

UNLOCKING the MYSTERIES of CREATION

THE EXPLORER'S GUIDE TO
THE AWESOME WORKS OF GOD

Dennis R. Petersen

“One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall
declare thy mighty acts”

Psalm 145:4

Dedication

The closer I get to the front of the line of life’s journey the more profoundly I sense the urgency to invest my priorities and energy into the next generation in the line behind me. So, submitting to the Creator’s sovereignty, I think it is appropriate to dedicate this work to the generation of my children, Christine, Carla, Grant and Ryan. Only the good that can be done to strengthen their faith in God’s Word will have lasting value. May God use this book in the lives of multitudes of young people to give hope, inspire faith, and strengthen the resolve to serve the Savior.

Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation ***The Explorer’s Guide to the Awesome Works of God***

Copyright © 2002 by Dennis R. Petersen
Second printing – Premier Edition
Printed in the United States of America

Art Direction by Jonathan Chong
Interior designs by Daniel Cordova and Jonathan Chong

The first English edition published in 1986 has been
reprinted over 25 times with over 100,000 copies in circulation

This new revised & expanded edition
published by
Creation Resource Publications
P.O. Box 570
El Dorado, California 95623
(530) 626-4447

On the World Wide Web visit www.creationresource.org

All scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible
with minimal adjustment for clarity. Other translations are noted.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2001096410

ISBN: 0-9672713-0-4

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission of the publisher except in the case of brief quotations in articles and reviews, and for teachers to copy for classroom use without charging for profit.

Acknowledgments

The forerunner of this book was a sheaf of lecture notes prepared as a team effort with my mentor, Glen S. McLean, nearly three decades ago in Canada. In God's providence that project resulted in seminars, books and tapes that have encouraged hundreds of thousands of lives worldwide. Many others proved instrumental in making the first edition of this work a reality. God alone knows the impact their efforts have made.

This new expanded color version is also the providential result of many encouragers and helpers who deserve our humble thanks for their part in making it finally happen. Most notably, it was the patient encouragement of my associate in research, Robert Helfinstine, whose constant devotion to this project kept the vision for it strong, even through years of discouraging circumstances. Bob is a vanguard of the old school, a thorough and brilliant engineer, carefully checking every detail. His 40-year career in the aerospace industry and lifetime study of history, Scripture and science added a high level of scholarship to this project. He deserves more credit than readers can know, and I praise God for his faithful contributions and editing efforts.

Provision is unquestionably the ingredient that turns vision into reality. The Master Provider not only brought material provision through generous friends in His good time, but also prepared the life of one young artist to rescue this project at a critical stage. Without Daniel Cordova you would not have the beauty you enjoy in this book. Dan's skill in design was made far richer by his outstanding team attitude in working tirelessly with me for over a year. Digging through thousands of images and adding many of his own, Dan built a stunning presentation on the foundations of all those who helped make the first edition such a blessing. When we needed final help, the Lord brought Jonathan Chong to the project. Jonathan's technical expertise and artistic skill prepared everything for press. Don Frazer also deserves the deepest gratitude for his generous devotion to editing the final work. The blessing of both men cannot be overstated.

For the encouragement and help of so many others, I humbly recognize that this book can only be attributed to a tapestry of people woven together by Providence himself. I'm confident your attention will be drawn to the work of His hands as a result.

Dennis Petersen
El Dorado, California
Autumn A.D. 2001

“Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the children of men.”

Psalm 66:5

Foreword

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth”

King Solomon of Israel, 900 BC

“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Declare, if thou hast understanding.”

God to Job in Arabia, 2,000 BC

“Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

The prophet Isaiah to Israel, 712 BC

The Rest of the Story

No matter what you discover or the amount of study you put into analyzing it, there is always more to learn about anything. That's why some brilliant students never take the risk of writing a book. Because much of what is presented here is seldom or never seen by the general public, it's natural to be skeptical. That's why the reader is constantly challenged to think for himself and check things out. Don't choose to believe or disbelieve just because of reports you heard from others, even if they are respected sources. Ask them where they got their opinions on the subject. Do your own homework. And when you discover something to be true that you thought was false, muster the courage to communicate what you've learned to those you care about. Some of the discoveries discussed here provoke disagreeing opinions, even among respected leaders. It would be nice if we could have absolute knowledge about things, but when it comes to interpreting natural discoveries there will always be challenges to our conclusions. Thus, it is wise to be appropriately tentative and open to more input as you wrestle with the observations of the physical universe. When it comes to the unseen realm, we have to be even more cautious. Deception has spoiled so many lives. But that doesn't mean that we should be agnostic about everything. Don't be afraid to keep your mind open within the limits of clear absolutes. And don't forget to show patience with those who haven't climbed to your particular level of knowledge.... The climb ahead will be vastly more surprising.

Preface

“Come let us reason together,” says the Lord God Jehovah through the prophet Isaiah 700 years before Christ. It’s clear this will involve some thinking on our part. In our day, when political correctness and “sound bite” oversimplification have greatly “dumbed down” the general public, YOU are to be commended for picking up a book like this. Let me warn you: the information you’re about to discover will not only be fascinating for you, it will also thrust you into a controversy or at least lively conversation with virtually everyone you touch.

Until recently, the popular reports of the debate over origins have blacked out and confused the scientific and historical facts about both creation and naturalism. Respectable-sounding narrators distort the truth according to the warped atheism or paganism of the intellectual elite. We all need to be reminded to consider the presuppositions of those we are hearing. Do they ignore the power and concern of the Living Creator? Do they esteem the authoritativeness of the Book of all books or dismiss it as irrelevant religion? Are they accepting other “supernatural” excuses like “aliens” and “cosmic consciousness” rather than give credit to the miraculous power of the Redeemer of lost mankind?

This book is just an introduction to the vast subject of origins. It is intended to lay a foundation based on what the Creator has instilled in every human being: the ability to respond to truth. Is our heart, as well as our mind, open to hear from God and respond to His Word? Many of us have been so “secularized” that we are amazed when we find that the Creator has actually communicated to mankind through a miraculously conceived and preserved book: the Bible. But when we discover that truth, we begin to see everything in life differently. The deceptions become glaring. Many mysteries start to unfold. Life takes on significance, and eternity becomes more real.

Approach this material from the outset with a desire to discover the truth. Think logically with your mind and willingly with your heart. As you do I am confident the experience will be life-changing. Parents may want to walk their children through the many pages of discovery, encouraging discussion and supplemental reading along the way. Be sure to make use of the many specialty books and tapes recommended for deeper study. When the Bible becomes your foundation for understanding the world around you, everything starts to make more sense. May this be a stepping-stone to your discovery of the wonderful Lord of Life, who Himself is the One with the key to unlock the mysteries of creation.

Dennis Petersen
El Dorado, California, USA
Autumn 2001

Discovering What's True About Origins

Welcome to the great adventure of discovering what's true about origins. We all enjoy the beauty and power of the natural world, but seldom do most of us ever think about where we got our basis of understanding and interpreting it. We call that basis our "**worldview.**"

Unfortunately, most of the information we hear about nature and history is from entirely secular, even atheistic sources. God and the Bible are totally left out of the picture, and often treated as legend or worse.

In his attempt to understand reality, the secular man embraces a worldview that is completely naturalistic. It leaves many major mysteries that create a lot of confusion. But is there more insight we're not hearing from ordinary sources of information?

A man named Job lived 4,000 years ago and said:

*"Ask the beasts and they will teach you..."
"Ask the birds of heaven, let them tell you..."
"Speak to the earth and let it teach you..."
"Let the fish of the seas declare to you..."
Job 12:7-8*

What's the result of this scientific investigation?
Job asks:

*"Who, among all these, does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."
Job 12:9*

THINK! For a man of 4,000 years ago, without a Bible or modern theology, what tremendous insight he had to the character and power of the sovereign Creator of the universe.

But what do our pagan experts who boast in their unsacred philosophy say these days? One science magazine cover story spotlighted "The 20 Greatest Unanswered Questions of Science!"ⁱ Questions were raised like: "How does a single cell become a human? What happened to the dinosaurs? And **where** did life begin?" Of course, with the limitation of being a secular source, the answers to these intriguing questions remained veiled in mystery and confusion. Looking at the academic landscape around us these days, isn't it ironic that some of the most brilliant people have such a hard time discovering the Creator and Ultimate Source of all the answers? Of course the search only begins with the study of nature. Think of all the exciting mysteries awaiting our exploration in the domain of man's own past! What astounding surprises await our

investigation in an attempt to discover what really happened and how such amazing accomplishments were achieved?

In these very special chapters, we'll discover surprising evidence from all over the world. First we'll examine biblical creation. Does science back it up? Genesis tells us God created "waters above the firmament" and a "very good" earth. You know what? Modern science has confirmed the simple Bible fact that our planet had a very different environment in the past that resulted in phenomenal productivity from pole to pole!

When we inquire of our earth, what **do** we learn about its beginning? Did you know that many thousands of mammoth skeletons are buried in the frozen Arctic? Well, what really happened to cause that?

What about the shifting continents? Do they somehow relate to the Bible? When you enjoy the grandeur of the mountains, what do they tell you about past events and our planet's age? The textbook charts keep insisting on millions of years to support theories of slow, gradual evolutionary change. But the facts of science support a much younger earth! Shouldn't we hear that information too?

THINK! Do you realize why the matter of earth's age is so crucial?

The modern secular explanation for origins requires long ages of millions of years to explain the gradual naturalistic evolution of all living things. The biblical explanation, on the other hand, contains specific details that insist on a much shorter history of life on this planet. **Both cannot be true.** Thus we have a major controversy in which naturalism always questions the authority of scripture, and creationism questions the authenticity of evolutionary assumptions.

Even the heavens declare something to us, don't they? Is it evolution? We'll see as we cross-examine the claims of evolutionary thinking. We'll discover its corrupt roots, its glaring fallacies, and some of the amazing mysteries that completely unravel the very notion of the theory.

Isn't it interesting how the secular press frequently capitalizes on the fact that we all want to know where we came from! So, next in our search we'll dig up some revealing things about original man. The latest discoveries are very enlightening. Of course, we've got good reason to ask: What really is man anyway – just a bit above the apes? What do the findings of true science tell us about the amazing wonder of man's uniqueness?

Then there are those mysterious dinosaurs! We can't leave them out. Surprising clues give us insight on human contact with dinosaurs in historic times! What can we learn about the mystery of dinosaur extinction? Could global catastrophe have been responsible? What do the fossils tell us? We'll get into that later.

Finally, there is the fascinating world of ancient civilizations. Many built marvelous pyramid structures, but why? How did they do it? Just how advanced were those ancients? Why were they so capable? Can the Bible give us insight on ancient wonders like those of Babylon?

We'll explore some of the realities of the global Flood. How have violent upheavals rearranged the look of our planet in the past? And what would a globe-rocking catastrophe do to our world if it happened today? We've seen some devastating earthquakes, hurricanes, and volcanoes in recent years, but multiply that a thousand times and think of the potential changes! With that in mind, isn't it interesting that scientists are the ones nowadays who are predicting terrifying future cosmic collisions? In times past, you would be labeled a religious doomsayer for making such predictions.

You may have noticed articles like the one that appeared in *Time Magazine*.ⁱⁱ The headline read "Whew! That Was Close." A huge half-mile-wide asteroid nearly knocked the world into an apocalyptic horror. They said it could happen anytime... without warning! And with the fright of that prospect, what can we do? *Time* wrote: "The most sensible thing to do about earth-grazing asteroids is try not to think about them." How comforting!

You're probably aware that the Bible specifically predicted just such physical realities long before modern scientists ever discovered the possibilities. In light of that, should anyone really be surprised to learn that the Bible is more up-to-date (as well as accurate and relevant) than the latest network news?

As we explore lots of exciting things together, we'll find that the Bible is always the key to unlocking the mysteries of creation.

How Important is The Biblical Concept of Creation?

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... Then God saw everything that He had made and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Genesis 1:1, 31

Are we to accept that these statements are open to unending speculation? Or does God intend that we are to understand that these words mean exactly what they say?

THINK! What is the most obvious question you could ask someone that could lead them to think about God? Is it not the question:

Where did I come from?

Even the most primitive tribal people ask that kind of question. Is that why the apostle Paul deals with this issue of origins in the introduction to the book of Romans in your Bible? He says there are

"men who hold the truth in unrighteousness" Romans 1:18 (KJV) (literally "suppress the truth" as in the NASV).

Paul says God's wrath is upon such people! Why?

Because there are facts which can be *"known about God."* (v.19). Paul insists God has shown these realities to all men! How did God do that? Well, look at verse 20, one of the most important and revealing verses in your Bible:

"From (or since) the creation of the world... the invisible things (God's attributes) even His eternal power and Godhead (or His divine nature), are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made... so that they are without excuse."

What has been clearly seen?

God's very nature! And HOW is THAT revealed?

Through the things that are made!

THINK! The created physical world around us points us to God! That's why all men are without excuse for ignoring God (as it says at the end of verse 20).

But what happens when men ignore God? They still have that same probing question: "Where did I come from?" So Paul tells us what to expect to find in verse 21:

"they glorified Him not as God, but became...vain in their imaginations." (The NASV says "futile in their speculations").

THINK! Have you ever noticed the utter futility of the reasoning of men who ignore God?

On the other hand, when you know your God is big enough to **create**, do you think that your **faith** in Him is affected? The prophet Jeremiah said:

*"Ah Lord God! Behold, thou has made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee."
Jeremiah 32:17*

How did the infant church pray in confidence to God?

*"Lord, You are God who made heaven and Earth,
and the sea, and all that is in them...." Acts 4:24*

Did they leave anything out? They finished by asking God to give His bondservants boldness and confidence to speak while God did signs and wonders in the name of Jesus.

***"O Lord how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all!
The Earth is full of Your possessions." Psalm 104:24***

Creation & Our Faith

The wonderful world of nature is the creation all around us. It was designed and spoken into existence by God's very word. He is the author of "science."

*"In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (including philosophy and science).
Colossians 2:3*

The creation, so frequently used to describe God's power in both Old and New Testaments, shows us that understanding the principles of God's miraculous creation epoch is essential to our faith.

*"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God,
so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."
Hebrews 11:3*

Creation & Christ

Christ himself repeatedly acknowledged the truth of ALL of the Old Testament.

*"If you believe not his (Moses') writings, how shall you believe my words?"
John 5:47*

Moses penned the creation account and Jesus makes direct reference to it in Matt. 19:4 when speaking about marriage and the creation by God of male and female at the beginning.

*"If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rise from the dead."
Luke 16:31*

*"O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe in ALL that the prophets have spoken."
Luke 24:25*

Who was Israel's first prophet? (Moses)

The Creation Foundation

- Genesis - God's first revelation of the Bible - begins with it.
- The Gospel of John begins with it.
- Romans - the complete gospel - makes the knowledge of it the basis for judgment.
- Paul's Mars Hill discourse begins with Creator God. (Acts 17:22ff)
- Colossians begins with it.
- Hebrews establishes creation as its first basic doctrine.

Why Is Creation So Important?

Satan desires to undermine God's expressed account of creation. By denying creation it is easier to deny God's plan of salvation and then the truth of all God's Word.

If God is subtly removed from people's minds as their Creator, then it is simple for them to disregard Him as their Redeemer.

How Is Your Computer Programmed?

Our minds are the most intricate computers imaginable. When we go out and look at anything in our world we can evaluate it only on the basis of what we've already learned or heard, and accepted. Have you ever heard the phrase from computer experts:

"Garbage In... Garbage Out"

If you put misinformation in your computer, won't that confuse both your thoughts as well as your beliefs about almost everything? Do you think the devil knows that? Why do you think that old sidewinder has such a heyday when it comes to the world of education? This is why it is absolutely imperative to find out the presuppositions of your teachers before you adopt a corrupt interpretation of the knowledge you learn.

Someone once said: **"How hard, if not impossible, it is for the heart to accept what the mind rejects!"**

If we think we have to rationalize parts of God's Word because we think it's a fable, then how can we seriously believe the rest of it?

The whole Bible is built on the foundation of Genesis. Why do you think there have been such sophisticated, deceptive attacks on truths like the six-day creation, the global Flood, and many other supernatural events in Genesis?

THINK! What's the outcome of a foolish premise?

Eccl. 10:12-13 (Living Bible) states: "A fool's speech brings him to ruin. Since he begins with a foolish premise, his conclusion is sheer madness."

"DOES NOT THE EAR TRY (or TEST) WORDS" in a way similar to how our mouth tastes food? Job 12:11

Are we not failing our own sense of discernment when we fail to examine closely the foolish premises and conclusions of so-called "men of science?"

Does God Really Expect Us to Take His Word at Face Value?

By the study that God encourages (2 Timothy 2:15) you can demonstrate that the Bible is the Book of Truth. No amount of "scientific theory" can ever explain away scriptural fact!

The Word of God is:

1. Enduring: *"Forever O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven." Psalm 119:89*

*"Heaven and Earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away."
Matthew 24:35*

2. Inerrant: *"All scripture is God-breathed." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)*

"Every word of God is pure...Do not add unto His words..." Proverbs 30:5-6

"...scripture cannot be broken." John 10:35

"Let God be true, though every man be found a liar." Romans 3:4 (NAS)

3. Clear:

God's wisdom is..."all...righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in it..." All His words are "plain...and right to those who find knowledge." Proverbs 8:8-9

There's a tendency today to resist the plain straightforward absolutes of the Bible. Don't ever forget that Jesus is the One Who said: *"If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rise from the dead."* Luke 16:31. Isn't it true that casting doubt on the clear message of the Old Testament (Torah) is crucial to the Deceiver's strategy?

What causes our lack of understanding?

You really only know what you have been taught (by observation or interpretation). If that is built on error and fallacy, then your conclusions will be distorted until some re-evaluation takes place.

1. **Ignorance** of God's word and His power is a major problem. Jesus said:

"Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." Matt. 22:29

2. **Natural (unspiritual) thinking** is another problem that affects all of us.

"..the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:14

3. **Attraction to fables** is another human weakness.

"They shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Tim. 4:4

4. **Willful ignorance** mustn't be forgotten either. Peter says in the last days men will be:

"willingly [or willfully] ignorant" of the creation and judgment of God. 2 Pet. 3:4-5

5. **Suppression of truth** is another characteristic of our age. With all our vast knowledge today, isn't it amazing how so much truth is held back from the people?

"The wrath of God is revealed against... those... who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Romans 1:18

What Is True Science?

THINK! Isn't science supposed to deal with reality? Isn't it the study of **FACTS** as they really are? Pure science analyzes **The Real World**. But wait! How much of popular science is loaded with speculation and guesswork? Much of it is based on the presupposition that the creation originated by chance.

Are we really willing to program **Our Computers** with **pure knowledge**? Can such knowledge even be found? Can the truth be known? Many would challenge you on that. Remember Pilate? Before Jesus he mocked, "What is truth?" (John 18:38).

Presuppositions: ideas assumed true without question or proof from the beginning of one's consideration of a subject. When presuppositions are based on untenable impossibilities and denial of absolute truth, the rational results are predictably nonsense.

Where is the true knowledge to be found?

The wisest man ever (King Solomon) said:

"The fear (reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." Proverbs 1:7

Did you notice Solomon did not say that a bachelor of science degree is the beginning of knowledge? Yet how many well-meaning families are guided by that assertion?

Did You Know?

- Though some say the Bible is not a science text, the scriptures speak authoritatively in matters of science and history!
- All investigation has shown the Bible to be scientifically **ACCURATE!**
- Of the two places where the word "science" appears in the Bible there is this caution: *"Avoid profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science, FALSELY so called."* 1 Timothy 6:20

***"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts."* Isaiah 55:**

What Should Our Attitude Be As We Study The Creation Around Us?

"Speak to the earth and it shall teach thee..." Job 12:8

No matter who we are or the degree of our education, it is important to examine our attitude right from the start. How do we approach our study?

1. FAITH

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God..." Hebrews 11:3

Which comes first: the understanding or the faith? If you are a Christian, do you remember how obscure the Bible seemed before you believed on Jesus Christ and were born again by faith? (Also see Luke 24:25)

2. CONFIDENCE

"Prove all things, hold fast that which is good." 1 Thessalonians 5:21

THINK! God isn't afraid of the facts! Neither should you be.

3. INSIGHT

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against...spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12

Every conflict we encounter has an unseen dimension behind it. Winning an argument should never be our objective. We must be spiritually sensitive and prayerful if our communication is to have any truly meaningful effect.

"...the natural man cannot understand the things of the Spirit...but the spiritual man judges all things." 1 Corinthians 2:14-15

The Amplified Bible clarifies that the spiritual man appraises all things (examines, investigates, inquires into, questions, and discerns). Nothing escapes his notice. The creation by God is a very spiritual matter. It involves physical things indeed, but all of it was created by God who is spirit. It deserves being investigated.

4. OPENNESS

*"The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."
Psalm 119:130*

The wisdom of Almighty God is available to one who humbly recognizes how imperfect his human insights are. No matter how educated we are, compared to God we just don't know very much, do we? Yet listen to God's promise for anyone with a humble attitude:

*"My words are plain and clear to anyone with half a mind if it is only open." Proverbs
8:9 (TLB)*

"Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind." Job 12:9-10

What Really Happened "In the Beginning" According To The Bible?

When Did Time Begin?

"In the beginning God..."

The "beginning?" When was that? Only God himself is eternal so it is reasonable to think "the beginning" refers to the beginning of TIME, a dimension like a window in the midst of eternity. What did He do? He "created the heavens and the Earth" but what does that mean? The stars weren't made until the fourth day, so what happened?

It's sort of like when you begin a construction project. What do you start with? Basic materials, of course, like lumber, nails and paint. But what raw materials did God provide first?

ATOMS? What are they? The building blocks of all physical reality, atoms are composed essentially of three things:

SPACE -- MATTER -- ENERGY

NOTICE the words of Genesis 1:1:

"In the beginning (right at the start) GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS."

Look it up, and you'll find the original Hebrew word for heavens there is **SHAMAYIM**. *It simply means stretched out space!*

THINK! God even had to make the empty space in which to put everything.

Then what?

"God created...the earth"

The original word there for earth is ERETS (Hebrew for "earth") which simply means the dirt or MATTER from which everything else is made, but it was not yet as we see it today. So what was the condition of these RAW MATERIALS in the beginning? God says they were...

"without form and void."

THINK! When you take the blocks and build something, THEN you have "form." Before that the MATTER was without form.

The physical structure of matter had apparently not yet been organized and the earth was truly empty (void) of the things that were necessary for life. Also we read that *"the*

Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Was this H₂O water? Since there was not yet "form" in created matter, it might be more correct to call it "fluid." Beginning with Genesis 1:3 we see God developing a **logical sequence of creative acts** to change *the "without form and void"* condition of the earth.

Try to imagine formlessness

And then, in that same creative instant, God said:

"Let There Be Light!"

Light includes the entire electromagnetic spectrum, not just the narrow band of color we "see." From short wave gamma rays, to long radio waves, electromagnetic radiation includes a vast range of frequencies spanning at least 75 octaves. Visible light occupies only one octave of this range. So what do we now have?

energy

Is it not the third aspect of all physical things?

At the instant that matter was energized, basic elements took on specific form. Particles were now in motion and operating in TIME.

THINK! When physical matter ceases to be, time shall be no more. In a very simple, yet profoundly scientific way, the Genesis account of God's first creative act logically defines the basis of all physical reality:

Space, Matter & Energy

But there's more! Electromagnetic energy is at the heart of all physical matter. Atoms are held together by complex electric and magnetic forces, providing form and structure to the universe. All chemical elements took form when God said "Let there be light!" He initiated the physical laws that govern all forms of matter.

One of the mysteries of creation is the amount of energy "locked up" in the atoms. Man has been able to release some of the energy for use in atomic power plants and atom bombs, but think of the total amount of energy required to put together all the physical matter in the universe. For lack of clear evidence, some materialistic thinkers have theorized there must be an invisible thing they call "gluons" to hold it all together. It seems a miracle of "science" that the structure of every atom in the universe doesn't fly apart.

Scientists once used the "Cloud Model" to depict the atom. Now they realize the atom is far more complex than they first imagined. The simplified "Planetary Model" was popular for most of the 20th century. The recently developed "Lucas Model" has no orbiting electrons, permitting the atom to remain stable with electric and electromagnetic forces in equilibrium.

What Does the Bible Say?

"...all things were created by Him [Jesus] and for Him; And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist [or hold together]." Colossians 1:16, 17

THE CREATION OF WATER

In Genesis 1:2, we read of God's Spirit moving (or hovering) over the face of the waters. On the beginning of the second day water covered the whole planet. God moved some of it to the space separated from the surface of the planet by what He called a firmament in Genesis 1:6-8. He then called the firmament "heavens" in the plural to apparently indicate there was more than one "heaven."

It's interesting to notice that the Hebrew word for waters is "MAYIM." The first instance of the word "mayim" is in a compounded form with the word "SHAM," meaning "there" or "in it." It is thus found as the word "SHAMAYIM" and is translated as "heavens" in Genesis 1:1. It appears there is something about the expanse of "heavens" which inherently includes water.

Scientists are learning that there is water out in the emptiness of interstellar space.ⁱⁱⁱ Could that have something to do with what are called "waters above the heavens" in Psalm 148:4?

A Parallel In Uniqueness

Water is one of the most primary of physical phenomena, yet it defies normal chemical theory. It is so unique it could not have originated by chance. With its many qualities for the support of life, it could only be the result of an incredibly complex design. The result of a strong chemical union of two gases (oxygen and hydrogen), water just happens to stay in liquid form at a narrow range of temperatures that are conducive for living creatures. When combined with carbon and certain other elements, water composes nearly all molecules of living creatures. Virtually a liquid mineral, it is a misfit to other compounds, expanding when it freezes, enabling it to float. Water is absolutely essential in liquid form for all the key systems of life. Circulation, digestion, reproduction, and respiration are all dependent on liquid water.

How Important is Water to Your Life?

We all tend to take water for granted. Ask ten people if they drank the eight cups of pure water needed only to replace what is used up in normal body processes EVERY DAY. As you think about these facts, your brain cells are working and using water. Your car battery will prevent everything in your car from working if there isn't enough water in it. Likewise, dehydration leads to chronic malfunction and disease in your cells. Even the oxygen you breathe requires water to dissolve it and carry it to every cell in

your body. Many health problems you develop are partly or entirely caused by lack of water. A vital key to correcting them is increasing your intake of water. Excellent research results are becoming increasingly well known. In the book, *Your Body's Many Cries for Water*, by Dr. F. Batmanghelidj, M.D., you'll see how water makes a big difference in issues like: ulcers, Alzheimer's disease, colitis, rheumatoid arthritis, headaches, allergies, stress, depression, hypertension, cholesterol, coronary health, and weight control.

Those who value wholeness in their life will do well to take water more seriously.

Without water there is NO LIFE!

Space probes have searched other planets for liquid water to see if life forms could be present. But Earth, the place where God specifically created physical life forms, is the only planet where liquid water has been found, and in abundance!

THINK!

"It is the Spirit Who gives life" John 6:63 (NASV)

Remember the connection of the first Bible reference for water? It's also the first place in the Bible where God's Spirit is mentioned. This just might not be a coincidence. As water is essential for physical life, so the Spirit is essential for our spiritual life. The fact that God's Spirit interacted with water at the beginning seems to amplify the uniqueness of both in respect to their life-giving qualities.

Changing the Form and Filling the Void

After the first two days of creation week, God describes for us very profound changes in the form of the primeval creation. Notice the logical preparation of the sequence with each phase providing a base and purpose for the succeeding phase.

On day three God changed the form of the earth by gathering the waters and letting the dry land appear. He then called the earth "good."

Next, God began to fill the earth by calling into being the grass, herbs and trees to cover the earth. The planet was no longer void, and God saw that it was good.

On the fourth day God filled the vast empty space around the earth with lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night. It is safe to presume God is referring to the sun and the moon in the context of verse 16. The stars are mentioned almost as a footnote for the fourth day of creation. And God saw that this phase too was good.

Why were the heavenly bodies made anyway?

God gives six purposes in Genesis 1 verses 14 and 15.

1. To divide the day from the night
2. For signs
3. For seasons
4. For days
5. For years
6. For lights in the firmament to give light upon the earth

Notice the last one: "**To give light on the earth.**"

THINK! In God's master plan, what is the center of attention? **It's the earth!!!**

The stars are there for the benefit of those on the earth! So the question we really should ask is:

Do you think a Creator God accomplishes His purposes when He says He does?

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth... for He spake, and it was done, He commanded and it stood fast." Psalm 33:6, 9

We must honestly ask ourselves if God's message here is clear or not. If He spoke and it was DONE, then there is no reason to force some explosive and destructive process into the equation. Furthermore, we have to ask if God had to wait for millions of years for the light that filled His universe from the beginning to reach viewers on the earth from distant stars.

On day 5 God created all the creatures living in the waters and all the birds of the air. God saw that this also was good.

On day 6 God created all the land animals and saw that it was good. Then He made man after His own image. After reviewing all that He had made He called the entire creation **very good**.

THINK! Why was man created last? Was it because God had created all things for the benefit of man? God had given man the earth as a complete physical and spiritual unity in fellowship with his Maker. It was a perfect place.

How Long Were Each of the Days of Creation?

In Genesis 1, the days of the creation week are each separated by the phrase, "the evening and the morning were the first day... second day..." and so on. These are descriptive boundaries that certainly make sense to us. They would have been quite clear to Moses as well, with nothing more assumed than the straightforward meaning of the phrase. But what makes an evening and a morning? You might say "the sun." But the sun wasn't created until the fourth day along with all the other stars. Even without a sun, how would you determine the length of a day? Is it not by the rotation of the earth? If you were on another planet the length of your "day" would be determined by the rotation speed of your planet.

Of course, with only a modest knowledge of scriptural history, the implications of this would lead anyone to naturally conclude that God said "let there be light" for the first time only about 6,000 years ago. Some find this too implausible because of the pre-conceived idea that the universe must surely be much older than that (there's that computer programming garbage surfacing again). So you might hear the assertion: "Isn't there some place in the Bible where a day is described as a thousand years long?" (as if the Bible had to make an explanation for its apparent mistake).

In the Apostle Peter's second epistle in the New Testament we find:

"Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord, as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." 2 Peter 3:8

Does Peter say a thousand years is only a day long? Of course not! And notice he's saying "with the Lord." And what's the context? Notice he's talking about judgment to

come! Clearly, Peter is driving home God's patience with mankind and His over-arching presence outside the limits of time. This is not a declaration of the length of the seven days of the creation week.

So, does God's Word anywhere give us an idea of the length of the Genesis days of creation?

It's in Exodus chapter 20 when God is thundering the Ten Commandments out loud to all the Israelites at Mount Sinai. In verse eight He says, "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*" Now why should we do that? Going on, He gives us the basis for the commandment.

"Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work." (Hebrew word for day here is "yom")
Exodus 20:9

Why a six day work week?

*"For in six days (same root word, "yom") the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, **and all that is in them...**"*
Exodus 20:11

Do you think God could do all that in six literal days?

Let's face it. He could have done it in six seconds if He wanted to, but He says He did it in six days! Our trouble is in not recognizing God's power. Have we created a puny concept of the Almighty Creator?

THINK! If one of those days God is talking about here really is a thousand years long, have we ever got a long workweek before Saturday comes!

Before we try to fit biblical creation days into any theory requiring long ages for Earth's gradual evolution, we better take a serious look at the problems caused by such an attempt. God's revelation is clear and makes it impossible to accommodate evolutionary concepts.

According to the Bible:

1. Earth existed before all stars!
2. Daylight existed before the sun.
3. Water covered the earth before the dry land appeared.
4. Complex fruit trees existed before jellyfish.
5. All plants existed before the sun.
6. Birds and whales existed before all land creatures.
7. Man was made before woman!

The Genesis account simply cannot fit with the evolutionary time line.

But what about all those stars that are millions of light years away?

Good question. The reasoning goes that in order for us to see the stars whose light supposedly took millions of years to get here (at the present speed of light) the stars themselves must have been there for millions of years. Right? Well, let's think a minute.

Why did God create the stars in the first place?

Remember they are there for the benefit of those on the earth. Did God have to wait for millions of years to achieve His purpose?

THINK! If your God is powerful enough to create the stars themselves, do you think He might be able to make their light beams instantly appear on the earth? Could the light have been created to travel at infinitely faster speed when the creation was very good?

HOLD ON, someone may say: "But doesn't that create a misleading ...**APPEARANCE OF AGE?**"

THINK! How old was Adam when God created him? No matter what stage of physiological development he had at the moment he was created he would have had some appearance of age or, perhaps we should say, an **appearance of maturity!** In reality, God made Adam and Eve fully able to bear offspring and have dominion over the earth **from the beginning.**

Did God create seeds, seedlings, or fruit trees with mature fruit on them and seed in them? Read Genesis 1:11-12.

Solomon wisely observed:

"God hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end." Ecclesiastes 3:11

What Are the Implications of the Origins Controversy?

Creation and natural laws

The acts of creation were governed by God and by the laws He used at creation. Those creative principles are not presently continuing for His Word declares:

"And on the seventh day God ended his work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made." (Genesis 2:2)

God finished His creation and deemed it very good before He rested. Though the laws of creation are not known, we are aware of the laws of "nature" in the created universe. God governs every natural law operating in the universe through principles that He alone established. Gravity, nuclear physics, and the dynamics of light, mass, and sound are all regulated by the **natural laws of God**. Most of them aren't understood; they are only analyzed, and then only to a limited degree.

"He upholds all things by the word of His power." Hebrews 1:3

Do we tend to overly mystify the things of God? All of God's "**supernatural**" acts are perfectly "**natural**" to **His** nature and power! He is consistent and not capricious.

THINK! If so-called supernatural events find explanation in the framework of understood natural phenomena, does that lessen the divine miraculous wisdom behind them?

As mankind discovers, analyzes and exploits the creation there is a tendency to make a god of knowledge and science. But for those who recognize the orderliness of God, such discovery is a gateway to the revelation of the only true Master of creation.

*"...Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
Colossians 2:2-3*

THINK!

"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."
Deuteronomy 29:29

Changing our Mind...

It's not easy. We are products of what we are taught, reinforced from childhood. Naturally we get defensive when encountering new concepts, especially those that contradict old concepts. But here is really an opportunity to test our spiritual and scientific maturity.

The idea of "the gradual improvement of all things" has permeated our thinking on just about every subject. Through our study we will discover that this subtle philosophy is based on dogmatic beliefs and not sound scientific integrity at all.

In the public mainstream it seems that those who do not conform to the prevailing dogma are tagged as non-conformist fools. Unfortunately this pressure by what is falsely called science has caused many Christians to re-interpret scriptures in an attempt to harmonize the Bible with evolutionary theory. Thus, explanations are squeezed out of God's Word that He never intended. The word "all" is changed to "some," the definitive "did" becomes a progressive "does," and true narrative becomes allegorical poetry.

All this is done to accommodate a belief system that does not even have the qualities of a bona fide scientific theory! The whole arrangement is like a mythology of pagan cultures everywhere: you either accept the whole fantasy religiously or you're considered out of touch. But who is really out of touch?

We must objectively examine all the evidence. To that must be added all the divine revelation available to us. Then we will have a superior perspective on the real world and the One who designed and energized every delicate detail.

The Alternatives At Stake

The following is just a beginning of what could be listed of the choices one has to make when he accepts one side or the other. Add others to the list as you think of them.

Divine Creation	Spontaneous Generation
Purposeful Design	Random Accidental Order
Intricate Order	Chaotic mistakes
Infinite God	Infinite Odds
Life from Life	Life from Non-life
God = Creator	Time = Creator
Entropy	Evolution
Catastrophe	Gradualism
True Bible	True Theories
God's Purpose	No Purpose
Absolutes Exist	Everything is Relative
Mutations are Harmful	Some Mutations Are Beneficial
Relatively Young Earth	Extremely Old Earth
Civilization from Start	Slow Development of Civilization
Degenerate Man	Man Getting Better
A Future Hope	Hopelessness

The Real Challenge

From the intricate universe of the microscopic cell and "invisible" atom to the unfathomable expanse of space, you look at the creation and you see order, design, and natural law.

The proof is often demanded of a Christian that an infinite God created such precision, such complexity. What's the "intellectual" alternative? Did all creation just happen on its own? Just examine the evidence and see the hallmarks of the Master Designer.

THINK! Truly, the fool has said there is no God (Psalm 14:1). And only a fool will insist, against all convincing evidence, that the only god is "eternal matter" and the only mechanism of creation is "endless ages of time."

How Good Is "Very Good?"

Have you considered how absolutely awesome and wonderful God's creation is? In the book of Genesis in the Bible it says that when the Creator finished His creation He declared that it was "very good!"

Think a moment about the nature of our temporal home, planet Earth. It's amazing and it sure beats living on Mars.

Mars

Have you ever thought about it? Mars is only 52% farther from the sun than Earth. Temperatures there dive nearly 200 degrees below zero. The hottest day of the year is still minus 24 degrees Fahrenheit. The year is 687 days long. Nothing resembling life on Earth could thrive there.

Venus

Venus isn't much better. Due to its severely tilted axis, the daytime lasts nearly four months. The temperature there is a whopping 850 degrees Fahrenheit. Atmospheric pressure is over 1,300 pounds per square inch. Though Venus is almost the same size as Earth and is our closest neighbor, just 28% nearer the sun, it's clearly not designed for habitation.

Earth

Our Earth is so precisely placed that even a one percent variation, closer to or farther from the sun, would make life impossible. (Remember some of those hot summer days when you thought you'd bake?) And let's be thankful to a wise Creator for some of the invisible things He installed to make life more pleasant on our planet.

Magnetosphere

The magnetism of the earth causes a protective force field known as the magnetosphere. It's shaped like a huge invisible doughnut surrounding our atmosphere, thousands of miles high. Without it we'd be bombarded by harmful cosmic radiation.

Did You Know? ... that there is no magnetic field on the planet Venus?

Ozone

Another vital invisible component to survival on our planet is the unstable oxygen molecule called ozone. It's found largely in the highest section of our atmosphere. Ozone (or O₃ as scientists symbolize it) filters out much of the sun's ultraviolet radiation which can burn sensitive skin and cause eye damage.

Carbon Dioxide

Carbon dioxide is also invisible. Only 3/100ths of one per cent of our air is CO₂, yet it's absolutely essential for life. Without it plants couldn't grow, and we couldn't breathe. That's because there are special sensors in our arteries that respond to the CO₂ in the air and make you breathe. However, if the concentration rose to 10 percent, we'd all die.

Nitrogen

Oxygen is great but we ought to thank God for the 78% nitrogen in our air too. Without that high amount of nitrogen and the natural processes that work it into our soil, our planet would be desolate.

When we consider the harmful concentrations of gases like methane and ammonia on other planets like Jupiter and Saturn, we should be grateful for how carefully this Earth has been designed for life.

God's prophet Isaiah wrote:

"...the Lord that created the heavens... [is the] God that formed the earth... established it, he created it not in vain [or without purpose], he formed it to be inhabited."
Isaiah 45:18 (NASB)

THINK!

- The sun is just the right size for its distance from Earth.
- The earth's size is just right and its rotation speed is too.
- The moon is just the right size for reasonable tidal variation.
- The earth's tilt is just right for the present weather cycles.
- Earth's orbital speed is just right for reasonable seasons.
- The oceans have just the right temperature variation for sea life.
- The chemistry balance is within reasonable limits for life.
- Etc., etc., etc., etc.

In short: "He formed it to be inhabited."

Job declares:

"God ... doeth great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number."
Job 5:9

What Is This "Water Above the Firmament?"

Was Earth's environment radically different at the beginning?

"And God made the firmament (or expanse) and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament... And God called the firmament Heaven." *Genesis 1:7-8*

It's easy to see that the waters under the firmament are the earth's oceans, lakes and streams, but the waters above the firmament are more challenging to identify. Could this "waters above" have been more substantial than the mere clouds we see carrying a relatively small amount of water in our atmosphere today? There are several possibilities for answering this question.

1. There has been considerable study into the concept of a water vapor canopy located high in the earth's atmosphere. One suggested reason was to provide a water reservoir for the Flood.

Could such a phenomenon really exist?

Atmospheric canopies of different sorts are found several places in our planetary neighborhood. Both Saturn and Jupiter have substantial gaseous layers.

FACT: The planet Venus is shielded by a vapor canopy so dense we cannot see through it to the surface of Venus. But this canopy is the result of the high temperature on Venus.

FACT: Saturn's moon, Titan, also has cold vapor canopies completely surrounding it.

However, no scientific observations have been discovered to support an earth canopy containing large amounts of water.

2. Suggestions of an ice-crystal canopy have been made. Isaac N. Vail introduced this basic concept in the early 1900s. Donald Cyr's recent studies of the light patterns produced by a crystal veil 50 miles above the earth, where noctilucent clouds form, have shown correlation with archeological patterns found in pottery, woven material and temple construction. Computer simulations have verified these patterns.^{iv} Such an ice crystal canopy would be transparent night and day except for the "sundogs" where the sun's reflections produce halos or sunspots. We get the sunspot phenomenon in the winter when the air is filled with ice crystals. They are called sundogs because they follow the sun.

3. What if the waters above were not relatively close to the earth, but are still located at a great distance from Earth? Where would they be? What form would they have? When Moses, under God's direction, wrote Genesis, part of the creation account

corrected false ideas that were prevalent at the time regarding the origin and characteristic of the 'waters above.' The waters above were considered to be a literal liquid ocean, and Moses did not refute this idea.^v Also, in Psalm 148:4 the Psalmist calls for praise to the Lord from the **waters above the heavens** which must still have been in existence when he wrote those words.

A stable worldwide paradise would require many divinely planned conditions we might have difficulty imagining today. A nearly untilted axis for the planet, denser and moister atmosphere, smaller temperature variation, and higher concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide are some of the necessary conditions.

Scriptural hints?

1. Genesis 2:5,6 states that God had "not sent rain" at the completion of the creation but an ideal watering system on Earth is described as a daily "mist" or fountains that rose to water the whole land. Is it significant that God's description specifically makes a point of the fact that no rain occurred then, and that there is not any mention of rain until the Flood, over fifteen hundred years later?
2. Hebrews 11:7 tells that Noah was warned about "things not yet seen." Beside the Flood catastrophe itself, could the very idea of rain have also been a new thing Noah and his contemporaries experienced for the first time?
3. Genesis 9:13-14 seems to imply that the rainbow and clouds were an awesome new surprise AFTER the Flood as a sign of God's promise. If rain were a new phenomenon then a rainbow also would be an entirely new experience after the Flood.
4. Genesis 8:22 mentions the anticipation of "heat and cold" as well as "summer and winter" as God's promise as long as the earth lasts. Could extremes of seasonal climatic changes, which we commonly accept today, have been a totally new experience to Noah after the Flood?

All this leads many to believe that God originally created the planet Earth with climate conditions different from those we experience today. A relatively small vapor canopy along with a denser atmosphere with higher levels of water vapor would produce a partial greenhouse effect that would tend to stabilize the earth's temperature. Have you ever been in a big botanical garden or commercial greenhouse? It could be 30 below zero outside, but inside the greenhouse it's lush and pleasant all year around. But the greenhouse must have a source of energy to maintain its pleasant condition.

The energy source for the earth is the sun, and this energy is the controlling factor in Earth's atmospheric weather patterns, which help in distributing the energy. A controlling factor in modifying the atmospheric distribution of this energy is the tilt axis of the earth. Reducing the tilt to less than 5 degrees results in a change in airflow patterns such that warm air from the equatorial zone would flow all the way to the Polar Regions and polar air would flow to the equatorial zone. The result would be a small tropical

zone, a small arctic zone and a greatly expanded temperate zone with no extremes of hot and cold.

What would be other components of a divinely designed biosphere? Besides a globally protected atmosphere, you may be correct in suggesting there would also be: increased air pressure, stronger magnetic field, slightly higher carbon dioxide and oxygen content in the atmosphere, ideal soil conditions, warmer water and other possibilities.

What could the results be?

- Longer life spans
- Minimal disease
- Rapid healing
- Greater stamina and endurance
- Larger specimens of some plants and many animals like fish and reptiles that keep growing as long as they live.^{vi}

But there's even more to this whole fantastic creation that was "very good!"

ⁱ Discover, Oct. 1985

ⁱⁱ Time, May 1, 1989

ⁱⁱⁱ National Geographic, May, 1974, p. 625

^{iv} Cyr, Donald L., The Crystal Veil, Stonehenge Viewpoint, Issue 106, Santa Barbara, 1995

^v Dillow, Joseph C., The Waters Above, Moody Press, Chicago, 1982, p. 58

^{vi} Patten, Donald, The Biblical Flood and the Ice Epoch, Pacific Meridian Pub., Seattle, 1966, p.194-224.