

In the Beginning...

An Examination of the Genesis Account of Creation and the Fall of Mankind

Genesis 1:1-8

6- The "Days" of Creation, Day 2

February 18, 2018

Genesis 1:1-8

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 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.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

7 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.

8 God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

To the Glory of God

Now it would be a complete disaster if a husband loved his wedding ring more than he loved his wife. If a man was constantly speaking about the value of his wedding band or his wedding license, or how he can get a better tax deduction, and yet could not comprehend the beauty and value of his wife, and the even *greater* Beauty and Value of Marriage itself as the visible *representation* of the Mystery between Jesus Christ and His Church, he would be in the *worst* shape of all. His "knowledge" would be worthless, because he doesn't comprehend the infinitely *greater* Value that is *behind* all the symbols. To see the *symbol* but to ignore or miss the *substance* that the symbol

represents is to be in the worst place of all. And we would *not* call this man “wise” or “loving”, and we would *not* think he has found *any* answers about Marriage at all.

And that is *exactly* what the Apostle Paul says has happened to Mankind, when he wrote:

Romans 1:22-23

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

As fallen people, we are idolaters “by nature”. And, because we are fallen, we value *symbols* and *trinkets* and things that are made, rather than be enraptured by the God Who made all things. So, in our idolatry, human beings have fallen in love with the *echo* of God’s Excellence in Creation, but their heart is hard toward the Power and Glory of a breathtaking Creator.

And so, they talk about things like “Evolution” and “alien seed pods”, and they judge themselves to be so wise as they pontificate about “light from stars” and “geological formations” and “fossil records” and “carbon 14 test data”. But they *cannot* behold the magnificent Glory of the incomparable Creator. And they *cannot* because they *will not*. So, why would we think anyone like this is wise? But the real Message of Creation is this:

There is a great God of Glory and Power and Generosity behind all this awesome Universe. And you belong to Him because He made you. And this wondrous God is Patient and Kind in not immediately damning you for your rebellious life. So, turn and put all your hope in Him, and learn of Him so you may delight yourself in *Him*, rather than only in His Handiwork.

And this is why **Psalm 19:1-2** says:

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

The Heavens do not tell of their *own* glory, but they tell about God's. And so, "day to day" they pour forth the "speech" of that Message to all who have been graced with an ear to hear, speaking with blindingly bright sun and blue sky and clouds, and untold shapes and colors and beautiful designs that God is magnificent and worthy of praise.

And night pours forth the "knowledge" of the very same Message to all who will stop and listen at night, speaking with great dark voids and summer moons and countless stars and strange sounds and cool breezes and northern lights.

So, we need to be convinced that God is there and He is not silent. He is *loudly* and *unmistakably* heralding His Own Magnificence, every day and all night long. Yet idolaters foolishly ignore Him and seek to understand the Universe *without* God. And that is like trying to understand Marriage by gazing lovingly at the ring and ignoring the wife who is beside you, and the God Who called it into existence.

And so, God calls them "fools" as they tinker with silly and unworkable ideas, and call it "wisdom". But day and night are saying one thing. And they say it *loudly*, and they say it *continuously*:

God is glorious! God is glorious! God is glorious!

And when created creatures *listen* to the "telling" of the created Universe, and when we are so blessed to behold God in His Magnificence, the gap between us and Him become so very apparent. And as we gaze into infinite Perfection, all of our sins and all of our faults and all of our wickedness and all of our evil and all of our baseness is magnified a thousand times. And as we stand trembling before the brilliance of God's Beauty, we see all of the ugliness and corruption of our own souls in a moment of time. And we are smitten.

We are smitten of Conviction. The white-hot explosion of infinite Glory instantly shatters our pride into a thousand pieces. And the self-righteousness and smugness about all our good deeds and all our accomplishments becomes nothing but a huge pile of human excrement. And we bow our heads in shame and we beat our chests in agony, and we cannot even look into heaven because the *weight* of our own lostness has consumed us.

But, *oddly, strangely*, at the same time we are overrun with deep and profound Conviction, we are also smitten with a great Affection like we have never known. We are graciously *gifted* with a Love and a Passion for the God Who has now been revealed to us in His fullness. And this Love and this Passion begins to *envelope* us like a garment, and it *compels* us to be near Him. So much so, that we run into the city and up and down the streets, and we rise early and stay up late to seek Him Whom our soul loves. And we *pant* after Jesus in the same way that a deer pants after the water brooks. And we are mercifully *granted* a gnawing Hunger and a consuming Thirst that *cannot* be filled with bread or water as we hunger and thirst after Righteousness.

That is what happens when we see the Glory of God revealed to us in the Face of Jesus Christ. And *that* is what happens to us when we listen to what the Heavens are telling us. And when that *doesn't* happen, when people look but they don't see, when they listen but they don't hear, it isn't because God is not there. It isn't because Darwinian Evolution is right and the Bible is wrong. We *cannot* see and we *do not* hear because our eyes are blind and our ears are dull and our minds are clouded with the deceitfulness of sin. And *that* is why we need to understand and believe what God has revealed about Creation.

So, let us look at what God the Holy Spirit moved upon Moses to write down about the *second* "Day" of Creation by reading **Genesis 1:6-8:**

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

7 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.

8 God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

So, on "Day" 1, God *separated* the Light from the Darkness. And here on "Day" two, God *separates* the Heaven from the Earth. That is what the word "**expanse**" in verses 6-8 mean. So, the "expanse" is the line *between* Heaven and Earth. From the expanse down is called "Earth", and from the expanse up is called "Heaven". And God spoke this "expanse" into existence.

Now look closely at verse 6 and you see that the expanse was created “**in the midst of the waters**”. And this goes back to verse 2 that says:

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.

... and as I told you last week, this term “**moving**” gives us the picture of a caring and involved parent “hovering” or “moving” or “brooding” over the crib of a new baby. So, there is *purpose* and *concern* in the “moving”. There is a *deliberateness* in the “hovering”. There is a very real and powerful Love involved in the “brooding”.

So, *evidently*, Creation was a series of “non-repeatable supernatural miracles” over a span of six different “evening and morning” divisions of time called “days”. And as God the Father used God the Son to create all things He spoke. So, the *method* of Creation was the Word of God. And this is what the writer of **Hebrews** said in:

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

So, the *invisible*, spoken Word of God created all things. Now read **1Corinthians 8:6**:

Yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

And this tells us that all things were created:

- ✓ From God the Father
- ✓ By [through] God the Son- Jesus Christ

So, the *Origination* of all created things is God the Father, and the *Instrument* through which all things were created is God the Son, Jesus Christ, while the *Power* that took the spoken Word of God and *caused* it to become Reality was God the Holy Spirit. Now read **Hebrews 1:1-2**:

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Here, the writer of **Hebrews** tells us that Jesus is:

1. The "Instrument" *through which* God made the worlds
2. The "Heir" of all things God made

... which is the *same* thing that Jesus Himself revealed to the Apostle John:

The Revelation 22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

... which is the *same* thing that the Apostle Paul taught:

Ephesians 1:19b-23

19 ... *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might
20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,
21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

... and ...

Romans 11:36

For from Him [Jesus Christ] and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

... and the Apostle John echoed this Reality when he wrote:

John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

So, at first, it seems as though there was a huge body of water. And on "Day" two, Moses wrote:

God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse;

So, "Days" one, two, and three involve a *series* of "separations".

Day 1: God separated the Light from the Darkness.

Day 2: God separated the Heavens from the Earth.

Day 3: God separated the Land from the Sea.

... and *evidently*, these "separations" were *necessary* so God could create life.

Now remember, the main reason for all of Creation was so that certain parts of God's Holiness would be able to be manifested, seen, and marveled at. As we found out last week, it is God's Will that He be known, loved, and enjoyed. And so, Who God is, in all the particular Attributes that make up His Essence, must be displayed, seen, and rejoiced over.

Every part of God's Person has an *infinite* Value to it. All of God's various Characteristics have Worth to them. And that Beauty, that Value, and that Worth is God's Glory. So, God's Glory is the *intrinsic* Beauty, Worth, and Value of God in all the various portions of His Essence. In other words, all that makes God to be "Holy" (i.e., His Omnipotence, His Omniscience, His Immutability, etc.), all that makes God to be "one of a kind", unique, different, and set apart from everything that He made, when those Attributes are displayed and seen and enjoyed, *that* is God's Glory. So, another way of understanding God's Glory is when God's Holiness (Who God is) is realized and wondered after.

And God was able to display and see and enjoy most all of His Attributes all by Himself, *before* Creation, when it was just God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. You see, nobody knows God like God does. We only know what God has chosen to reveal to us, and we struggle to understand that. But God knows and understands Himself *perfectly, infinitely, fully*.

And that infinite Knowledge about the single most important and beautiful and valuable Being in the Universe is the *foundation* of God's Love for God. So, God "knows" God *fully*, and therefore, God "loves" God *infinitely*. Nobody understands God better than God does. And therefore, nobody loves God more than God loves God. And the end result of that Love is that God *enjoys* God with limitless Delight.

So, Salvation is God *sharing* the Knowledge that He has about Himself with us, so that we will *love* God with the very *same* Love with which God loves *Himself*, and that, *ultimately*, we will *enjoy* God with the *same* limitless Delight wherewith God enjoys *Himself*.

The reason that God told us not to have "any other gods before us" is because God doesn't have any other gods before *Himself*. And the reason God told us to "love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength" is because God loves *Himself* with all His Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength.

And sin stops that from being true in us. So, in His fervent Desire to be known and loved and enjoyed by the creatures that He made, God took on flesh and lived a sinless life and died a vicarious Death, and was raised from the dead and ascended into Heaven, so that underserving wicked rebels could see God in His Glory, and love what they see.

And so, there are two main parts of God's Essence that *cannot* be manifested or seen or enjoyed without sinful people. And those two Attributes are:

1. God's Grace
2. God's Justice

... and that is because God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit do not *need* either one of these Attributes. So, for example, for the "Worth", or the "Beauty", or the "Importance", or the "Glory" of God's Grace to be displayed and seen and "praised", God created Man

who He would choose to “save”. And for the “Worth” and the “Importance” and the “Glory” of God’s Justice to be displayed and seen and praised, God created Man whom He would leave to himself so he would rebel and be “damned”. And this is what the Apostle Paul meant when he said:

Ephesians 1:5-6a

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace ...

... and this is what I mean when I say that “*Salvation is you and me being ‘caught up’ in the great Love Affair that God has with Himself, in the three Persons of the Trinity*”.

And because Man needed dirt and water and grass and food and trees and oxygen and molecules and an environment that was conducive for life, God created the Heavens and the Earth. And so, it is *impossible* to correctly and fully understand Creation without seeing its connection to both eternal Redemption and eternal Retribution.

And that is why all 66 Books of sacred Scripture assign a *secondary* position of importance with all of Creation, except Man. The pagan and man-made religions of the world hold the earth and the sea and the created Universe in *prime* importance, so much so, that many of them actually promote the worship of “mother earth” and the trees and the animals.

But the Holy Bible teaches that everything, except Man, is of *secondary* importance, and the earth, trees, and animals were created for the *benefit* of Man. Because the main Purpose for Creation is so that either God’s Grace or His Justice may be displayed and seen and marveled at. And the only recipients of those two Attributes are the people that God made. Trees do not receive either Grace or Justice, Man does. And so, either the Salvation or the Damnation of people is the end Purpose for those two Attributes. And that means that everything *else* that God created exists only to serve that Purpose.

So, first, God had to separate the Light from the Darkness, and create the continuum of “light and dark” in the 24-hour “solar day”. Then He had to separate the Heaven from the Earth, which He does on Day two. And then He has to separate the water that is now completely

engulfing on Day one and two from the dry land, so there's a place for the fish in the sea and the land life on dry land. And in doing that, God made the Universe ready for human life in the first three days. Now look again at verse 6:

Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

So, once again, Reality was created by the spoken Word of God. And at the beginning of the *second* "Day", the Universe was Light and Dark, and the earth was an undifferentiated mass of elements, completely engulfed in water. And then God spoke, and there was created an "expanse" in the middle of all the water. And this expanse *separated* the waters from the waters.

So, at the end of "Day" one, the earth was covered with water. And then, on "Day" two, God separated that water in to two places. That's what it's saying here. He created an "expanse" in between the water that was *above* the earth while some water remained *on* the earth.

And by doing this, God made it to where there was water that was still on the earth, but now some water is separated from that water and is now located above. That's exactly what it is saying. And in between those two bodies of water there is this "expanse".

Now the word "expanse" in the Hebrew means: "*a spread out thinness*". And this very same word was used in **Exodus 39:3** when the children of Israel was making things for the Worship of God in the Tabernacle. And it says:

Then they hammered out gold sheets and cut them into threads to be woven in with the blue and the purple and the scarlet material, and the fine linen, the work of a skillful workman.

So, they flattened the gold out into a thin layer and used it in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness. That is the verb form of the noun "expanse" that was used in **Genesis 1:6**.

And the picture is of a thin area that God created to be in the middle of all the waters that surround the earth. Now, I struggled in my study to try to understand in what way this expanse is "thin". But,

evidently, it is "thin" *in comparison to* the rest of the Universe. So, there was a huge body of water. And God separates the water *from* the water with this expanse in the middle. And this "expanse" is intended to convey the idea of "space", as we know it. Now look again at the first part of verse 8:

God called the expanse heaven...

So, God called this expanse "Heaven". And so, this thin layer of space is what is *above* the earth that we call "the sky", or "the atmosphere". And so, the "atmosphere" around the earth didn't exist until the second "Day". And so, there were waters *below* the atmosphere on the earth, and, at this time, there were waters *above* the atmosphere as well.

Now, the Scriptures reveal that there are at least three different places called "Heaven". The first "Heaven" is seen here, and it is the immediate "atmosphere" that surrounds the earth. The "second heaven" is outer space, where the moon and other planets exist. But, there is a "third Heaven" that is alluded to in Scripture that is evidently, the place where God dwells. It is also the place where the dead in Christ enter into when they die. And in **2 Corinthians 12:2-4**, the Apostle Paul wrote:

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a man was caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I know how such a man — whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows —

4 was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

Now it is my conviction that Paul was speaking here about *himself*. And so, evidently, about 14 years *before* he wrote **2 Corinthians**, Paul was supernaturally "caught up" (raptured) into Heaven. Now there are several possibilities here:

1. God sovereignly gave Paul a vision.
2. God physically transported Paul into Heaven.

... but, there is a *third* possibility. 14 years before AD 56 (the approximate date he wrote **2 Corinthians**), would be *near* the time that Dr. Luke recorded the events of **The Acts 14:19**, where he says Paul was stoned by Jews from Iconium and Antioch. Now there are a few records we have uncovered that indicate that some of the people that were stoned didn't die. They were left for dead in their broken and bleeding condition, but didn't literally die. So, it is possible that **The Acts 14** records such an event, where Paul was stoned and didn't actually die.

But, it is also possible and very probable that the Apostle was, in fact, stoned to death. And the "standing around" of the disciples in verse 20 is when they were praying for him, and God raised Paul from the dead. But, as one of the "dead in Christ", Paul's spirit or soul would have *immediately* entered into Heaven with God, because **2 Corinthians 5:8** indicates that when we are "absent from the body in death, we are at home with the Lord". And it could have been then that Paul was caught up into the "third Heaven".

Now the proximity between the phrase "third Heaven" in **2 Corinthians 12:2** and the word "Paradise" in verse 4 tells us that Paul was simply using two different expressions to discuss the very same Reality. So, whether he entered into the third Heaven by way of a vision or a supernatural "catching away", or he went there by way of physically dying, Paul was there.

And this gives us information that many commentators like John MacArthur and RC Sproul have surmised that the "third Heaven", or "Paradise", the abode of God, is *not* a physical location that is further away than outer space, but rather *another dimension* that is close to us, where we are divided because of sin and flesh. When Scripture describes God's location, it always says He is near and not distant. So, it is possible that the spiritual realm is separated from us because of sin and flesh, rather than distance. And it is possible that all this separation took place on the second "Day".

Now in his Commentary on **Genesis**, Pastor John MacArthur quotes two different Jewish rabbis, Levy and Cassuto, to expand on our understanding of what all went on here. And this first quote is from the Jewish rabbi, Eric Levy, in his Commentary on **Genesis**, who wrote:

“From this we may infer that immediately after its formation the firmament occupied of its own accord the place appointed for it by the will of God, which is the sight of the heavens as we know it.”¹

... and then he went on to say:

“Thus, as soon as the firmament was established in the midst of the layer of water, it began to rise, arching like a vault.”²

Now if this is true, then God cut the water and the expanse began to rise up *from* the waters, and it expanded until it literally created a “space” between the waters. Another Jewish rabbi, Umberto Cassuto, who died in 1951, wrote:

“In its course...in the course it [the expanse] expands arching like a vault, in the course of its upward expansion it lifted at the same time the upper waters resting on top of it.”

So, according to these men, the “expanse” that God created actually pushed the waters up above it. And Cassuto goes on to say:

“This marked a considerable advance in the marshalling of the components of the universe. Above now stands the vault of heaven, surrounded by the upper waters. Beneath stretches the expanse of lower waters, that is the waters of the vast sea, which still covers all the heavy undifferentiated matter on the earth... The universe is now beginning to take shape.”

Now it needs to be said here that what Moses wrote here, as he was moved along by God the Holy Spirit, is not silly superstition or filled with provable fallacies, as some would have you to believe. What **Genesis** says is actually very reasonable. God took some of the waters and pushed them way up, while leaving some waters to continue to engulf the earth. And in between, He created the “separator” that lies between the two bodies of water which was the expanse that we call “heaven”, or “the atmosphere”. And in verse 7, Moses basically repeats what he just said:

¹ [http://www.ericlevy.com/Revel/Cosmogony/Cassuto%20-20A%-20Commentray%20on20the%20Book%20of%20Genesis%20\(chap%201\).PDF](http://www.ericlevy.com/Revel/Cosmogony/Cassuto%20-20A%-20Commentray%20on20the%20Book%20of%20Genesis%20(chap%201).PDF)

² Ibid

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.

So, on "Day" 2, God created an "expanse" that separated the waters that went up from the waters that remained below, and God called the expanse "Heaven", or "Space".

Now, many people want to make a big deal out of the fact that Moses used a different Hebrew word here than he used back in verse 1. In the first verse of **Genesis**, Moses used the word "*bara*", and here he used the word "*asah*". And many of these supposed scholars use that difference to suggest that God really didn't "create" anything on "Day" 2, as though "making" something is different from "creating" it.

But, they're just wrong about this because in **Genesis 2:3**, we read:

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

The word "**created**" here comes from "*bara*", while the word "**made**" here comes from "*asah*". So, Moses was not talking about two different Acts of God, he was simply using synonyms in his narrative. But the primary thought that Moses intends to teach in this Chapter is that God created (*bara*) everything "out of nothing" (*ex-nihilo*). And that means that Creation is *supernatural* rather than natural. It is *miraculous* rather than scientific, and it is *unique* rather than common. Therefore, Creation simply cannot be explained or understood using natural, scientific processes or formulas.

So, the way you should understand this difference is that the word "asah" (made) is used to specify a particular kind of "bara" (creation) that the verse is talking about. So, God is sovereignly *creating* (*bara*). And as He creates, He *makes* (*asah*) something that never existed (*ex-nihilo*).

So, God is creating. And in the creating, as verse 1 indicates, the broad picture, He is "making" things expressed by the use of the other word. And so, in verse 7, as God was creating on "Day" two, He "made" this expanse. It was still absolutely a sovereign part of Creation, but it was also a *component* of Creation. So, it was the making of something that never before existed.

Now, the separation of the waters *above* and *below* the atmosphere has led to much discussion over the centuries. And there is much speculation about it, even among great and holy men of God throughout Church history. And we can entertain some of that speculation, but, in the end, we must leave it as being speculation and not biblical Truth.

So, the short answer about *why* God pushed *some* of the water *above* the atmosphere, while leaving some below is, "*I simply don't know.*" And that really isn't me being humble, because I really don't know. But nobody else knows either. And we don't know because nobody was there.

But even though we don't have *all* the information doesn't mean we don't have *some* information. And even though much of what I'm going to discuss now is a "guess", it is a *good* guess, an *educated* guess. And it is a guess that is *linked* with what we do know to be true.

Now it is *possible* that the water that God pushed *above* the atmosphere is still there. There could be some gigantic body of water billions of light-years out in space. That is *possible*, but I don't think it is *probable*. And the reason I say that is because of what the Bible tells us in **Genesis 7:11-12**:

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.

12 The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.

So, I want you to notice several important things about this particular "**rain**":

- ✓ *This "rain"* was Divine Judgment, so it was highly unusual.
- ✓ *This "rain"* consisted of two parts:

1. "**all the fountains of the great deep**"
2. "**the floodgates of the sky**"

... so, this was not your average "rain". This "rain" was more powerful and more violent and more terrifying than the worst storm or even the

worst hurricane. And the "rain" came forth from water that was both "above" and "below". The phrase:

the fountains of the great deep

... have to do with water that was *under the ground of the earth* at that time. Now many of us have seen video of a volcano as it erupts the molten lava. A volcano explodes with great power and force, and blows dirt and debris many miles into the air. And the earth shakes, and there are usually earthquakes associated with a volcano, and there is great noise and it is a very terrifying and destructive event.

The "rain" of **Genesis 7** was an expression of the Anger of a holy God against the wickedness of Man. So, this was very loud, very noisy, the earth shook, the ground trembled, as water that was *below* the ground burst forth *up out of the ground* like a volcano. But, instead of shooting molten lava miles into the air, this was water. Now look at the second phrase,

the floodgates of the sky

This tells me that, *in addition* to the "fountains of the deep" exploding water into the air with great force, the atmosphere *above* the earth was "opened", and the water that God had separated to be *above* the expanse was unleashed and it dropped down on the earth. And again, this was *not* simply a "hard rain" as we know rain. This was the damnation of every living thing, including humans who were not on the Ark.

And this *cataclysmic* Judgment went on for 40 days until the entire surface of the earth was covered with water again, just like it was before God made the expanse on "Day" 2.

Now another aspect that has puzzled people was why humans lived so long in the **Book of Genesis**. And like a lot of other issues in **Genesis**, that has been the source of much speculation throughout history. But in 1961, Henry Morris and John Whitcomb wrote a book called, "*The Genesis Flood: The Biblical Record and its Scientific Implications*". And in that book, these men, who were both very educated scientists, who also happened to be believers, wrote that the waters above the expanse acted as a "vapor" that created a kind of

“hothouse” environment on the earth. And these men suggest that it was the water being above the atmosphere, filtering out the harmful effects of the sun’s rays, as to why people lived so long. And these men suggest that this explains the dinosaurs and why people lived almost 1,000 years before they died.

And, with the Flood, the water that was above the atmosphere burst loose and drowned the earth, along with the tectonic cataclysm that occurred underneath the earth that broke up the basic elements of the earth and created the post-flood environment.

Now even though we can’t be dogmatic about things like this, that makes more sense to me than anything I have read from the so-called “scientists” who discount not only the **Genesis** Record of Creation, but what the Bible teaches about the Flood as well.

Now it is very interesting that God didn’t pronounce what He was doing as being “Good” until verse 10, which was the *end* of “Day” 2. And by itself, this doesn’t really prove anything, but taken in concert with everything else and we can see that Man was *not* an “afterthought”. God didn’t set about to create the Universe and then made Man as some *side-issue*. So, Creation is very strongly linked to Salvation. Creation is what allowed either God’s Grace or His Justice on unworthy sinners to be displayed and praised. So, the main Purpose behind all of Creation was *not* the dirt and grass and trees and water, by itself. Those things were created to sustain the people that God was going to either save or damn.

So, let us turn *away* from all the *symbols* of Creation as our supreme satisfaction, and let us delight ourselves in the Lord of Glory, Who made us and to Whom we have to answer.

Amen. Let’s pray.

© 2018 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by an examination of “**The Genesis Account of Creation and the Fall of Man**”. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you, without cost or reimbursement to us, with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church, and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.