

Creation and Intelligent Design



Weeks 2-3
Genesis 1 & 2

Greg Nordstrom
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The Biblical Account of Creation

- Genesis, the “*Book of Beginnings*”
 - Most quoted book in the Bible
 - All biblical things start in Genesis
- Two accounts of creation
 1. Gen 1:1-2:3
 - Describes **all seven days** of creation
 - Chaos → order (days 1-4)
 - Creation of life (days 5-6)
 2. Gen 2:4-25
 - Starts **mid-week**, focuses on creation of **life**
 - “Problem-solving” approach
 - Something missing/needed which God supplies
 - Preface for Chap 3 (the fall of Man)

Universe
Man
Woman
Christ (Adam)
Church (Eve)
Marriage
Sin
Home
Children
Sacrifice
Murder
Race
Languages
Agriculture
Trade
Sabbath
City life
Grace
etc., etc., etc.

בראשית ברא אלמים את

ואת הארץ השמים

In English this is pronounced:

Bereshyt bara Elohim et hashmayim ve'et ha'aretz

In the beginning

created

God

the heavens

and

the earth

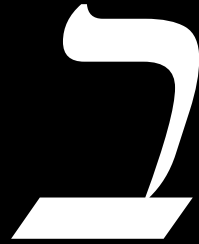
In the beginning God created...

- Gen 1:1a, NASB

"Bereshyt"
("In the beginning")

בראשית ברא אלחים את

ונאת תארצ חישמים



"Bayt"

- The first letter of the Torah
- Three closed sides, one open side
- Open side facing remaining text
- Always an archetype of a **container**

"Whatever came before 'In the beginning' is unknowable"

Maimonides, 12th century Hebrew scholar

“Bara”
 (“created”)

בראשית ברא אלהים את

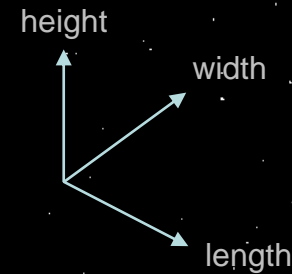
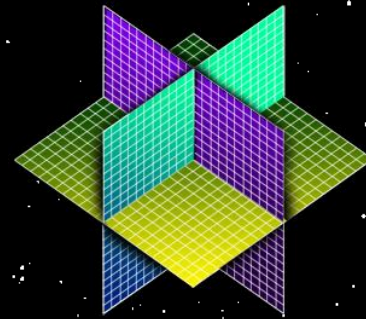
ונאת תארצתשמים

- Divine activity of fashioning or forming anew
 - Can mean “*created from nothing*” or “*formed*”
- Bara used for three “from nothing” creations:
 - Creation of space/time/matter (physical universe)
 - Creation of “life”
 - Creation of man’s “spirit”

Bara also embodies the notion of
“*Creation giving birth to its own container*”

Creation was the beginning of:

- Space
 - Length
 - Width
 - Height



- Energy
- Matter
- Time

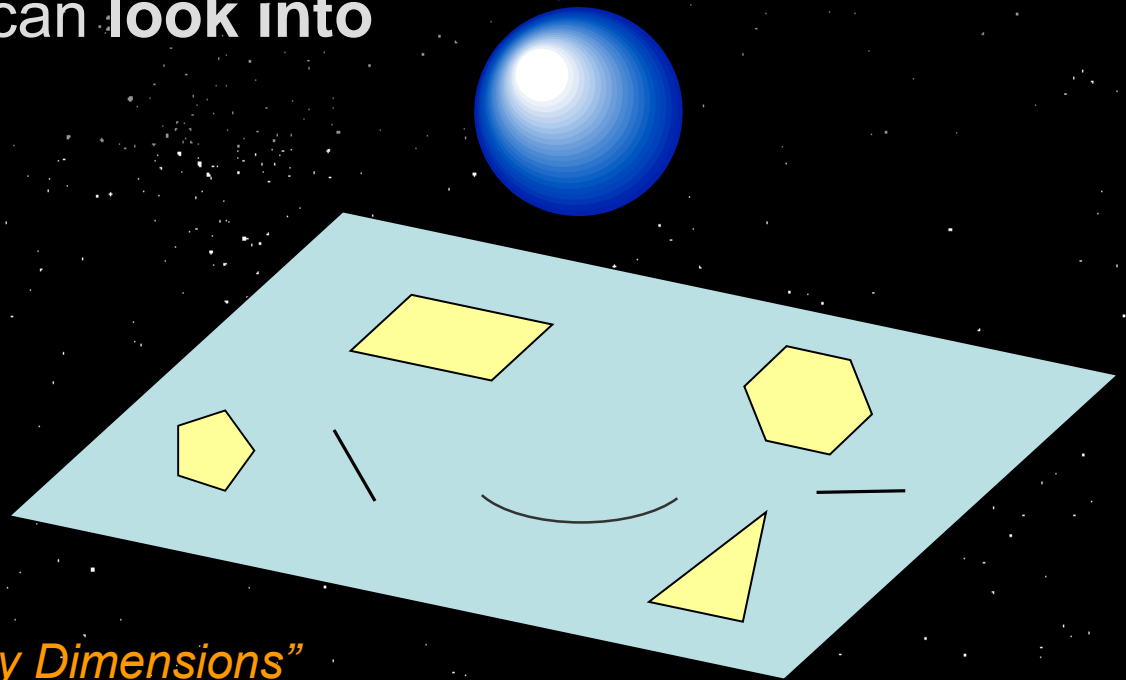
$$E = MC^2 \text{ (theory of relativity)}$$



Not linear, not absolute, not constant!
Varies with **mass, acceleration, and gravity**. Very strange!

God is Eternal

- He's not bound by time
- We define eternity as "time going on forever"
 - i.e. "From infinity to infinity"
- More accurate picture: God is **outside** of time
 - It's a domain He can **look into**
 - God is "timeless"



"Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions"
E.A. Abbott, 1884

For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

- Col 1:16, NASB

In light of Gen 1:1, Paul is saying that Jesus is God!

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

- Gen 1:2-5, NASB

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- Gen 1:2-5, NASB

Evening: Erev

- Root: **Mixed up, stirred together, or disorderly**
- Similar to the Greek word "**chaos**"

Morning: Boker

- Root: **discernable, distinguishable, or orderly**
- Similar to the Greek word "**cosmos**"

Day: Yom

- When used with a number, it means a **literal day**

And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

- Otherwise, Moses would have used "**Olam**" (a long but finite duration, e.g. "**The day of my distress**")

Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

- Gen 1:6-8, NASB

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**The second of three separations
(possibly creating a “vapor canopy?”)**

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“Heaven” = the “*first heaven*” (where birds fly)

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- Gen 1:6-8, NASB

Hmmm... nothing called ‘Good’ on this day?
(Well, it was a **Monday**... 😊)

Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.

- **The third separation**

- Gen 1:9-10, NASB

- Dry land = “earth”
- Waters (below the expanse) = “seas”
- God declares this separation “good”
(but the day isn’t over yet...)

Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them”; and it was so.

The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.

There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

- Gen 1:11-13, NASB

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There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

- Gen 1:11-13, NASB

A second “it was good” pronouncement!

Tuesday is the day of double blessing! (John 2:1)

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so.

- Gen 1:14-15, NASB

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- Gen 1:14-15, NASB

Star in the east: A sign of Christ's arrival (Matt 2:2)
Stars falling: A sign of Christ's return (Matt 24:29)

God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

- Gen 1:16-19, NASB

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- Gen 1:16-19, NASB

Sun and moon (moon actually a *reflector* of light)

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- Gen 1:16-19, NASB

What an awesome and humbling statement!

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With vegetation and seasons in place, God begins creating **fish** and **birds** and **animals** and **people...**

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A Quick Review...

Creation Language

- Erev (“evening”), boker (“morning”)
- Yom (“day”), bara (“created”)

Day 1

- Created light, separated it from dark (“day/night”)

Day 2

- Separated “waters above” from “waters below”

Day 3

- Separated dry land (“earth”) from water (“seas”)
- Vegetation, plants, fruit, seed, and “kind”

Day 4

- Stars, sun, moon

Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.” God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

- Gen 1:20-21, NASB

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- Gen 1:20-21, NASB

God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

- Gen 1:21-23, NASB

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind;” and it was so. God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

- Gen 1:24-25, NASB

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- Gen 1:24-25, NASB

God seems to be making some sort of point...

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- Gen 1:26-27, NASB

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- Gen 1:26-27, NASB

“Bara” (“make”) means “make from nothing”

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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- Gen 1:26-27, NASB

*God blessed them; and God said to them,
“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the
earth, and subdue it; and rule over the
fish of the sea and over the birds of the
sky and over every living thing that
moves on the earth.”*

- Gen 1:28, NASB

**We're special! Created in His image, with His
blessing, to rule over the things He created!**

(Man allowed to *name* the animals (Gen 2:19)—a sign of authority)

Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so.

- Gen 1:29-30, NASB

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- Gen 1:29-30, NASB

We were originally vegetarians!
(Meat as food came after the flood)

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

- Gen 1:31-2:1, NASB

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

- Gen 1:31-2:1, NASB

By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

- Gen 2:2-3, NASB

Now a brief look at the “other” creation account...

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.

- Gen 2:4-5, NASB

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- Gen 2:4-5, NASB

Here, day (“yom”) means an indefinite period of time (no accompanying numeric value)

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- Gen 2:4-5, NASB

No shrubs and plants requiring cultivation

But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

- Gen 2:6, NASB

- No rain on the earth (yet...)
- Goes well with the idea of a **vapor canopy**
- A **lush, humid, greenhouse** type environment
- Just right for **dinosaurs**—they ate a lot of food!
- Aerodynamics of Pterosaurs
 - Some had 40+ ft wingspans
 - Would require an atmosphere **twice as dense as today's** to fly



Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

- Gen 2:7-8, NASB

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- “Formed” (“yatsar,” not “bara”) - Gen 2:7-8, NASB
- Every atom in you can be found in dirt!
- A billion-billion+ atoms in the space of a sugar cube
- Estimated that one billion of your atoms were a part of **every human being who lived before 1600 AD!**

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

- Gen 2:15, NASB

Man had to work even before the Fall...

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him...”

He took one of the man’s ribs ...

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man...

- Gen 2:18-22, NIV

- A direct contradiction of “Theistic evolution”
- Eve created after Adam was fully formed
 - i.e. she didn’t have time to evolve
- **Note: Both men and women have 12 ribs**