



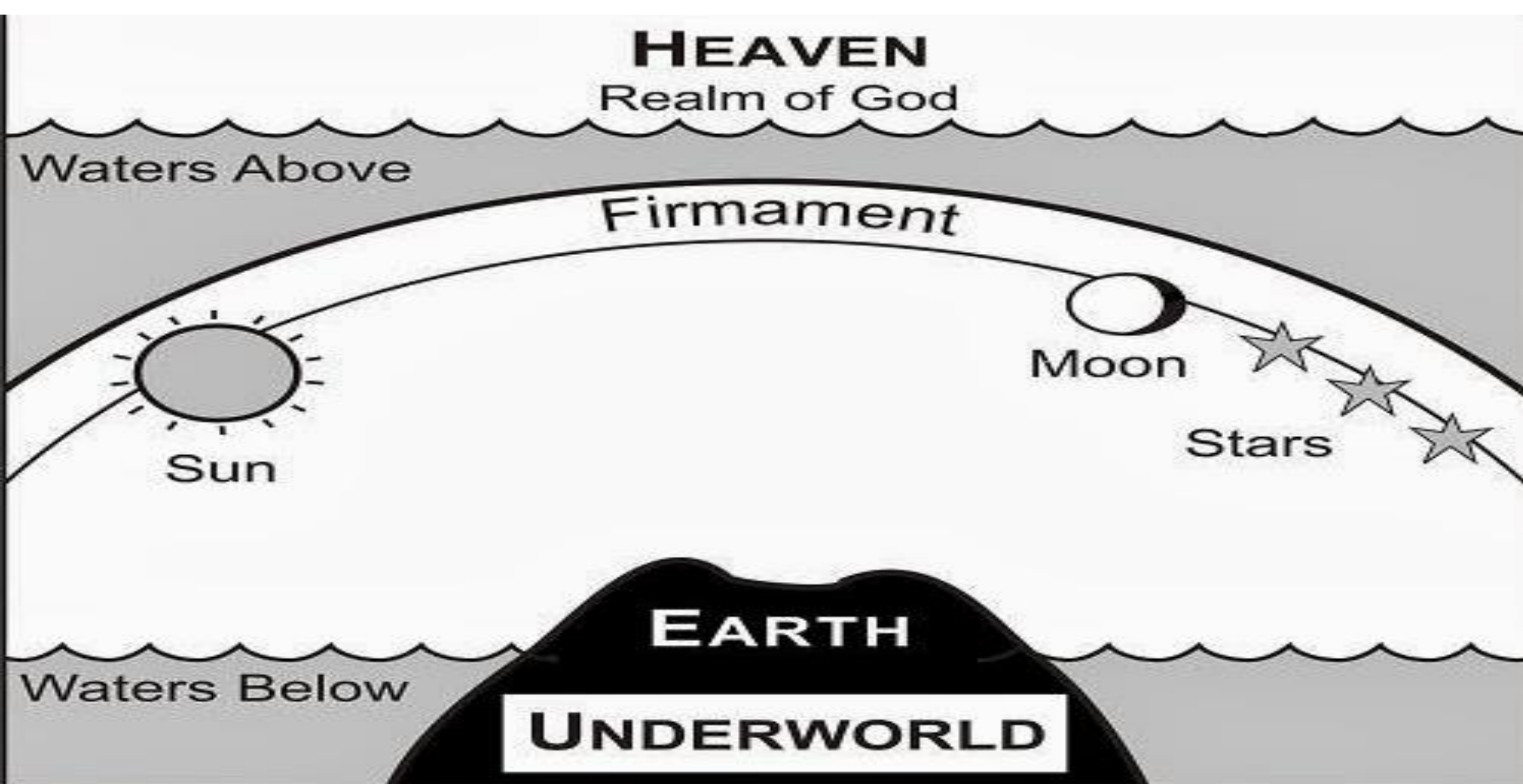
# In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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# Tricky to interpret creation of man, woman

**Dear God Squad:** My Bible study group has a guy who believes that the Bible is the perfect word of God. It also has a guy who thinks that the Bible is filled with lots of contradictions and mistakes. Help!

— H, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

**Dear H:** In the first two chapters of Genesis we have two stories that do not fit together. In the first account the man and the woman are created together as equals in the image of God, and in the second account the woman is created derivatively from the man's rib.

For the "Bible is a mess" people, the solution to this textual conflict is simple. There are two stories because there are two authors.

The solution of the "Bible is perfect" people cannot slice



and dice the Bible that way, so they came up with what to me are much more interesting and spiritually insightful solutions to the two accounts. In the case of Jewish interpreters of the Bible, rabbis of the first two centuries, they taught that the two different stories are actually the stories of the creation of two different women. Eve was the woman created from Adam's rib but the woman who was created in chapter one was a separate woman named Lilith.

"Lilith said to Adam, 'We were created equal since we were created from the same earth.' There was no understanding between them, and

then when Lilith saw that Adam was trying to force himself on her, she uttered the name of God and disappeared into the air. The man stood in prayer before his creator and said, 'O Master of the Universe, the woman you gave to me has fled from me!' ... The angels went after her and finally overtook her in the midst of the Red Sea."

Lilith is the result of trying to make the Bible whole, but in her comparison to Eve we see a way of making the religious view of women whole. Both parts of the image of women must be sanctified. Lilith must be invited back from the Red Sea.

Tell THAT to your Bible group.

Send comments and questions to The God Squad, c/o Tribune Content Agency, 435 Michigan Avenue, Suite 1400, Chicago, Ill., 60611, or email them to [godsqadquestion@aol.com](mailto:godsqadquestion@aol.com)

# In the Beginning

- **Creation is 6 days** – some, even well intentioned Christians, have sought to “take God off the hook” so to speak for being so audacious as to say that He created all that there is just 6 days.
- Well, in our study we have arrived at the 6<sup>th</sup> day so it seems like the right time to address this.
- Bear in mind, that if you do not believe that God created all that there is in 6 days that you are in opposition to the what the Bible says. (sadly, that argument is not good enough for all)



# In the Beginning

- A plain reading of the plain of the sense of the Genesis account compels you to understand that creation happened in just 6 solar days.
- Unless you go looking for some hidden meaning to “And evening passed and morning came, marking the \_\_\_\_\_ day” then what is meant is self-evident.
- So how are we to know when to take the Bible literally, and when to understand otherwise?



# In the Beginning

- When Jesus said, “I am the door”, and “I am the vine”, are we to understand those phrases as literal or as metaphor?
- Well, it is fairly easy to see that Jesus is neither a door nor a vine – so He must have meant something else.
- When the “plain sense” makes “common sense”, seek no other sense. (the plain sense of the above “I am” statements demand that we seek another sense)



# In the Beginning

- If Genesis 1 is not the most abused “plain sense” passage of the Bible then it is certainly among the most abused.
- So why would this be? Remember the Biblical account of creation demands that there be a Creator and mankind stands opposed to a Creator because they are opposed to accountability.
- If God created everything, then He must be, and if He is, then we know intuitively that we are accountable to Him.



# In the Beginning

- Some of the attacks are against the Bible in general – some say, “it’s just a bunch of stories written by men”.
- But when a general attack (like above) is not effective in discrediting the historical creation account, then more subtle attacks erupt – like “did God really mean?”.
- And science is used as though it is the “end all, be all” authority on everything – in other words science becomes the de facto “bible” for all knowledge.





# In the Beginning

- The enemy has convinced many Christians that while they want their Bible to be true, the scientific community claims to “know” more about the universe than the Bible.
- After all, the root word for “science” is “knowledge”, or what is known.
- Bear in mind that what is “known” is not always true – it was once “known” that the world was flat. 😊




# In the Beginning

- So well intentioned Christians try to marry what secular science “knows” and what the Bible says because they want to believe that both are true.
- Remember, evolution takes lots of time (millions, or billions of years) so if we want to harmonize secular science and the Bible, then we must add time to the Genesis 1 account of creation.
- When you add time, you undermine the plain sense of a plain reading of the text and off you go into error. (your best default position is to always begin with what the Bible says)




# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters.



A summary statement for the creation account?



God created all matter and shaped it later?



# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.



# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:5 Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” 7 And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens.



# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:9 Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened.



# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:11 Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened.



# In the Beginning

- 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.





# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:16 He made the stars also.



# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:20 Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.”



# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:24 Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. 25 God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.



# In the Beginning

- **Livestock** – animals that could be tamed and be useful for work.
- **Small “scurrying” animals** – rabbits, hamsters, rodents of every sort, dogs, cats and the like.
- **Wild animals** - animals that could not be tamed – lions, tigers, grizzlies, and the like.



## In the Beginning

① “livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.”

② “God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals.”

- The second mention has the order reversed perhaps to point out there is not a hierarchy of any kind and more importantly, no room for evolution due to a hierarchy.



# In the Beginning

- “each able to produce offspring of the same kind”
- We discussed “kinds” when we looked at plant reproduction – Gen 1:11 “These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.”
- And as we noted then, “This newly created category (vegetation) has some unique properties – they can reproduce and sustain themselves indefinitely.”



# In the Beginning

- As God moves on to create more living things (fish, birds, land animals, and men) we see that He continues to build the same reproduction properties into all living things.
- All are able to reproduce after their “kind”.
- When we look at a mule deer, a whitetail, and an impala, we see that they are all different, but are also alike enough to be one kind.



# In the Beginning

- In Gen 1:12 we were introduced to an important phrase and a word that will be mentioned 4 more times in the creation account.
- The phrase is “of the same kind” with the most important word being “kind”.
- The Hebrew word for kind is “Oin” pronounced “meen”. The Bible does not mention “species”, it only deals with “kinds”.





# In the Beginning

- **From Strongs Concordance** - Groups of living organisms belong in the same created "kind" if they have descended from the same ancestral gene pool. This does not preclude new species because this represents a partitioning of the original gene pool. Information is lost or conserved not gained. A new species could arise when a population is isolated and inbreeding occurs. By this definition a new species is not a new "kind" but a further partitioning of an existing "kind".



# In the Beginning

- “Implanted, in each created organism was a seed programmed to enable the continuing replication of that same organism. The modern understanding of the extreme complexities of the so-called DNA molecule and the genetic code contained in it has reinforced the biblical teaching of the stability of kinds. Each type of organism has its own unique structure of the DNA and can only specify the reproduction of that same kind. There is a tremendous amount of variational potential within each kind, facilitating the generation of distinct individuals and even of many varieties within the kind, but nevertheless precluding the evolution of new kinds. A great deal of horizontal variation is easily possible, but no vertical changes.” Henry Morris



# In the Beginning

- What we have seen is that plants can only reproduce plants that are of the same kind. A green bean plant cannot produce a coconut tree.
- Animals can only reproduce after their own kind – a tiger cannot produce a sheep. They are of different kinds.
- This limitation of only being able to reproduce after its “kind” precludes any possibility of evolution.



# In the Beginning

- “Let the earth produce every sort of animal” – do I need to say it, God spoke and the elements obeyed.
- God spoke and animals were created instantaneously and fully mature.
- We know this because the Bible says so, and because it would not pass the “common sense” test of scripture to have infant everything and expect that they survive.



# In the Beginning

- I cannot imagine the upheaval of activity as this command goes forth, “let the earth bring forth” and instantaneously we have at least 2 of every kind of animal.
- Were there more than 2 of every kind? Perhaps, but there could not have been less than 2.
- We were told that the waters swarmed with fish and that the skies were filled with birds, but we do not have any similar statements regarding land animals.



# In the Beginning

- By the way, we can also speculate that God may have made whitetails, mule deer, and impala all on day #6, or He may have just created the “deer” kind.
- So why is it okay for me to speculate about deer and kinds, but it is not okay to speculate about 24 hour days in creation, or millions of years type “days”?
- Because we are told it was 24 hour days, but we were not told that there were only the basic “kinds” created.



# In the Beginning

- On day #6 God is going to form man out of the dust of the ground – so why is man above the animal when they were both formed out of the ground?
- Because in Gen 2:7 we read, “He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person”, or a “living soul” (KJV).
- Man becomes the first living thing with self-conscious life.



# In the Beginning

- “let us make man in our image” – I am guessing there was a divine conversation around the risk/reward of creating something in the image of God.
- A creature that could actually reason, rationalize and make moral choices - what that would mean for the time and space occupied by the rest of creation?
- History and the Bible inform us that foreseeing the risk and the reward, God planned in advance for the inevitable and created a man who could sin, but not a man so powerful that he could completely thwart the plans of God.





# Questions

