

Genesis 1: In the Beginning

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God created (*bara*) the heavens and the earth **out of nothing**. (Heb 11:3)

Extra credit: The Latin expression for this type of creation is ***ex nihilo***.

The **Spirit** (*ruwach*) of God hovered/brooded over the waters. (Gen 1:2)

Light appeared on the first day of creation. Where did the light come from? (John 1:1-5)

To whom was God speaking? (Job 38:1-7)

Much of the debate about Genesis 1 is over the interpretation of the word for “day” (*yom*). Two additional words that help with context are **evening** (*ereb*) and **morning** (*boqer*).

“If the Lord wanted to teach us that creation took place in six literal days, how could He have stated it more plainly?”
(John MacArthur: *Battle for the Beginning*, p. 21)

The debate about origins is really a question of ultimate authority: **science** versus **Scripture**.

Science depends upon **Scripture**, not the other way around. Why is that?

Evolution and **Christianity** are mutually exclusive worldviews.

The **dominion mandate** presupposes scientific investigation of the natural world. (Gen 1:28)

The creation week is **highly structured**.

Recent six-day creation is uniformly taught in Scripture (cf. Henry Morris, *Biblical Creationism*):

- genealogies (Gen 5; 1 Chr 1-7; Luke 3)
- seventh-day rest (Ex 20:8-11, 31:12-17)
- “the beginning” (Is 40:21-23, 41:4; Matt 19:4-8; 1 Jn 1:1, 2:7, 2:13-14, 2:24, 3:8, 3:11-12)

After six days, the creation is **finished** (*kalah*) and is declared **very good** (*m@’od towb*). There was no sin—and consequently no *death*—until after the Fall. (Rom 5:12-19)

God could have completed the whole creation at one time in an instant. Why did He take a whole week to do it?

What is the significance of the number *seven*? (Gen 4:15, 7:2-4, 21:28-30, 29:18, 29:30, 33:3, 41:26-27, 46:27, 50:3, 50:10) (373 occurrences of *seven*; 124 occurrences of *seventh*)

Revelation: seven . . . churches, stars, lampstands, spirits, seals, horns, eyes, angels, trumpets, thunders, heads, diadems, plagues, golden bowls, mountains, kings

Did God need to rest on the seventh day? What does the sabbath ultimately point to? (Hebr 4:8-10)

How is man “created in God’s image” so that he is set apart from the rest of creation?

- spiritual
- rational, intelligent
- moral, volitional
- relational
- authoritative