

**The Beginning of Creation**  
**Genesis 1:1-2**  
**June 19, 2016**

## Introduction

There is only one eyewitness to creation: God Himself. He has spoken to us plainly and clearly about what had happened at the beginning. He also reveals to us a little about how He did it.

**Genesis 1:1-2** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

### I. Creation of Time, Space, and Matter (1-2a)

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

- Ex nihilo
  - Latin—out of nothing
  - Prior to creation, there was nothing
    - No atoms
    - No matter
    - No energy
    - No time

**Hebrews 11:3** *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

- How did He do this?
  - By speaking
  - He spoke and the universe came into being

**Psalms 33:6, 9** *By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth.9 For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.*

**Psalms 148:5** *Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created.*

- He did it in six days
- It was a complete, finished creation

**Genesis 2:2** *By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work.*

**Hebrews 4:3** *Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in My anger, 'They shall never enter My rest.' " And yet His work has been finished since the creation of the world.*

- This implies that God created everything that is on this earth and the universe in six days
- There are no new creation to be added to the six days of creation

- All the ingredients

**Genesis 1:2a** *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep,*

- Formless and empty
  - Hebrew—*tohu wa bohu*
  - *Tohu* = waste, devastated place
  - *Bohu* = empty
  - Empty wasteland
  - Meaning?
    - Other verse?

**Jeremiah 4:19-20** *Oh, my anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain. Oh, the agony of my heart! My heart pounds within me, I cannot keep silent. For I have heard the sound of the trumpet; I have heard the battle cry. 20 Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins. In an instant my tents are destroyed, my shelter in a moment.*

- Jeremiah is seeing the destruction of Jerusalem

**Jeremiah 4:23** *I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone.*

- The land was devastated by the foreign army
- Destroyed land and empty of people
- The beginning of creation was a wasteland and empty
  - This does not mean that God created something and destroyed it and remade the earth again
  - There is also no “gap” between verse 1 and 2
- Which means that the universe was unfinished and unpopulated
- Unformed matter, space, and time
- All the raw materials needed for creation is there
- Darkness over the deep
  - No light—it had not been created yet
  - What is this deep?
    - Land has not been formed yet
    - Another name for the sea
    - Water covered the earth

**Psalms 104:5-6**

**5** *He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.*

**6** *You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.*

**2 Peter 3:5** *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.*

**Note:** “by water”—the Genesis Flood

**Proverbs 8:27** *I was there when He set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,*

- Unformed earth with all the ingredients and raw materials

## II. Creation by the Triune God (2b)

**Genesis 1:2b** *and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

- Spirit of God hovering over the waters
  - Hovering

**Deuteronomy 32:11** *like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.*

- Protection and care giving
  - God is directly involved in creation and is still directly involved today!
- Spirit of God
  - *Ruach elohim*
  - *Ruach* – breath or wind or Spirit
  - Holy Spirit is directly involved in creation
  - Trinity is involved in creation
- Trinity in creation
  - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
  - Their roles
    - Father = planner (or originator)
    - Son = executor
    - Spirit = perfecter

**Note:** They are all simultaneously involved in creation with differing roles. However, their roles are only revealed to us in Scripture and there is an impossibility for us to understand what They do.

- Father planned and originated the universe

**Job 38:1-5** *Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: 2 "Who is this that darkens My counsel with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. 4 Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell Me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?"*

- Son executes what the Father planned

**John 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.*

- Holy Spirit perfects creation

**Psalms 33:6** *By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth.*

**Job 26:13a** *By His breath the skies became fair;*

- Holy Spirit did not create things out of nothing, but He caused creation to be beautiful

**Psalms 104:30** *When You send Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.*

- He creates life in animals and plants

**Genesis 2:7** *the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

**Job 33:4** *The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

- He gives life to man
- Holy Spirit is responsible for man having a living soul
- Father creates the universe out of nothing—provides the raw material
- The Son executes the Father's plan by creating the universe and ordering them
- The Holy Spirit perfects the creation through beauty and giving life to plants, animals, and man