

The Beginning, and Creation

Genesis 1:1-31

- I. IN THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1-2)
 - A. In the Beginning God Created (Genesis 1:1)
 1. “The beginning of the world” (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 64:4; Matthew 24:21; Acts 15:18; Ephesians 3:9)
 2. “The beginning of creation” (Mark 10:6; 2 Peter 3:4)
 3. God Created
 - a. The Father (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Job 26:7; Psalm 124:8)
 - b. The Spirit (Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Psalm 33:6; Psalm 104:30)
 - c. The Son (Genesis 1:3)
 - (1) The Word of God – “*And God said,*” (John 1:1-3)
 - (2) The Light of the world (John 1:7-9; John 8:12)
 4. What does it mean to create? (Genesis 1:1)
 - a. The worlds were framed (Hebrews 11:3)
 - b. By the word of God (Psalm 33:6)
 - c. God created by bringing forth something out of nothing, by the power of His word.
 5. The Heaven and the Earth (Genesis 1:1)
 - a. The Heaven – Note: It is singular here.
 - (1) Which heaven? (2 Corinthians 12:2)
 - (a) The first heaven is the atmospheric heaven and was created on the second day of creation (Genesis 1:6-8). This is where the birds fly in the “open firmament of heaven” (Genesis 1:20).
 - (b) The second heaven is the starry heaven and was also created on the second day of creation (Genesis 1:6-8). This is “the firmament of heaven” (Genesis 1:14-17) or outer space.
 - (c) The third heaven is God’s heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)
 - i. The place of his throne (Isaiah 6:1; Psalm 103:19). It is sometimes called the heaven of heavens (Deuteronomy 10:14; 2 Chronicles 2:6).
 - ii. All of the heavens had been created by the seventh day of creation (Genesis 2:1, 4)
 - iii. Therefore, the heaven created in Genesis 1:1 must be the third heaven. Its creation is not mentioned in the rest of the chapter. Neither is the creation of the heavenly beings.

- (2) God's heaven – A place with:
 - (a) A glorious throne (Jeremiah 17:12)
 - (b) A high throne (Isaiah 6:1)
 - (c) A great throne (Isaiah 66:1)
 - (d) An ancient throne – “from the beginning” (Psalm 103:19)
 - (e) A place of sanctuary – “his holy temple” (Psalm 11:4)
- (3) Located in the “sides of the north” (Isaiah 14:13)
- b. The Earth – (Job 26:7)
 - (1) The foundations of the earth (Psalm 104:5; Hebrews 1:10 [cp. Psalm 102:25])
 - (2) Laid by the hand of God (Job 38:4, 6; Isaiah 48:13; 51:15-16; Zechariah 12:1)
6. When were the angels, seraphims and cherubims and other heavenly beings created?
 - a. The argument presented.
 - (1) The psalmist mentions the angels along with creation in Psalm 104 (Psalm 104:3-6)
 - (2) The sons of God shouted for joy at creation (Job 38:4-7)
 - (a) If the sons of God shouted for joy at creation, therefore, they must have been created sometime before all of creation was made.
 - (b) It would make sense that God would have created them sometime between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.
 - (3) It would also make sense that if God made his heaven (the third heaven) in Genesis 1:1, he would have also created all of the heavenly beings to fill his abode at this time.
 - b. The heavenly beings presented.
 - (1) Angels
 - (a) The word “angel” occurs 203 times in the Bible.
 - (b) Who are they and how or when do they appear?
 - i. The first occurrence of the word “*angel*” in the bible (Genesis 16:7) – The “angel of the LORD”
 - 1) Appeared unto Hagar, after she had fled from Sarai.
 - 2) Told her (Hagar) that she was with child, and that her son would be born.
 - 3) The son's name would be Ishmael.
 - ii. The occurrence of two angels at Sodom (Genesis 19:1)
 - 1) Likely the two “men” that were with the Lord at Abraham's tent (Genesis 18:1-5; 16, 20-22, 33)
 - 2) Received as men in Sodom (Genesis 19:1-3, 4-5)
 - 3) Noted as “men” according to the narration of the Bible.
 - a) In the Old Testament (Genesis 19:10-13, 16; Judges 13:3, 6; 1 Chronicles 21:15, 27)

- b) In the New Testament (Luke 1:11-12; 1:26-30; Matthew 28:1-6 [cp. Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-5]; Acts 1:9-11)
- (c) What they do. (Psalm 103:20-21)
 - i. They are messengers. (Genesis 16:7-11; Luke 1:19; 2:9-13)
 - ii. They serve (Genesis 24:7, 40)
 - 1) They have a free-will to serve.
 - a) In fact, there is no scripture that declares the angels have no free-will. From the fact of the fall of so many of them, when they kept not their first estate it would seem they do have a free-will to choose (Jude 1:6)
 - b) However, their condition is not like that of man. Man can be redeemed from his fallen state by the blood of Jesus Christ, the fallen angels cannot (Matthew 25:41). Also, there is no mix of obedient and disobedient angels as there is in regenerate man. The angels of heaven perform the commandments of God with full obedience (Psalm 103:20-21) while the fallen angels are simply “the angels that sinned” (2 Peter 2:4). Nothing good is seen in them.
 - c) While we cannot fully grasp what caused some of the angels to rebel against God and leave their heavenly estate, scripture does reveal the possible initial motivation of their rebellion. From a study of Satan and his part in leading the rebellion, we know pride fueled this uprising (Isaiah 14:12-15; 1 Timothy 3:6). We will look further into this under “Lucifer”.
 - iii. They are soldiers (do battle).
 - 1) Doing battle with those in the land of promise (Exodus 33:2)
 - 2) Standing as an adversary against Balaam (Numbers 22:23)
 - 3) Twelve legions of angels (Matthew 26:53)
 - 4) Michael the archangel (Jude 1:9)
 - 5) Michael and his angels fought against the devil and his angels (Revelation 12:7)
 - iv. They are ministering spirits (Hebrews 1:14)
 - 1) The psalmist and prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ (Psalm 91:11-12)
 - 2) Ministers of God (Psalm 103:20-21; 104:4; Luke 16:22; John 5:4)
 - 3) Daniel in the Lions’ den (Daniel 6:22)

(2) Sons of God

(a) Who or what are they?

- i. The Son of God – Christ Jesus Our Lord – Note: The Son of God was never created (He is not a created being), He has always been and always will be, however we note the Lord Jesus Christ here for clarity sake.
 - 1) Declared by John the Baptist (John 1:34)
 - 2) Believed by Nathanael (John 1:49)
 - 3) Declared by Christ Himself (John 9:35-37)
 - 4) Believed by Martha (John 11:27)
 - 5) Declared by the Apostle John (John 20:31)
 - 6) Believed on by the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:37)
 - 7) Preached by the Apostle Paul (Acts 9:19-20; Romans 1:4; 2 Corinthians 1:19)
 - 8) Gave His life for the lost (Galatians 2:20)
 - 9) Our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14; 1 John 3:8)
 - 10) To be believed on and confessed by the believer (1 John 4:15; 5:5)
- ii. The sons of God
 - 1) Present at the creation of the earth (Job 38:1-7)
 - 2) On earth during the time of Noah (Genesis 6:1-4)
 - 3) Have access to the throne of God in Heaven – presenting themselves before God (Job 1:6; 2:1)
- iii. The son of God
 - 1) While not a “heavenly being”, Adam is called “the son of God” in scripture.
 - 2) Called the son of God (Luke 3:38 [cp. Genesis 5:1])
- iv. Sons of God
 - 1) Again, while not a “heavenly being”, the NT saint is called a son of God. This is listed here for clarity sake.
 - 2) Those that believe on Jesus Christ are given the power to become the sons of God (John 1:12-13)
 - 3) Those that have believed are the sons of God (1 John 3:1-3)

(3) Seraphims

(a) Who or what are they?

- i. Four beasts that seem to stand about the throne of God (Isaiah 6:2)
- ii. Heavenly beings created by God that stand about His throne in Heaven (Isaiah 6:2; Revelation 4:6)
 - 1) Having six-wings (Isaiah 6:2; Revelation 4:8)
 - a) With two (twain) they cover their face
 - b) With two (twain) they cover their feet
 - c) With two (twain) they cover their eyes

- 2) Multiple eyes (Revelation 4:6, 8)
- 3) Different faces (Revelation 4:7)
 - a) 1st Beast – like the face of Lion
 - b) 2nd Beast – like a calf
 - c) 3rd Beast – like a man
 - d) 4th Beast – like an eagle
- (b) What they do.
 - i. Stand about the throne of God in Heaven and continually cry “Holy, holy, holy” and fall down toward God worshipping Him night and day (Isaiah 6:2-3; Revelation 4:6-8)
 - ii. One of them ministered to Isaiah (Isaiah 6:6)
- (4) Cherubims – singularly called “*Cherub*” (Psalm 18:10)
 - (a) Who or what are they?
 - i. Heavenly beings found around the throne of God (Psalm 80:1; Psalm 99:1; Isaiah 37:6)
 - ii. Found at the entry of the Garden of Eden after the fall of man. (Genesis 3:24)
 - iii. It seems that Satan was one of these cherubim at some point (Ezekiel 28:11-16)
 - (b) What they do.
 - i. The Lord had them guard the entryway into the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24)
 - ii. David makes a statement that indicates the Lord can ride upon one (Psalm 18:10)
 - iii. They are around the throne of God (Isaiah 37:16)
 - iv. They sometimes appear with the presence of the Lord (Ezekiel 10)
 - (c) How they appear.
 - i. They each have four faces (Ezekiel 10:12-14, 21)
 - 1) The face of a cherub
 - 2) The face of a man
 - 3) The face of a lion
 - 4) The face of an eagle
 - ii. They have four wings (Ezekiel 10:21)
 - iii. They have the hands of a man (Ezekiel 10:8, 21)
 - iv. They have eyes all about them (Ezekiel 10:12)
 - v. They have wheels about them (Ezekiel 10:9-13)
 - (d) Note: It seems that these creatures also made an appearance in chapter 1 of Ezekiel.

- (5) Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-15)
 - (a) His claims
 - i. He would ascend into heaven.
 - ii. The he would exalt his throne above the stars of God.
 - iii. He would sit upon the mountain of the congregation.
 - iv. He would ascend above the heights of the clouds.
 - v. He would be like the most high.
 - (b) His position (Ezekiel 28:11-17)
 - i. The king of Tyrus
 - ii. The anointed cherub that covereth
 - iii. Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God
 - iv. He had (hast) walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. (Ezekiel 28:14, 16)
 - (c) His character
 - i. His was made perfect (Ezekiel 28:15)
 - ii. Till iniquity was found in him (Ezekiel 28:15)
 - 1) His heart was lifted up with pride (Ezekiel 28:17; 1 Timothy 3:7)
 - 2) His wisdom was corrupted by reason of his brightness (Ezekiel 28:17)
 - (d) His demise (Isaiah 14:15; Ezekiel 28:16-17; Revelation 19:20; 20:10)
 - i. He would be brought down to hell.
 - ii. To the sides of the pit.
 - iii. The Lord promises to cast him to the ground.
 - iv. To lay him before kings.

B. An Earth Without Form, and Void (Genesis 1:2)

1. The earth described.
 - a. No Likeness – “without form”
 - b. No Life – “void”
 - c. No Light – “darkness”
 - d. No Land – “the face of the waters”
2. A complete wasteland
 - a. The description here is one that pictures a complete waste; one which has no use at all. God says nothing about this earth being any good (“*and God saw that it was good*” – *Genesis 1:12*).
 - b. How then could this be the occasion of the song of the morning stars and the shout of the sons of God (Job 38:7)?
 - c. Parallels in scripture
 - (1) A land without form, and void (Jeremiah 4:23)