



So Noted!

The Genesis Commentary by Dr. Henry Morris

King James Version

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Acknowledgments

A respected ministry leader, educator and scientist, Dr. Henry M. Morris was actively involved in the study and defense of the Christian faith for almost 60 years. After teaching engineering in secular universities for 28 years, he founded the Institute for Creation Research in 1970. His books include *The Genesis Flood* (with Dr. John Whitcomb), *Many Infallible Proofs*, *The Biblical Basis for Modern Science*, *The Genesis Record*, *The Remarkable Record of Job*, *The Revelation Record*, *Scientific Creationism*, *Biblical Creationism*, *The Long War Against God*, and *God and the Nations*. He also served as editor of the popular devotional Bible study quarterly, *Days of Praise*.

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Publisher's Note

So Noted is a complete excerpt of the Book of Genesis from *The Henry Morris Study Bible*. Understanding the Book of Genesis is foundational and vital for a deeper understanding of God's Word, including historical events like creation and Noah's Flood and their aftermath.

So Noted includes all 600 of the study notes for Genesis from *The Henry Morris Study Bible*. Henry Morris's thorough notes provide readers with access to his decades of rigorous biblical study, as well as his scientific knowledge, to bring clarity to modern confusion and controversy over the intersection of science and faith. His comprehensive notes ensure readers have a firm understanding of the theological, cultural, and scientific background of the Book of Genesis. They also include cross-references to notes on other verses, which are available in the full *Henry Morris Study Bible*.

In addition, you will also find R and T superscripted within verses. The R means there is a scriptural cross-reference available, while T means a translation for a specific word or phrase is noted; the additional information is usually provided at the end of the verse. This feature provides readers with even more help in studying and understanding the connections and language in God's Word.

So Noted also includes 11 appendices from *The Henry Morris Study Bible*. These resources add further clarity to many of Dr. Morris's notes on Genesis.

So Noted includes a complete King James Version translation of the Book of Genesis, as well as the extensive extra study helps. This book is an invaluable resource for defending the scientific accuracy of Genesis, resolving alleged biblical contradictions, and explaining difficult and controversial passages.

We hope you enjoy this unique selection from Dr. Morris' commentary on the Bible. We pray it enriches your faith and answers many of your questions as you begin this biblical journey of discovery.

The Henry Morris Study Bible

With notes defending the accuracy and integrity of the Scriptures, assuming complete and verbal inspiration, inerrancy in all matters of fact and faith, and literal interpretation as intended by the writers.

The Henry Morris Study Bible by the late Henry M. Morris, Ph.D., LL.D., Litt. D., President Emeritus, Institute for Creation Research:

- Uses standard King James Version as basic text
- Defends scientific accuracy of recent special creation
- Resolves supposed contradictions in history and doctrine
- Explains difficult and controversial passages

Introduction to

The Henry Morris Study Bible

The written Word of God, with its glorious message of creation, redemption, and eternal life with God, has always been under attack by the secular world and the unseen hosts of darkness who control it. Yet, out of the ungodly world, year after year, God chooses some to follow Him, and He has provided a wonderful plan of salvation and everlasting joy for all who respond to His call, believe His Word, and receive His incarnate Son as Savior and Lord.

The Need for The Henry Morris Study Bible

To these redeemed sinners He has given the privilege of proclaiming His saving gospel to others yet unsaved. This means they must not only “preach the gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15) but also defend the gospel against those who seek to destroy it. Like the apostle Paul, we who know the Lord must be “set for the defence of the gospel” (Ph 1:17). Like the apostle Peter, we must “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pe 3:15). Neither ignorance nor arrogance is appropriate armor for the Christian soldier.

It is with such admonitions in mind that I have undertaken the challenging task of preparing the annotations for *The Henry Morris Study Bible*. As an engineering scientist who has spent many years among the skeptical intellectuals of the academic world, I have felt very keenly the need for this kind of Bible study tool “in the defence and confirmation of the gospel” (Ph 1:7), and have therefore spent many, many hours in the study of Christian evidences and the scientific integrity of Scripture.

More importantly, every day for over 60 years has been partially devoted to the study of the Bible itself. The result has been a deep and settled conviction, stronger every year, that the Bible is indeed the very Word of the living God. Its histories are authentic, its science is accurate and far in advance of its times, its practical wisdom for daily living is unexcelled, and its insights into the human heart are profoundly perfect for every need. Furthermore, its own internal structures, as well as the claims of its authors, provide endless evidences of its divine inspiration to all who study it with open mind and heart. “Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name,” the psalmist testified (Ps 138:2).

The Bible does have the answer; its gospel can be defended; and it is hoped that *The Henry Morris Study Bible* will prove of significant help in this great cause to those who use it. Its annotations explain the Bible’s difficult passages, resolve its alleged contradictions, point out the evidences of its divine origin, confirm its historical accuracy, note its remarkable anticipations of modern science, demonstrate its fulfilled prophecies and in general remove any doubts about its inerrancy, its authority and its ability to meet every human need.

The Henry Morris Study Bible **Supports Literal Biblical Creationism**

Probably the most distinctive feature of *The Henry Morris Study Bible* is an uncompromising commitment to literal biblical creationism. That is, it accepts at face value the majestic revelation of special creation in the Bible’s very first chapter, acknowledging and defending the literal, six-day creation of all things. This truth of recent creation, combined

with the truth of the global cataclysmic flood in the days of Noah, is the real key to the true scientific understanding of earth history. The doctrine of special creation then pervades all the rest of the Bible and is the real foundation of all other truth, especially including all the great doctrines of the Christian faith. The evolutionary concept of history, on the other hand, is Satan's greatest weapon in his long war against God, serving him as the root of every false philosophy and evil practice known to man. The annotations in *The Henry Morris Study Bible* stress these great truths wherever they surface in Scripture.

Most importantly, the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ are emphasized throughout. Christ is both eternal God—the second Person of the three-person Godhead—and perfect man, man as God intended man to be. His uniquely miraculous conception, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His powerful teachings, His mighty miracles, and then His substitutionary death and glorious resurrection are all stressed in the notes of *The Henry Morris Study Bible*.

***The Henry Morris Study Bible* Follows a Literal Approach to the Bible**

The Bible does contain many teachings that Christians have disagreed about, of course, and some annotated Bibles try to take neutral positions on such controversial doctrines. I have thought it best, however, to express my own convictions on these matters, even at the risk of losing some readers who hold other views.

Thus a literal approach has been taken, not only in Genesis but throughout the whole Bible. It would seem that, if the Bible is really God's Word, intended as His authoritative revelation to all men, we ought to assume He means exactly what He says. If figures of speech or symbols or metaphors are used, they are for the purpose of helping us understand, not confusing us, so they will be explained in the biblical context itself, not requiring the professional help of specially educated priests or prophets.

Based on this literal and contextual approach, the notes become what one might call Baptist in ecclesiology, pre-millennial in eschatology, non-charismatic in pneumatology, and moderately Calvinistic in soteriology. These are man-made terms, of course, and no attempt has been made to develop formal theological doctrines in the notes. I have tried to be irenic, rather than argumentative, in dealing with such controversial matters, so it is hoped that anyone who disagrees with any particular annotation will still find the other notes helpful and profitable.

Finally, it is hoped that *The Henry Morris Study Bible* will not only help many Christians to be able better to defend and contend for the faith, but will also be used to lead many to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Most of all, it is fervently hoped—following much prayer and many years of study—that it will honor and please our great God of creation and redemption, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dr. Henry M. Morris
(b.1918 – d.2006)

The First Book of Moses, called

GENESIS

Introduction to Genesis

In a very real sense, the Book of Genesis is the most important book in the world, for it is the foundation upon which all the other 65 books of God's written Word have been based. When Jesus Christ, after His resurrection, gave a key Bible study to His disciples on the way to Emmaus, He began with Genesis!

"Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Lk 24:27). We would do well to follow His example. If we want to understand the New Testament, we first need to understand Genesis; the New Testament contains at least 200 direct quotations or clear allusions to events described in Genesis—more than from any other book in the Old Testament.

All the great doctrines of Christianity—sin, atonement, grace, redemption, faith, justification, salvation, and many others—are first encountered in Genesis. The greatest doctrine of all—the special creation of all things by the eternal, self-existent God—is revealed in the very first chapter of Genesis, the foundation of all foundations.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the greatest attacks on the Bible have been directed against the integrity and authority of Genesis. Since the only alternative to creation is evolution, these attacks are all ultimately based on evolutionism, the assumption that this complex universe can somehow be explained apart from the infinite creative power of God.

The creation account in Genesis is supported by numerous other references throughout the Bible, and this is true for all the later events recorded in Genesis as well. To some degree, archaeological discoveries, as well as other ancient writings and traditions, also support these events, but the only infallibly correct record of creation and primeval history is the Book of Genesis. Its importance cannot be overestimated.

Authorship

Until about 200 years ago, practically all authorities accepted the fact that Moses wrote Genesis and all the rest of the Pentateuch as well. The first writer to question this seems to have been a French physician, Jean Astruc, about the time of the French revolution. Astruc argued that two writers wrote the two creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2, on the basis of the different names for God used in the two chapters. Later writers during the 19th century, notably the German higher critic Julius Wellhausen, developed this idea into the elaborate documentary hypothesis of the origin of the Pentateuch.

According to this notion, the Pentateuch was written much later than the time of Moses, by at least four different writers or groups of writers, commonly identified now by J, E, D and P (standing for the Jehovist, Elohist, Deuteronomist, and Priestly documents, respectively). Although some form of this theory is still being taught in most liberal seminaries and college departments of religion, it has been thoroughly discredited by conservative scholars. This is discussed further in the Introductions to Exodus and other books of the

1:1 created. No other cosmogony, whether in ancient paganism or modern naturalism, even mentions the absolute origin of the universe. All begin with the space/time/matter universe, already existing in a primeval state of chaos, then attempt to speculate how it might have “evolved” into its present form. Modern evolutionism begins with elementary particles of matter evolving out of nothing in a “big bang” and then developing through natural forces into complex systems. Pagan pantheism also begins with elementary matter in various forms evolving into complex systems by the forces of nature personified as different gods and goddesses. But, very significantly, the concept of the special creation of the universe of space and time itself is found nowhere in all religion or philosophy, ancient or modern, except here in Genesis 1:1.

Appropriately, therefore, this verse records the creation of space (“the heaven”), of time (“in the beginning”), and of matter (“the earth”), the tri-universe, the space/time/matter universe which constitutes our physical environment. The Creator of this tri-universe is the triune God, *Elohim*, the uni-plural Old Testament name for the divine “Godhead,” a name which is plural in form (with its Hebrew “*im*” ending) but commonly singular in meaning.

The existence of a transcendent Creator and the necessity of a primeval special creation of the universe is confirmed by the most basic principles of nature discovered by scientists:

(1) The law of causality, that no effect can be greater than its cause, is basic in all scientific investigation and human experience. A universe comprising an array of intelligible and complex effects, including living systems and conscious personalities, is itself proof of an intelligent, complex, living, conscious Person as its Cause;

(2) The laws of thermodynamics are the most universal and best-proved generalizations of science, applicable to every process and system of any kind, the First Law stating that no matter or energy is now being created or destroyed, and the Second Law stating that all existing matter and energy is proceeding irreversibly toward ultimate equilibrium and cessation of all processes. Since this eventual death of the universe has not yet occurred and since it will occur in time, if these processes continue, the Second Law proves that time (and, therefore, the space/matter/time universe) had a beginning. The universe must have been created, but the First Law precludes the possibility of its self-creation. The only resolution of the dilemma posed by the First and Second Laws is that “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The so-called big bang theory of the origin of the cosmos, postulating a primeval explosion of the space/mass/time continuum at the start, beginning with a state of nothingness and then rapidly expanding into the present complex universe, contradicts both these basic laws and contradicts Scripture.

1:2 the earth. In an attempt to accommodate the supposed evolutionary geological ages in Genesis, certain theologians postulated a long gap in time here between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, in which it was hoped that these ages could be pigeon-holed and forgotten as far as biblical exegesis was concerned. This gap theory, however, requires a worldwide cataclysm at the end of the geological ages, in order to account for the globally flooded and darkened earth described in Genesis 1:2. The cataclysm, in turn, is hypothetically connected with the fall of Lucifer in heaven (Is 14:9-14) and his expulsion to the earth (Eze 28:12-15), though such a cataclysm is nowhere mentioned in Scripture. However, in addition to its obvious contradictions with other important and clear Bible passages (1:31; Ex 20:11), the gap theory is self-defeating geologically. The geological age system (which is the necessary framework for modern evolutionism) is based entirely on the principle of uniformitarianism, a premise which denies any such worldwide cataclysm, and requires that we interpret earth history by the applying of present geological processes into the remote past. The concept of geological ages is based entirely on a uniformitarian explanation of the fossil beds and sedimentary rocks of the earth’s crust, which would all have been destroyed by such a pre-Adamic cataclysm. Thus, any attempt to ignore or explain away the supposed great age of the earth by the gap theory makes an unnecessary compromise with evolutionism, and displays a lack of understanding of the geological structures and processes to which evolutionists appeal in defending their long ages.

3 ^RAnd God said, ^RLet there be ^Rlight: and there was light. Ps 33:6,9 • 2 Co 4:6 • [He 11:3]

4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, ^RLet there be a firma-

The real answer to the geological ages is not an imaginary pre-Adamic cataclysm, but the very real cataclysm of the Noah's flood (see comments on ch. 6-9), which provides a much better explanation of the fossil beds and sedimentary rocks, eliminating all evidence of geological ages and confirming the biblical doctrine of recent creation.

1:2 was without form, and void. The verb "was" in Genesis 1:2 is the regular Hebrew verb of being (*hayetha*) and does not denote a change of state unless the context so requires. It only rarely is translated "became," as the gap theory postulates here. Neither does the phrase *tohu waw bohu* need to mean "ruined and desolated," as the gap theory requires. The King James translation "without form and void" is the proper meaning.

1:2 was upon the face of the deep. The universe, as first called into existence by *Elohim* was in elemental existence, still "unformed" and unenergized, not yet ready for habitation, "void" (see notes on Ps 33:6-9; Pr 8:22-31; Is 45:18; 2 Pe 3:5). It would not be perfect (i.e., finished) until the end of creation week, when God would pronounce it "very good" and "finished" (1:31-2:3). The "earth" material was suspended in a matrix of water (the "deep") completely static and therefore in "darkness."

1:2 And the Spirit...moved. However, this condition prevailed only momentarily. Then, the "Spirit" (Hebrew *ruach*) of "God" (*Elohim*) proceeded to "move upon the face of the waters" (literally, "vibrate in the presence of the waters"). Waves of gravitational energy and waves of electromagnetic energy began to pulse forth from the great "Breath" (another meaning of *ruach*) of God, the *Prime Mover* of the universe. The unformed "earth" material (Hebrew *eretz*), as well as the "waters" permeating it (Hebrew *shamayim*) quickly coalesced into spherical form under the new force of gravity, and the first material body (Planet Earth) had been formed at a point in space.

1:3 God said. As the "Spirit" of God "moved" (1:2), so now the Word of God speaks in Genesis 1:3. The result is light, the energizing of the vast cosmos through the marvelous electromagnetic force system which maintains all structures and processes in matter. These varied energies include not only visible light, but also all the shortwave radiations (ultra-violet, x-rays, etc.) and the long-wave radiations (infrared, radio waves, etc.), as well as heat, sound, electricity, magnetism, molecular interactions, etc. "Light," the most basic form of energy, is mentioned specifically, but its existence necessarily implies the activation of all forms of electromagnetic energies. Light was not created, since God Himself dwells in light. On the other hand, He created darkness (Is 45:7).

The existence of visible light prior to the establishment of the sun, moon and stars (1:16) emphasizes the fact that light (energy) is more fundamental than light givers. God could just as easily (perhaps more easily) have created waves of light energy as He could construct material bodies which generate light energy. The first is direct (since God *is* light!), the second indirect. For the creation of such light generators, see note on Genesis 1:14.

1:4 darkness. It is obvious that these rays of light energy included the visible light spectrum by its separation from the newly created "darkness." Most of this visible light emanated from one direction in space and, further, the newly-sphericized earth began now to rotate on its axis, as is shown by the establishment of a cyclical succession of "Day" and "Night," which has continued ever since.

1:5 Day. The use of "day" (Hebrew *yom*) in Genesis 1:5 is its first occurrence in Scripture, and here it is specifically defined by God as "the light" in the cyclical succession of light and darkness which has, ever since, constituted a solar day. Since the same word is used in defining all later "yoms" as used for this "first" *yom*, it is undeniable that God in-

ment in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. Je 10:12

7 And God made the firmament, ^Rand divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* ^Rabove

the firmament: and it was so. Pr 8:27-29 • Ps 148:4

8 And God called the ^Tfirmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. *expanse*

9 And God said, ^RLet the waters under

tends us to know that the days of creation week were of the same duration as any natural solar day. The word *yom* in the Old Testament almost always is used in this natural way, and is never used to mean any other definite time period than a literal day. This becomes especially clear when it is combined with a number (e.g., “first day”) or with definite bounds (e.g., “evening and morning”), neither of which usages in the Old Testament allow non-literal meanings. It is occasionally, though rarely, used symbolically or in the sense of indefinite time (e.g., “the day of the Lord”), but such usage (as in English or other languages) is always evident from the context itself. Thus the so-called day-age theory, by which the days of creation are assumed to correspond to the ages of geology, is precluded by this definitive use of the word in its first occurrence, God Himself defining it!

1:5 evening and the morning. The use of “evening and morning” in that order is significant. As each day’s work was accomplished during the “light,” God’s activity ceased during the “darkness.” Consequently, there was nothing to report between evening and morning. The beginning of the next day’s activity began with the next period of light, after the “morning,” or better, “dawning.” The literal sense of the formula after each day’s work is: “Then there was dusk, then dawn, ending the first day.”

1:6 firmament. The “firmament” is not a great vaulted dome in the sky, as some have interpreted it, but is simply the atmospheric expanse established between the waters above and below. The Hebrew word, *raqiya*, means “expanse” or perhaps better, “stretched-out thinness.” Since God specifically identified it with “Heaven,” it also can be understood simply as “space.” Thus, on the second day, God separated the primeval deep into two deeps, with a great space between. The waters below the space retained the elemental earth materials which would be utilized on the following day to form the land and its plant cover. The waters above the firmament had apparently been transformed into the vapor state in order to be separated from the heavier materials and elevated above the atmosphere, where it could serve as a thermal blanket for the earth’s future inhabitants.

Such a vapor canopy would undoubtedly have provided a highly efficient “greenhouse effect,” assuring a perennial springlike climate for the entire earth. Water vapor both shields the earth against harmful radiations from space and also retains and spreads incoming solar heat. A vapor canopy would thus provide an ideal environment for abundant animal and plant life and for longevity and comfort in human life. Water vapor is invisible, and thus would be translucent, allowing the stars to be seen through it. This would not be the case with a liquid water or ice canopy.

1:7 above the firmament. The “waters which were above the firmament” are clearly not the clouds or the vapor which now float in the atmosphere. The Hebrew word *al* definitely requires the meaning “above.” Furthermore, the absence of rain (2:5) and the rainbow (9:13) is not only explained but required by a vapor canopy, not by an atmosphere like that of the present. These waters extending far out into space eventually condensed and fell back to the earth at the time of the great deluge, providing the source of the worldwide rainstorm that contributed to the flood. Although the exact extent and structure of this canopy is still being researched by computer simulations, there are no major scientific problems with the concept.

1:9 dry land. The work of the third day began with the laying of the foundations of the earth (see notes on Job 38:4; Ps 33:7; Pr 8:29) by the power of God’s spoken Word. The waters “under the firmament” apparently still contained all the material elements of the earth

the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and ^Rlet the dry *land* appear: and it was so.

Job 26:10 • Ps 24:1,2; 33:7; 95:5

10 And God called the dry *land* Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that *it was* good.

11 And God said, Let the earth ^Rbring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the

^Rfruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

He 6:7 • 2 Sa 16:1

12 And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

in solution or suspension until the energizing Word initiated a vast complex string of chemical and physical reactions, to precipitate, combine and sort all the rock materials and metals comprising the solid earth. The "earth" (Hebrew *eretz*) thus formed was the same "earth" which had initially been "without form" (the same word *eretz* is used in 1:1-2,10), but it was now "dry land," no longer mixed in the initial watery matrix.

1:10 Seas. The solid materials separated out of the water, and then moved down and around under the forces of gravity, internal heat, and other electromagnetic energies (not to mention the outflowing energy of the divine Word) great basins opened up to receive and store the waters. Some of these waters were trapped and stored in the "great deep" (7:11), subterranean chambers beneath the earth's crust. Others accumulated in surface basins. However, all were evidently interconnected through a network of subterranean channels, so that they were both singular and plural—gathered together into "one place," yet called "Seas."

Thus were established the primeval continents and primeval oceans. We do not now know the original geography, however, since all was cataclysmically changed at the time of the great flood. We can infer that the topography was gently rolling and the waterways were relatively shallow and narrow, since all was "very good" and was made for man's enjoyment and utilization (1:26-28,31).

1:11 bring forth grass. The ability of the earth to begin immediately producing abundant plant life everywhere, on the very same day as the forming of the land surfaces, shows that the upper portion of the crust was a rich soil, fertile in chemical nutrients and retaining adequate moisture to sustain the lush vegetation. This fact illustrates an important principle. True creation necessarily involves the theory of a "creation of apparent age," or better, "creation of functioning maturity." That is, the soil did not gradually form over hundreds of years by rock weathering and other modern uniformitarian processes. It was readied instantaneously by divine command. The plants did not develop from seeds; rather the herb was formed "yielding seed." Similarly, the fruit trees were "yielding fruit," not requiring several years of preliminary growth as do modern fruit trees.

1:11 seed. The "seed" which God designed guaranteed reproduction of each plant "after his kind." This phrase, repeated nine more times in Genesis 1 after this first occurrence, obviously precludes transmutation of one kind into another. The "seed" was programmed for stable reproduction of each kind, through a remarkable system known today as the "genetic code," the complex information program in the DNA molecule. This system allows wide "horizontal" variation within the kind, but no "vertical" evolution from one kind into a more complex kind. It is significant that, despite widespread belief in evolution, no scientist has yet documented a single instance of true vertical evolution occurring today. The modern equivalent of "kind" is probably broader than the "species" in many cases, since the latter term is an arbitrary manmade category. That is, the many varieties of dogs are all part of the created "dog kind," just as all tribes and nations of men constitute one "mankind" (Ac 17:25-26).

1:12 grass. It should also be noted that plant life, in all its forms, was created before animal life, thus contradicting the order postulated by evolutionists. There are over 20 such contradictions between the order of creation in Genesis and that in evolutionary paleontology.

14 And God said, Let there be ^Rlights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for ^Rseasons, and for days, and years:

Ps 74:16; 136:5-9 • Ps 104:19

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

16 And God made two great ^Tlights; the ^Rgreater light to rule the day, and the ^Rlesser light to rule the night: *he made* ^Rthe stars also.

Ps 136:8 • Ps 8:3 • Job 38:7 • *luminaries*

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

18 And to ^Rrule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was good*.

Je 31:35

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl *that may fly* above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21 And God created great ^Twhales, and

1:14 lights. On the first day, God had said: "Let there be light" (Hebrew *or*). Now He says: "Let there be lights" (*ma-or*). Light energy was activated first, but now great masses of material (part of the "earth" elements created on the first day) were gathered together in one of the firmaments, or spaces, of the cosmos—the space beyond the waters above the space adjacent to the earth. These great bodies were set burning in complex chemical and nuclear reactions, to serve henceforth as "light-givers" for the earth.

1:14 signs. The Hebrew word for "signs" is the same word (*oth*) as used for Cain's "mark" (4:15) and for Noah's "token" (meaning the rainbow—9:12). Evidently the stars were arranged by God to "signify" something to those on the earth, not just scattered evenly or randomly around in space. God even named the stars and their constellations (Job 38:31-33; Is 40:26). For their possible significance, see notes on Amos 5:8; Job 9:9; 26:13; 38:32.

1:14 seasons. The establishment of "seasons" (and these were not simply religious seasons, but actual climatological seasons) indicates that the earth was formed with an axial inclination from the beginning, for this is the basic cause of its seasons.

1:16 the stars also. These stars were scattered in tremendous numbers throughout the infinite recesses of the heavens (note Is 55:9). The light energy emanating from them would henceforth travel across space to "give light upon the earth," providing patterns and movements which would also enable man to keep records of time and history. In order to serve these purposes, however, light energy trails would need to be established already in place in space between each star and earth. Thus, men would have been able to see stars billions of light-years away at the very moment of their formation, in accordance with the principle of mature creation, or creation of apparent age.

1:17 light upon the earth. The establishment of the sun and moon in their light-giving functions for the earth halfway through creation week is obviously inconsistent with the day-age theory. This is compounded by the fact that plant life on the earth was made one day before the sun, a situation which would be absurdly impossible if this "day" was an "age." Furthermore, these "lights" were to be used to measure days and years. This is the plural (*yamin*) of the Hebrew "day" (*yom*). They were also to "rule over the day and over the night," and all this was done on the fourth day. This repeated use of the same word in the passage requires the meaning in each case to be the same. The fourth "day" was thus obviously a solar day like all the rest.

1:20 open firmament. Both the "lights" (1:15) and the "fowl" are said to be in the "firmament of heaven." However, the fowl were to be in the "open" (Hebrew *pene*) firmament of heaven, or better, "the face of the firmament of heaven." Thus, birds fly only in the lower reaches of the vast spaces of the heavens. Or, it may be that there are two different "firmaments of heaven."

1:21 great whales. Fish and other marine organisms were created simultaneously with birds and other flying creatures, in obvious contradiction to the sequence imagined by evolutionists. The "moving creature" (Hebrew *sherets*) of Genesis 1:20 is elsewhere always

every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

sea creatures

22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

26 And God said, Let us make man in

translated "creeping thing," and here evidently refers to marine invertebrates and marine reptiles, as well as the fishes. The word translated "great whales" (Hebrew *tannin*) is elsewhere the regular word for "dragons," and most probably refers to the great marine reptiles often called dinosaurs.

1:21 living creature. It is significant that the word "create" (Hebrew *bara*) is applied to the introduction of animal life, but not to plant life. Plants are highly complex replicating chemical systems, as are animals, with reproductive programs based in the remarkable DNA molecule in both cases. However, animals possess another entity—that of consciousness—which plants do not possess, and this required a second act of true creation (the first was in 1:1, the creation of the basic space/mass/time universe). Such "consciousness" is the essential meaning of the Hebrew word *nephesh*, commonly translated "soul," but in Genesis 1:20 (its first occurrence) translated "life," and then in Genesis 1:21 "living creature." In Genesis 2:7, referring to man, it is rendered "living soul." Thus, both men and animals possess the specially-created *nephesh* or consciousness.

1:24 earth bring forth. The land animals were brought forth (no need for a further act of creation, since the *nephesh* principle had already been created) in the early part of the sixth day. There was a natural threefold categorization (no correlation with the arbitrary classification system used by modern biologists) consisting of cattle (domestic animals), beasts of the earth (large non-domestic animals) and creepers (small animals that crawl or creep close to the ground). The reversal of the sequence in Genesis 1:24-25 indicates that all were formed simultaneously. The bodies of these animals, like that of man (2:7), were all formed from the basic elements of the earth.

1:24 it was so. Note the logical order of God's formation of things. On the first day, He made the earth's atmosphere and hydrosphere, on the second day its lithosphere and biosphere. On the central day of the week, the heavenly astrosphere was formed. Then, on the fifth day living creatures were formed for earth's atmosphere and hydrosphere, and on the sixth day for its lithosphere and biosphere. On the first day God had created and energized His elemental universe; on the last day, God blessed and sanctified His completed universe.

1:25 after his kind. The phrase "after his kind" occurs repeatedly, stressing the reproductive integrity of each land animal kind, of the same sort as that of each plant kind (1:11-12) and each air animal and water animal (1:21). All of these reproductive systems are programmed in terms of the biochemical genetic code, utilizing the basic elements of the earth. Both plants and animals are formed from the created *eretz* ("earth"), only animals from the created *nephesh* ("soul" or consciousness).

1:26 in our image. God is, as it were, taking counsel here with Himself, not with angels, since man was to be made in the image of God, not of angels. "Our image," therefore, implies human likeness to the triune Godhead. Plants possess a body, and animals a body and consciousness. Man was not only to have a body (of the created "earth") and a consciousness (of the created "soul"), but man was also to possess a third created entity, the image of God, an eternal spirit capable of communion and fellowship with his Creator.

our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man ^Rin his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. Ge 5:2

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, ^RBe fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. Ge 9:1,7

29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb ^Tbearing seed, which is upon

1:26 likeness. Man was not only created in God’s spiritual image; he was also made in God’s physical image. His body was specifically planned to be most suited for the divine fellowship (erect posture, upward-gazing countenance, facial expressions varying with emotional feelings, brain and tongue designed for articulate speech—none of which are shared by the animals). Furthermore, his body was designed to be like the body which God had planned from eternity that He Himself would one day assume (1 Pe 1:20).

1:26 dominion. The “dominion” man was to exercise was to be over both “the earth” and also all the other living creatures on the earth. Such dominion obviously was under God as a stewardship, not as autonomous sovereign. Man was to care for the earth and its creatures, developing and utilizing the earth’s resources, not to despoil and deplete them for selfish pleasure.

1:27 male and female. Note that “man” is here (and often in Scripture) used in a generic sense to include both man and woman. Both male and female were created (the details of their physical formation being given in ch. 2) in God’s image. Thus both possess equally an eternal spirit capable of personal fellowship with their Creator. Shared equally by men and women are all those spiritual attributes not shared by animals—moral conscience, abstract thought, appreciation of beauty, emotional feelings, and, especially, the capacity for worshiping and loving God.

1:28 replenish. God’s first command to man was that of producing abundant progeny sufficient to fill the earth (not “replenish,” a misleading translation of the Hebrew word *male*). Perhaps the animals had been created in large numbers of each kind, but the human population began with only two people. The function of subduing the earth and having dominion over it would necessarily require a long time—first, for the growth of a large enough population to fill the earth, and second, for the acquiring of enough knowledge and skill to enable man to bring it under full control and development.

1:28 have dominion. This primeval commandment to conquer and rule the earth has been called the dominion mandate, though a better term might be the first commission to mankind. It has never been revoked, but was specifically renewed and extended after the flood (see notes on 9:1-7). The military terminology in no way implies hostility and resistance from the earth, for it was all “very good” (1:31). It suggests, rather, intensive study of the earth and its creatures (that is, “science”) and then application of that knowledge (that is, technology and commerce) for the optimum benefit of mankind and the animals, and for the glory of God.

Note that no instruction was given to exercise dominion over other men, but only over the earth and the animals. Had man not rebelled against God’s Word, all would have remained in perfect fellowship with God and, therefore, with one another. There was no initial need for the so-called social sciences and technologies, but only the natural sciences and their implementation. This situation was radically changed at the fall, and God’s commandment accordingly expanded officially after the flood.

1:29 given you every herb. It is plain that both men and animals were originally intended to be vegetarian. There was adequate nourishment and energy value available in the fruits and herbs to enable both to accomplish the work God had given them to do. The supply

the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; ^Rto you it shall be for ^Tmeat. Ge 9:3 • yielding • food

made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. [Ps 104:24]

30 And to ^Revery beast of the earth, and to every ^Rfowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is life, I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so. Ps 145:15 • Job 38:41

CHAPTER 2

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and ^Rall the host of them. Ps 33:6

2 ^RAnd on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on

31 And ^RGod saw every thing that he had

could not be exhausted, since these plants were designed to reproduce themselves through the seeds they produced.

1:29 *all the earth.* The fact that their food would be available everywhere, “upon the face of all the earth,” shows that in the originally created world there were no deserts or other uninhabitable regions, no frozen tundras or ice caps, no rugged high mountain ranges. With lush vegetation everywhere, the animals no doubt soon had populated all the earth.

1:29 *be for meat.* The question as to how or when some of the animals became carnivorous is not definitely answerable at this late date, since the Bible does not say. In the future kingdom age, there will again be no killing or struggle between animals or between animals and men (Is 11:6-9; Ho 2:18). Even today, both animals and men can (and do, on occasion) live on a strictly vegetarian diet. The development of fangs and claws, as well as other such structures and practices, may be explained as either (1) recessive created features which became dominant by selection processes as the environment worsened following the fall and flood; (2) features created originally by the Creator in foreknowledge of the coming curse; or (3) mutational changes following the curse, converting originally benign structures into predatory and defensive structures.

1:31 *very good.* This one verse precludes any interpretation of Genesis which seeks to accommodate the geological ages in its system. The “geological ages” are identified by the fossils found in the sedimentary rocks of the earth’s crust, which supposedly depict a billion-year history of the evolution of life on the earth. In this case simple fossils are found in ancient rocks and more complex fossils in younger rocks. But fossils really depict a world in which death reigns! Fossils are the remains of dead organisms, from amoebae to man, and thus represent a world full of suffering and death, *not* a world pronounced by God as “very good.”

Six times before in this chapter, God had adjudged His work to be “good.” Now, after completing everything (even the “host of heaven”—see 2:1), He declared it all to be “*exceedingly good*” (literal meaning of the Hebrew word rendered “very”). The evolutionary ages of geology represent a billion years of wasteful inefficiency and profound cruelty if they were, indeed, a part of God’s work. They would completely discredit God as a God of order, intelligence, power, grace and love. Death represents “the wages of sin” (Ro 6:23), not of divine love.

Thus, the “gap theory” (placing the geological ages *before* creation week) and the “day-age” or “progressive creation” theory (incorporating the geological ages *during* creation week) in effect imply that the Creator is either a bumbler or a monster. In reality, the geological ages are nothing but evolutionary delusions; the fossils are much more realistically explained in terms of the flood.

Even Satan himself (with all the “host of heaven” who later followed him in rebelling against God) was still perfect in all his ways (Eze 28:15) at the end of the creation week. His fall from heaven to the earth could only have been after God’s universal “very good” proclamation.

2:1 *finished.* The strong emphasis in these verses on the completion of all of God’s creat-