**Genesis: Back To the Beginning**

**Creation: Fact or Fable**

**Genesis 1:2-25**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1: Psalm 19:1-4 (NLT)**

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without sound or word; their voice is never heard.Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.

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**Day 2: Psalm 48:5 (TPT)**

Let the entire universe erupt with praise to God. From nothing to something he spoke and created it all.

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**Day 3: 2 Peter 3:5 (NLT)**

They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water.

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**Day 4: Hebrews 11:3 (TPT)**

Faith empowers us to see that the universe was created and beautifully coordinatedby the power of God’s words! He spoke and the invisible realm gave birth to all that is seen.

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**Day 5: Ecclesiastes 3:11 (AMP)**

He has made everything beautiful *and* appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God]—yet man cannot find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end.

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**Discussion Questions**

1. If you read Genesis 1:14 you can see that God created the Sun, the moon, and the stars on day 4. Read John 1:1-5. What do you think was the light that is described in Genesis 1:3?

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1. Look at Genesis 1:24. What does it mean when it says, *“each producing offspring of the same kind…?”* How does this put the “millions of years” theory or “Evolution” at risk?

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1. Read Hebrews 11:3. How does this cast a shadow over the theory that things “evolved” over time?

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1. Can you find the evidence of all three parts of the Trinity in Genesis 1? {Father, Son, and Holy Spirit}

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1. What would you say to someone who believed that God used Evolution to create the world?

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1. Discuss the importance of believing Genesis 1 and how that helps you believe the rest of the Bible? {Pick a story/miracle to use as an example of faith}

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**Digging Deeper**

**(6-8) The second day of creation: God makes an atmospheric division.**

**Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were*under the firmament from the waters which *were*above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.**

a. **Let there be a firmament**: The idea of a **firmament** is of an *expanse* (NIV, NAS) or *space* (NLT). The waters of the land are separated from the water vapor in the sky.

b. **The waters which were above the firmament**: Some commentators and scientists believe that here the Bible recognizes the existence of significant water vapor in the sky. Such a vapor blanket would greatly change the ecology of the earth, and Henry Morris suggests several effects of a vapor blanket:

i. “The *waters above the firmament* thus probably constituted a vast blanket of water vapor above the troposphere and possibly above the stratosphere as well, in the high temperature region now known as the ionosphere, and extending far into space.” (Morris)

ii. It would serve as a global greenhouse, maintaining an essentially uniform, pleasant temperature all over the world.

iii. Without great temperature variations, there would be no significant winds, and the water-rain cycle could not form. There would be no rain, as we know it today.

iv. There would be lush, tropical-like vegetation all over the world, fed not by rain, but by a rich evaporation and condensation cycle, resulting in heavy dew or ground-fog.

v. The vapor blanket would filter out ultraviolet radiation, cosmic rays, and other destructive energies bombarding the planet. These are known to be the cause of mutations, which decrease human longevity. Human and animal lifespans would be greatly increased.

vi. A vapor blanket would provide the necessary reservoir for a potential worldwide flood.

https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-1/

1. When we read the Bible, we naturally bring our own experience into our interpretation of what we read. But In particular, when reading about the creation story, why is it so important to start with a blank slate and allow the painting to be revealed, verse by verse, each word adding color and detail, shade and dimension in order to fully appreciate the Masterpiece God created from nothing?

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2. According to the commentary above, how different was the newly created earth than the aged one we now inhabit (not unlike the contrast between a newborn and an aged senior)? Describe the differences.
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3. In verses 6-8 explained above, what do you learn about our awesome Creator God?

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