Various Interpretations of Creation

The interpretation of the creation of the earth has been a theological debate for thousands of years by almost as many notable biblical scholars. “Old Earth” and “Young Earth” theorists alike, each with varying interpretations, stand strong in their view. It needs to be noted that some of these views are to be respected and not cast aside because the Bible does not give definite answers as to the time of the beginning of creation. It must also be noted that these varying interpretations are not essential to the doctrine of salvation for mankind and should not divide the Body of Christ. While the most accepted interpretations will be discussed here, the view of this author, after years of research, lean toward one particular interpretation of creation, and that interpretation will be included in this commentary.

The New American Standard – Updated version will be used for this commentary, unless otherwise noted.

The Book of Beginnings

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

In the beginning: In God, there is no beginning because He is eternal. The same is true for time. There was no beginning because God always “was.” There is no ticking of the clock with God. The Hebrew name for God, in this section, is Elohiym (O.T. 430) and is equivalent to our word “Diety.” He is the Eternal, Self-Existent Diety Who originated and sustains the universe, Who has power to punish as well as to bless.”

God created the heavens and the earth: Because God is eternal, without beginning or ending, we cannot place a reference to the exact time when creation took place. Science claims the earth is 12-15 billions of years old. Some noted, well accepted scholars, including biblical scholars, claim creation took place millions, or even billions of years ago, using other scriptural references to prove their theory and to support scientific data. Other scholars, of equal importance take the first chapter of Genesis as an ongoing continual process, claiming creation took place 6000 years ago, just prior to the creation of mankind. These two basic theories are known as the “Old Earth” and “New Earth” theory. Within each of these two theory boundaries are more theories. It is sad that the first two verses in the Bible are so controversial and has been argued in the Church for centuries, even dividing the Church at large. Regardless, let’s examine the main accepted theories, and you, the reader must make up your own mind. None of us, however, will know for certain when creation took place until we reach glory regarding the age of the earth, or how old the universes are, and when God did His creation. All we know for certain is that in Scripture, the Bible tells us that in the beginning, whenever that was, God created the heavens and the earth. To attempt to explain this controversy, let’s first look at the findings of science, particularly geology and paleontology:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geology is a science that deals with the history of the earth and its life, especially as recorded in rocks.</th>
<th>Paleontology deals with the life of past geological periods that we know from fossil remains.</th>
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<td>Fossils are remnants, impressions, or traces of animals or plants of past geological ages that have been preserved in the earth’s crust.</td>
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Let’s look at some of the evidences that science has used to date the age of the earth.

**Scientific Beliefs and Evidences**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>The earth is covered with sedimentary rock (layers upon layers)</th>
<th>Coals and oils in the earth come from very ancient animal and vegetable life.</th>
<th>Atomic dating based on the theory that uranium turns to lead in a given number of years.</th>
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<td>• Many fossil remains have been found at various levels of these rock coverings.</td>
<td>• Sometimes referred to as hydrocarbon or fossil fuels.</td>
<td>• Establishes fairly accurate dates for the age of fossils and rocks.</td>
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<td>• Shells of sea animals have been found in limestone sedimentary rock.</td>
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**Biblical Interpretative Beliefs**

**The “Old Earth” Theory**

Within the “Old Earth” theory, there are primarily four or five creation science thoughts:

- The “Age-Day” or “Day-Age” Theory
  - This theory claims the days in Genesis 1 were a very long period of time—probably millions or billions of years. Using a “literal” verse-by-verse interpretation, this period “could” correspond with the geological ages. This “could” also be consistent with other uses of the word “day” in Scripture, such as a “day is as a thousand years.”

- The “Gap” Theory
  - As another arm of the “Age-Day” or “Day-Age” theory, meaning the earth is millions or billions of years old, another theory rests, referred to as the “Gap” period. Using other supportive scripture, the “Gap” theory claims that Lucifer once ruled the earth under God over all life upon the earth, having his headquarters in the Garden of Eden. His rulership could have included a pre-Adamite or neanderthal form of mankind. Lucifer, however, wanted more—desiring to take over God’s position and rule everything. He was condemned and cast out of heaven, losing his rulership over the earth. His name was changed to Satan or the devil. God then did a re-creation of the earth, and used Genesis 1:2 as a starting point. God then created mankind in His image and likeness. The time period could have been six “literal” 24-hour days or an extended period of time. This view, as supported by various other scriptures, comes the closest to supporting any scientific data.

- Evolutionary Theory
  - This theory states that the world, along with man, evolved over millions or billions of years. God was left out of the picture completely, as if He does not exist. As such, man is presumed to have come from the ancestry of an ape or lizard. Any human form today has been the result of “survival of the fittest.” This theory is completely erroneous and unbiblical. Scriptural states that man is created in the image and likeness of God, not evolved over a long period of time.

- The “Big Bang” Theory
  - As another arm of the evolutionary theory, this theory claims the universe began as a single mass that exploded trillions of years ago to produce our current universe. It then evolved over a period of time to become what it is today. Again, this theory is unbiblical.

- The Pictorial-Day/Revelation-Day Theory
  - God in His eternity could have taken billions of years to create the universe before He created Adam. Some scholars believe and support this theory, but they add another element, stating that in creation man was really an evolutionary process. Then God revealed the process of creation to the writer of Genesis (Moses) in six successive days. This view, however, did not become popular until after the acceptance of the Evolutionary theory of creation.
The “Young Earth” Theory

To add to the controversy as to when creation took place, another argument centers around a “Young Earth” theory and whether God created the universes in six consecutive 24-hour days.

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<tr>
<th>The 24-hour-day theory</th>
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<td>The 24-hour day theory supports a literal interpretation of Genesis regarding days; however, it claims that creation took place only 6000 years ago. According to this interpretation, the creation days were a period of six “literal” 24-hour period, taking place only 6000 years ago. This emphasizes God’s power to create instantaneously out of nothing.</td>
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There are many biblical scholars who believe that creation took place only 6000 years ago, supporting the “Young Age theory.” As an attempt to reconcile the fossil evidence of science, these “Young Earth” theorist make such claims as the universal flood in Noah’s time had major effects of the earth’s topography, which accounts for the appearance of age. Another thought is that because God created Adam and Eve with the appearance of age, meaning a mature age, then He could have also created the earth with the appearance of age as well.

The two most popular interpretations of Genesis 1

The two most popular interpretations today among biblical scholars of Genesis 1 are the Gap theory, following an “Old Earth” theory, and the 24-hour-day theory, following the “Young Earth theory. Again, you the reader must come to your own conclusion. Hopefully, it will be done by prayer, and diligent study of this most fascinating book of the Bible.

**Genesis 1:2**

*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.*

*Now the earth was formless and void:* There are two central thoughts here: First of all, we can take this verse literally, as in most cases we should, in that when God first created the heavens and the earth, the earth had no form and was a wasteland of water. From there, God began His creation. This would support the “Old Earth” Age-Day theory as well as the “Young Earth” theory of creation. There are, however, too many other scripture verses or passages that point to this earliest time of creation that would give rebuttal to each of these theories. As such, they need to be examined and addressed.

Examining Genesis 1:2, research has shown that the Hebrew meaning of the word “was” (“hayh”) means “became.” In other words, the earth was (as in Genesis 1:1, and it later “became.” The words “formless and void,” meaning in waste, empty, and in ruin, as used here in Genesis 1:2, has the same meaning as was also used by Jeremiah the prophet centuries later to explain the ruin of Israel after the Babylonian invasion. In other words, what originally was became in ruin. So then, we now have to look at the “Old Earth Gap” theory.

*Jer 4:23-26 I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.*
Shouldn’t then Genesis 1:2, properly written from its Hebrew meaning, read “And the earth became formless and void...?” To add more confusion to this verse, we need to look at other scripture passages that points to an earlier period of time on the earth.

The prophets Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Isaiah pointed out that there was a time when Lucifer was a top angelic being. His very being was filled with jewels to show off his great spender. God claimed Lucifer was perfect in all his ways. He was given rulership over the earth - to be its guardian. He was also able to be on the Mountain of God, which meant he spent time in heaven in a top leadership position as well. Lucifer, however, wanted to rule in God’s place, from His throne. Represented in the king of Tyre, God ordained Lucifer as a top angel to rule over the earth. Lucifer was given his own throne, and headquartered in the Garden of Eden. In addition, he was able to be on the Mountain of God, which meant he also spent time in heaven in a top leadership position. In other words, he was able to go back and forth - from earth to heaven.

Ezek 28:12-15 Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

Lucifer, however, wanted to rule over everything, which meant he wanted to take over God’s position in heaven, dethroning Him. At God’s command, however, Michael and his angels set war with Lucifer, casting him and all of the angelic host who followed after him in his rebellion out of heaven.

Isa 14:12-14 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

Luke 10:18 “I (Jesus) saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

Rev 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

This “Old Earth Gap” theory claims that once Lucifer fell from heaven, his name was changed to Satan or the devil. Now filled with wickedness, and the earth as his domain, God let go of His beautiful creation. The question then arises: How then did the earth become formless and void?

Darkness was over the surface of the deep: Reverting back to the “Old Earth Age-Day” or “Young Earth” theory, this portion of scripture could be taken literally in that in its foundational beginning, when God first created the heavens and the earth, it was formless and void, and darkness covered the earth. Sounds logical; however, there are some holes here. Studying this verse deeper, we need to ask what it means when it states that darkness was over the surface of the “deep.” What is “the deep?” The Hebrew meaning for the word “deep” means “mass of water.” Did the earth then consist of all water or was its surface filled with water? Other questions then arise as well. If everything was in darkness, and the earth consisted of water, whether it was all water or only surfaced with water, what was the temperature of the earth since total darkness covered the earth? Without the sun, or light, was the...
earth, which contained water to some degree, a frozen ball of ice? If that is the case, the whole atmosphere of the earth was one big frozen ball of ice. This then would lead one to take another look at the “Old Earth Gap” theory.

Science makes claim that the earth was completely flooded at one point. There do, however, claim that the flood was the flood of Noah - the Noahic flood. If the earth was filled with darkness and full of water, as the “Old and New Earth” theorists claim, this water then could not be the flood of Noah, which did not come until 1656 years after the time of Adam and Eve. Now then, if science admitted to two floods, it would then have to acknowledge creation according to the Word of God, and that there are Satanic forces which once was and is still in the earth today.

There is another scripture verse that seems to also speak of this period of time, which supports the “Old Earth Gap” theory. The Apostle Peter, under the power of the Holy Spirit, several thousands of years later, made claim that the earth was formed out of water, deluged and was destroyed.

2 Peter 3:4-6 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

The question then arises, why would the earth be destroyed if it was just created? This leads to the belief that the earth was probably once was, and much later destroyed, again, supporting the “Old Earth Gap theory.”

And the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters: We see here the first glimpse of the Trinity - the triune God. We have God as the eternal creator of the universe who has a Spirit. His Spirit (the Spirit of God) has been involved in the creation of the earth from its inception. The Spirit of God hovered over the earth, which was filled with water.

It must be noted again that in no way does the “Old Earth Gap” theory diminish that God originally spoke creation into being, in its earliest form, by the words of His mouth as listed in Genesis 1:1. As is written, “in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” As is also written, the earth “became” formless and void, and darkness covered over the face of the deep.” How long the earth remained in that state is undetermined. It could have been million or even billions of years. Then God chose to do a renewal of his original creation; and as such, day one began.

Day One

Genesis 1:3
Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light: In Day one, God spoke light into existence upon the earth.
You will note throughout the rest of chapter one, God uses the words, “let” or “let there be,” over and over. Thirteen times in Genesis 1, God uses this term. He also spoke it 1,464 times throughout the Bible. In none of these cases does “let there be” refer to any original creative act. It is stating her that “let there be” means “to appear or be made visible,” with already existed things.

Using the “Old Earth Gap” theory - because the light, water, earth, darkness, and all other things were already in existence, but had been thrown into chaos with Satan being cast out of heaven and down on the earth, the laws which previously governed the earth, had been made null and void. The earth had become formless and void. The very purpose of their existence had been annulled because of the sin of Lucifer. Now, after a gap period of time, in the restoration to perfection and original usefulness, God simply commanded (spoke into being) and there was light upon the earth just as it was during the time of Lucifer.

2 Peter 3:4-6 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

Using the Old Earth theory, this scripture passage of the destructive deluge could mean the world was destroyed when Satan fell from heaven, as shown above. Using the Young Earth theory, however, this destructive deluge could only have meant the Noahic flood.

While the theory of the “Young Earth” shows merit, this writer has come to the decision that the “Old Earth Gap” theory best describes Genesis 1:1-2. You, as the reader, however, must come to your own conclusion. Again, there is no conclusive proof, and none of these theories must divide the Body of Christ. Only in glory will this portion of Scripture be revealed.

Genesis 1:4-5
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 - the first day.

God saw that the light was good: God was please with the light that He spoke into being upon the earth. Following the “Young Earth” theory, God was pleased with His creation. Following the “Old Earth” theory, God was pleased with His re-creation of the earth - how what was once destroyed was now being restored into perfection.

And God separated the light from the darkness: This light could not have been light from the sun, moon, or stars, because God did not speak that into being until the fourth day. What kind of light this was is unknown. It did, however, give light upon the earth. Following the “Old Earth” theorists, the question arises whether that light melted the frozen ice of the earth? Could it be done in a literal 24-hour day? The “Age-Day” or “Day-Age” theorists, however, would claim a day could be as a thousand years not a literal 24-hour day.

2 Peter 3:8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

Literalists, whether they are “Old Earth” or “New Earth” theorists primarily support God did everything in a 24-hour day. Others claim the above verse simply means there is no time in God. How long God then took to melt the ice is unknown. God is God and He can do things however, whatever, and whenever He desires. Time is of no essence to Him. He was, however, speaking to His people through the writings of Moses and man looks at a day as a 24-hour period of time.
God called the light day, and the darkness He called night: While God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night,” the sun, moon and stars had not been created at this time.

And there was evening, and there was morning - one day: The first day was created - having day and night - a distinguishing difference between the two. There was a certain amount of hours where light was upon the earth. The rest then was darkness just as it had been before God spoke light into being. Notice, God spoke of evening first and then morning - the first day.

Evening and morning of each day

The “evening” is listed before “morning” in all six days of creation. Why is that? It helps to understand that within orthodox Hebrew culture, a day begins at sundown of the day prior and ends at sunrise the next morning. Why? Because God began with darkness and ended that part of creation when He spoke light upon the earth. Thus, we then can understand that God did his creation at sundown and completed it at sunrise. He separated the darkness from the light - with its completion of darkness and light ending at morning.

Day Two

Genesis 1:7-8

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.

God made the expanse and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse: Here is where the waters divided which were upon the earth. The Hebrew word (raqi'a) for separating the waters represents something beaten out or pressed out so as to extend over a wide surface. Some of the waters stayed upon the earth and other waters went upward into the space above the earth. Thus we now had the earth’s atmosphere. Previous to the beginnings of this day, the earth and its atmosphere were probably locked within a frozen ball of ice. When God called the light upon the earth, the ice melted and the earth was saturated with an excess of humidity to where the vapors were so low as to press upon the waters of the earth to mesh into one ball of water. God simply spoke, and the waters divided.

And it was so: With God’s spoken word, things changed. “It was so!” Whether it was instantaneous or a short period of time is unknown.

God called the expanse heaven: This interval of space between the waters on the earth and the waters above, God called heaven or “sky.” That expanse, also called firmament or atmosphere, was the air above the earth. The waters above formed clouds and vapor and were lodged within the atmosphere. The earth now had an aerial canopy surrounding it. The boundaries were set. There was now the water upon the earth and water above the earth with a large expanse of air in between.
And there was evening, and there was morning, a second day: Again, throughout the creation story, evening always precedes morning. Whether God took 12+ hours to do each day’s creation is unknown. We just know that within each day, God did a work of creation, and at sunrise, the day was complete.

Day Three

Genesis 1:9-10

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.

Then God said, “Let the water below the heavens be gathered into one place”: Again, here God spoke and used the words “let.” What was and became destroyed, became again. Once the waters were divided from the earth and the sky, the earth was still covered with a body mass of water and needed to be confined within certain limits to accomplish what God had planned for the earth.

“And let dry land appear”: Dry ground appeared and the water became confined to certain areas of the globe by depression and elevation of the land. Water flowed down the mountains as land emerged and settled in the lowlands. These waters included rivers and lakes that flowed into the larger masses of water. These waters surrounded the mainland on all sides.

Ps 24:1-2 The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Ps 104:6-8 You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them.

And it was so: Again, by the miracle of God’s spoken word, the waters under the sky were divided and dry land appeared. It was so!

God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters he called “seas:” God named the dry ground “land,” or “earth” and the water He named “seas.” The earth now consisted of dry land and seas. The term “seas” will be used throughout Scripture to refer to any large body of water. God had prepared the earth for His next step - vegetation.
And God saw that it was good: Again, what God created, was good! He pronounced his own works, which was beautiful and perfect - each in their own kind.

**Genesis 1:11-13**

Then God said, “Let the land sprout vegetation: plant-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.

Then God said, “Let the land sprout vegetation: plant-yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them;” and it was so: Again, God spoke His words and said, “let,” meaning He recreated something from what was, having been destroyed, and was now being recreated again. God spoke and said “let the land produced vegetation. Seed-bearing plants and trees cropped out of the dry land. The multiplying of these seeds was created for endless generations. Each generation of seed, as will be shown later, will multiply again and again producing vegetation throughout the whole earth.

The earth brought forth vegetation plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after kind; and God saw that it was good: The seed-bearing plants were divided into three classes - grass, herbs, and trees, each having its separate characteristics. These three classes embrace all the productions of the vegetable kingdom. Billions upon billions of endless seeds were deposited in the earth. From this soil, at God's express command, living vegetation sprang forth, which provided two things: 1) Clothing to cover the earth and 2) food for the living creatures. The latter was preparation for what God was soon to create. In one day, the grandeur of God beauty shown forth, and God said it was good.

There was evening and there was morning, a third day: Again, throughout the Book of Genesis, evening always precedes morning. The beginning of each divine act of creation was called morning and the close of each act was called evening.

**Day Four**

**Genesis 1:14-19**

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. 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.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night”: The fourth day had begun. After God clothed the earth with vegetation and made it fit for living habitation, He created the lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. The Hebrew word here for light (me’orot) describes luminaries of light in the spacious skies, and by these luminaries, the earth would receive the light necessary for maintaining life. At His creative word, God spoke light into existence light, like lamps, which was indispensable for the growth and health of all of living things. It was necessary for life to exist and thrive beneath these light rays, as well as in the water, in the air, and upon the dry land. This light, then, would have been an entirely different light than used in Genesis 1:3. This light has been in existence from that time forward, and even today.

Again, God not only spoke the light into being, but He used the words “let there be.” Again, as in all of the 1,464 times these words were used in Scripture, “let there be” means to appear or to be made visible with already existing things, not any original creative act.

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. God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night: Today, the illumination of the sun as the earth completes its revolution on its own axis (in about a 24-hour time period), having an alternate day and night. This completes one revolution of the earth around the sun, and is accomplished in 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 48 seconds. Both the hours of the day and night, as well as the different lengths of the days and nights, are distinguished by the longer and shorter spaces of time the sun is above or below the horizon. “The solar light reflected from the face of the moon is computed to be 50,000 times less in intensity and effect than the light of the sun as it comes directly from himself to our earth (for light decreases in its intensity as the distance it travels from the sun increases), therefore a sufficient distinction is made between day and night, or light and darkness.”

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: When God created the two light, it is the view of most biblical scholars that He created the stars, meaning the planets, comets, and fixed stars) on the fourth day as well. According to Genesis 1:1, when God created the “heavens” and the earth, the solar system surrounding the earth was part of the heavenlies. The question then arises - did the formation begin as a gradual beginning process and grow from that point? Today, science claims that the heavens (solar systems) are continuously expanding. How minute or vast the heavens were at God’s creation are unknown. The Genesis account simply states that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. They were created out of nothing by the words of the Lord. Again, following the “Old Earth Gap” theory, the earth and its undetermined surroundings (heavens) were destroyed and at God’s appointed time, He simply commanded them back again when He said “let there be…”

Ps 148:3-6 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He set them in place forever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away.

And God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day. Everything that God created, He saw that it was good. Thus the closing of the evening and the morning of the fourth day occurred.
Again, throughout the Book of Genesis, evening always precedes morning. The beginning of each divine act of creation was called morning and the close of each act was called evening.

**Day Five**

*Gen 1:20-21*

Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarm 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.

And God said, “Let the waters teem with swarm 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:  On day five God again spoke the word “let,” suggesting a recreation and the power to propagate. This time He spoke to the waters and commanded living creatures into existence. The waters included the seas, as well as the lakes, rivers, and streams which are feeders into the sea. All water creatures, meaning those who wriggle through the water or scud along the banks of the water applied to small aquatic creatures, such as fish, reptiles, crocodiles, and the mammoth whales. God used the word “teem,” “swarm,” or “abound,” meaning be filled with and multiply. Each was created after their own kind living in an element that would sustain their existence and permanent wholesome nutritive diet for the sustenance of man for all generations.

God also spoke the words “let” to bring forth winged birds, after their own kind, to fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky. These birds included small birds to large fowl - large winged creatures.

*And God saw that it was good:* Everything that God created was good. He looked upon His creation and called it good.

*Gen 1:22-23*

God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning, a fifth day.

God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas. And let birds multiply on the earth.” God saw that His creation was good and He conferred upon it His blessing. The blessing was for it to be fruitful and propagate itself over and over again for all generations. This blessing, too immeasurable for the human mind, continues even today.

*And there was evening, and there was morning, a fifth day:* Thus the closing of the evening and the morning of the fifth day occurred. Again, throughout the Book of Genesis, evening always precedes morning.
Day Six

**Genesis 1:24-25**

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.

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: At this point of time, the sea and the air became filled with living creatures. God then spoke to the earth to bring forth living creatures out of the soil of the earth. Again, God used the word “let,” and the land produced living creatures according to their kinds. The word “creature” here is a general term for the whole animal kingdom, but suggests three different divisions - livestock (or cattle) reptiles, and wild beasts.

And it was so: When God spoke, 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: Cattle (Heb-behemah OT 929), meaning larger or smaller domesticated four-legged animals, reptiles (Heb-remes OT 7431), including insects and worms, as well as wild beasts (Heb-nephesh OT 5314) that would roam the earth were called into being. In this, there seems to suggest here a progression of animal life that God spoke into existence. This, however, does not in any sort of way suggest some sort of evolution process because God was specific to say “according to their own kind - after their own likeness.” As God spoke, the lower forms of life were called into being.

And God saw that it was good: Everything God created was good!

**Genesis 1:26**

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.”

Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness: As a final act of creation, on that sixth day, God used the word “let” and called mankind into being. There are several thoughts here: Let’s dispense with the worst first and then go to the other thoughts:

The evolution of mankind?

When God formed man out of the dust of the ground, He was specific to state that this creation was now made in the image and likeness of Himself. God, in the plural form (Trinity) spoke man into existence; however, his existence differed from all other forms of life on the earth. Man differed from the animal creation in that he was made in the image and likeness of God. In no scriptural passage does God equate any other form of life to His likeness and image. Because God used the word “let,” however, it possibly, and only possibly, denotes there could have once been a
species of mankind that originally existed, but not in the image of God. That then raises the question - was there an earlier form of mankind in the eons of time as suggested between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2?

Repeating from earlier, the Prophet Jeremiah prophesied that God’s anger got so intense that He brought the earth to become formless and void. The mountains quaked, earthquakes came, the birds had left, the towns laid in ruin and the fruitful land had become a desert and mankind disappeared.

Jer 4:23-26 I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger. NIV

This scriptural passage gives us a clue that there could have been some form of mankind upon the earth “before” Adam and Eve. We know that science makes claim to multiple discoveries of an extinct subspecies form of human, similar to an ape today. These fossils, called the Neanderthal, have been found in Europe and parts of western and central Asia that roamed the earth as far back as 600,000 years ago. Science claims that today’s modern man evolved from the Neanderthal, which gives them credence to the evolutional theory of mankind. It must be stated here that unequivocally, evolution and any such theory is not supported by the Word of God. We can’t, however, disavow these fossils ever existed, so then the question arises on how science and the Bible can come together on this issue?

If, after examining chapter one of Genesis, using the “Old Earth Gap” theory, and the support of other scripture passages, we see the following:

- God created the heavens and the earth.
- Lucifer, a leading angel of God, was given rulership by God over the earth.
- Lucifer was perfect in all his ways. He was beautifully adorned with jewels
- Lucifer had his throne in the Garden of Eden, having subjects - meaning other angelic beings and a “form of mankind,” whom he ruled over.
- Lucifer, however, in his greed, wanted to rule everything in heaven and earth. He wanted God’s position.
- Lucifer waged war against God.
- As a result, Lucifer was cast out of heaven, along with the angelic host who followed him by the angel Michael.
- God changed Lucifer’s name to Satan, meaning adversary or evil one.
- God took away the light from the earth in which Lucifer, now Satan, ruled. Darkness covered the earth, and as a result became chaotic, frozen, and desolate.

What the earth was, was now gone. Light was taken away. Mankind, as what once had died off. The earthly waters, along with the surrounding cloud became frozen. The earth and its atmosphere became a frozen ball of ice. Everything had become formless and void.

Science and the Bible can come together. The “Old Earth Gap” theory can support the earth having an unknown age of millions or even billions of years with a form of mankind roaming the earth. If ONLY science could continue their research, claiming there is a God, Bible, heaven, hell, Satan and angels, everyone could come together with a much better understanding of what God has done in His creation, which would include the creation of man made in the image of God. That, however, has not happened and we will continue to have opposing views.
The Trinity

Continuing on with “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness,” another question arises in the words “let us.” Who then are “us”? In Gen 1:2, God stated the His Spirit (the Spirit of God) hovered over the earth, showing God in the dual form - God and the Spirit of God. But, as other Scripture will claim, Jesus is also included here as part of “us.” How do we know that?

Jesus is referred to being in on the beginning of creation in other portions of Scripture.

John 1:1-3  In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 10:30  I (Jesus spoke of Himself) and the Father are one."

Although not a scriptural word, the word Trinity (meaning three in one) is used here. God, the Father, God the Spirit, and God the Son are all involved in creation. Although One being, each functions in its own capacity, but are still “One,” - of one substance. When God said let “us” make man in our image, He was referring to all three functions of Himself - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

God created mankind male and female in one body

When God made man in His image, He created one form of mankind, neither male nor female. Notice, in this verse, God said, “let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” God did not use the word “create,” but simply “let us make.” Here, God created man out of the dust of the earth (dirt) that already was in existence and formed him. In reality, man was formed from something already in existence, but he was still a creation of God.

Strong’s Concordance (OT 120, 'adam (aw-dawm’); from OT:119; means ruddy i.e. a human being (an individual or the species, mankind, etc.). It is connected in etymology with "daamaah (OT:127), "the red soil," from which the human body was formed (Gen 2:7). It therefore marks the earthly aspect of man.

As will be shown, mankind will later be divided into two species - male and female. At this point of time, however, man, or mankind, was one species. God would later create woman out of man and the two would become one together. Mankind, at this point of time, was male and female in one body.
Mankind became a trinity like God

In God's beautiful re-creation of mankind, man, like God, became a trinity. God created mankind as a spirit being, having a soul, and living in a body.

- **The spirit part of man** is who he/she really is. He was created as a spirit being, just like God. That means mankind was created just, merciful, and holy, like God. It is the spirit part of man that makes him God conscious - being able to communicate with his Creator. All other forms of life do not have that capacity, because they are not a spirit being. When God interacts with mankind, it is usually through his spirit.

- **The soul part of man** makes him self-conscious, which makes him aware of what is going on within him. His brain, which is a physical function, was created in the image and likeness of God; furthermore, his brain capacity had to be like God's. He was created to think like God. In other words, Adam had to be able to use 100 percent of his brain before the fall. Today, however, man is only capable of using only 6-9 percent of his brain. It must also be noted that there is no animal, fish, or any other earthly creature that has the brain capacity that mankind has, even today.

- **The body part of man** is the sense conscious, having five physical senses - seeing, hearing, smelling, taste and touch. All forms of animal life lives in this sense realm. This is, however, simply one of three parts of mankind - yet, sad to say, most of the people today live primarily in this arena.

In all three arenas, man has been made in the likeness of God. All other forms of life were not a trinity, having a spirit, soul, and body, but simply a dualistic creation, without a spirit, which leaves them lacking God's image within them. This dispenses any evolutionary thought of mankind.

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.” Continuing on with Genesis 1:26, God then gave the command for mankind to rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, over the livestock, over every creature that moves upon the earth, and have rulership over all the whole earth. In other words, man was now given authority, or rulership, over the earth - a position that Lucifer, now Satan, once had. Mankind, who was created in the image and likeness of God, was given rulership over the whole earth. He was created to govern the world, having supremacy over everything on the earth. God had carefully spent six days preparing the earth for man's subsistence, convenience, and pleasure, before he brought him into being. And when he came, God gave him authority over everything upon the earth. That meant that his subjects, meaning the fish of the sea, birds of the air, livestock, and all living things upon the earth were created to obey him. The reality is that man, created in the image of God, having the mind of God, being a spirit, soul, and body, was created superior to all animal, sea, reptile, and rodent life.

In addition, man was given full brain capacity to rule over the whole earth, including everything that roamed the earth. Man, as the superior being, was given power over his inferiors who were subject to the dictates and directions, without any mutiny or rebellion. Man is most definitely distinctively different from all other forms of life upon the earth.

A new question then arises: How did Satan react against mankind, who now had rulership over him and his earlier domain of earth? We will see the answer to that in chapter three.

**Genesis 1:27**

*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*
More will be discussed on this verse in chapter 2.

**Genesis 1:28**

*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.*

**God blessed them:** Here is the first time that God used the word “bless.” While the word “blessed” (OT1288 barak) is often used in scripture as adoration and worship toward God, it can also mean God pouring out his affection and benefits upon mankind. In this case, the latter is used. God has marked mankind as being under his special protection, giving them power and authority over every living thing that was upon the earth. Mankind is blessed to rule over the whole earth.

**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.”** The command was given to be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. That command was given to all animal life and mankind as well. Man, however, was to have rulership over all the animals, birds, and fish of the waters. That meant he was much smarter than all of them. Made in the image and likeness of God, having full-powered brain capacity, meaning he had to have the mind of God in order to rule over the earth. Today, mankind has only 6-9% brain power capacity, due to the fall and decline of mankind. Originally, however, mankind had to be running on full brain power capacity - in the image and likeness of God.

**Genesis 1:29-30**

*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.*

*Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it - I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.*

This points out that man and animals alike were created by God to eat seed-bearing plants and fruit that has seed coming from trees. Notice that God did not give permission for man nor animals to eat the flesh of any creatures. That would not happen until after the flood of Noah. The question then arises, can we take this kind of diet, which some call the Genesis 1:29 Diet, or the Vegan Diet for mankind today?

It is important to remember that we do not live in the same environment that Adam and Eve lived in. This period of time was prior to the flood of Noah, which had a completely different atmosphere for the earth. The sun shown differently upon the earth giving off different rays, the air was pure, the soil had all its rich nutrients needed for its proper vegetation, and the water was pure for mankind to drink. More will be noted on that in Genesis, chapter 6. A “total” vegetarian diet, of which Adam and Eve originally partook of, was right for their time, under the conditions they lived in. Today, that kind of diet, is more commonly known as the Vegan Diet, which does not consist of meat, dairy, eggs, cheese or any type of protein. In today’s world, under the adverse conditions we live in, is not healthy in the long run. Too much protein or animal products, however, is also unhealthy. We need the variety of fruits, vegetables, grain, dairy, and protein in our diets today. A Vegan Diet may hold temporary dietary and health benefits; however, in the long run, it is not healthy for man to go without protein. The air, soil, and water of today
now lack the vitamins and minerals it once held that are so important for mankind today. Mankind today needs to have all its nutrients that come from a variety of resources.

**Genesis 1:31**

*God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

*God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day:* As we conclude this chapter, we see that everything God made was good. In fact, this verse states that God saw all that He had made, and IT WAS VERY GOOD. God had created a wonderous creation, and mankind, created in His image and likeness was given rulership over the earth, to govern it under His direction. Mankind was God’s steward over the earth. Life in its beginnings was perfect.

Again, evening is always listed first. Sundown came and a new day began, which gave rise to the dawning of a new day. **Everything God created was good - very good.**

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**Endnotes**

1 Adam Clark Commentary.
2 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homo_neanderthalensis