stretching out the heavens.
- When Genesis was written, there was no definite Hebrew word for “universe” – they simply used the phrase “the heavens and the earth”. (see Gen 1:1)
- When God tells us repeatedly that He stretched out the heavens, it is fair to conclude He stretched out the universe.



In the Beginning

- Scientists would agree with what the Bible tells us – the universe is expanding.
- Does this mean that the universe is larger today than it was on day #1 of creation? (YES, Ken Ham at Answers in Genesis affirms this as more than a theory)
- For scientists without an anti-God agenda, they deduce that if the universe is expanding then we should be able to use the speed of light and regression models to find out when it started. (the big bang in their thinking)



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- Such regression models are how scientists have come to the conclusion that the “big bang” occurred 13.2 billion years ago.
- They assume, probably foolishly, that the expansion of the universe has always been at the same speed which runs into a problem - entropy.
- Entropy is governed in the world of physics by the second law of thermodynamics – according to Ken Ham, “everything left to itself, tends to run down”, go slower.



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- It is not widely accepted, but there are recent studies that indicate the speed of light is slowing.
- Some even suggest that by using the measurements taken in 1657, 1875, and in 1983 the speed of light billions of years ago could have been 186,000 miles per second multiplied by a figure with 70 zeroes after it!
- I reject the “billions of years”, but that aside, the measurements of 1657, 1875, and 1983 show a slowing in the speed of light.



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- “There appears to be some Scriptural basis for assuming an original close coupling between the spiritual and physical world. The highly venerated Onkelos translation of Genesis 1:31 emphasizes that originally "...it was a unified order." The suggestion has been advanced that current physics, including the entropy laws ("the bondage of decay"), were a result of the fall of man recorded in Genesis Chapter 3. The entropy laws reveal a universe which is "winding down." It had to have been initially "wound-up." This windup-the reduction of entropy, or the infusion of order (information)-is described in Genesis 1 in a series of six stages. The terms used in this progressive reduction of entropy (disorder) are erev and boker, which have led to their being translated "evening" and "morning."¹¹ Evening-and-mornings constituted the principal stages of creation. Six "evenings" and "mornings" became the "days" constituting the creation "week." However, what we presently know about the physical universe is derived only from observing the universe after the upheavals of Genesis 3. Some of us suspect that the ostensible decay of "c", the slowing velocity of light, was one of the results of the upheavals of Genesis Chapter 3." Chuck Missler of Koinonia House



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- Let's get back to the so-called "big bang" of 13.2 billion years ago.
- Setting aside the 13.2 billion years, Gen 1:1 (In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth) could have been quite the explosion.
- It depends on what you believe about the Gen 1:1 text.



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- If you believe that Gen 1:1 is just a summary account of all that follows in the creation text through Gen 2:4, then you can dismiss what I am about to say. (and you might be right)
- But, if Gen 1:1 is not just a summary of all that follows in the text, then maybe the creation of all matter, unformed as it was, may well have created quite a ruckus.
- You might even say that it exploded forth from the breath of God.



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- Let's go to the other end of the Bible for some support for this idea.
- Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. *The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.*
- If the “uncreation” of the heavens and earth is described as having “fled away”, surely it is possible that all matter appeared in much the same rapid, explosive, way.



In the Beginning

- To re-focus us remember where we started – with the expansion of the universe.
- There are no credible debates as to whether the universe is expanding or not – both secular and Christian scientists agree on this.
- What staggers our minds is just how large this ever expanding universe already is. It so big that the only way to keep the numbers manageable is to use light years as our measuring stick.



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- For this example, I will use the best number we have for the speed of light today, 186,000 miles per second.
- Assume that your alarm clock went off at 6:00 a.m. today and you release a beam of light.
- When you actually get out of bed at say 6:08 a.m., the light beam has reached the sun. (not too bad, right?)



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- By the time you sit down for breakfast at 6:41 a.m. the light beam is passing Jupiter.
- About the time we are winding up our Genesis class today, roughly 11:15, our light beam is passing by Pluto.
- Next Friday afternoon, when you are leaving work, the light beam is just about to exit our solar system.



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- Now we lose track of our project and finally remember to check on the progress of our light beam 4 years from now – we find it is about to reach Proxima Centauri, the next closest star to us after the sun.
- Seven years later our light beam has just 20 stars in its rear view mirror – that would be just 20 of several hundred billion stars in the universe.
- It is now nearing the constellation Sagittarius and heading for the center of the Milky Way, our galaxy.



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- It has to travel another 32,000 years before it will reach the center of our galaxy, that's at six trillion miles a year.
- And then it still has another 50,000 years to get to the other side of the Milky Way, and when it does, it will leave behind about 100 billion stars.
- But wait, it has another 80,000 years of travel at 186,000 miles per second to reach the next closest galaxy, the Magellanic Clouds.



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- We are now more than 160,000 years into the future and our light beam still has 1.8 million years of empty space before it reaches the end of the Andromeda Galaxy, which is close enough to earth to be seen with the naked eye.
- It will take our light beam another 20 billion years of travel at 186,000 miles per second just to reach the edge of the known universe!



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- Job 26:10 “He created the horizon when he separated the waters; he set the boundary between day and night. 11 The foundations of heaven tremble; they shudder at his rebuke. 12 By his power the sea grew calm. By his skill he crushed the great sea monster. 13 His Spirit made the heavens beautiful, and his power pierced the gliding serpent. 14 *These are just the beginning of all that he does, merely a whisper of his power.* Who, then, can comprehend the thunder of his power?”
- What science is still exploring, God set in motion from the beginning and we will spend all of eternity probing the depths of all that He has done and can do.



Questions

