**Genesis 1 -11**

**“Fact Not Fiction”**

**Metaphor:** A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action, though it is not literally applicable.

**Example:** “My life’s recently been a rollercoaster ride”

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**Simile:** A comparison primarily using “like” or “as”

**Example:** He walked as slow as a turtle

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**Hyperbole:**  An exaggerated statement or claim that is not meant to be taken literally.

**Example:** His smile was a mile wide

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**Idiom:** An idiom is a group of words that, when put together, mean something not deducible from meanings of the individual words.

**Example:** It’s raining cats and dogs out there

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**Personification:** Is when an attribution of a personal nature or human characteristic is used to describe something nonhuman.

**Example:** The wind whistled in the night

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**Allusion:** an expression that intends to call something to mind without explicitly mentioning it. In other words, it's an indirect or passing reference.

**Example:** "I was worried my nose would grow like Pinocchio's."

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**Various Views on Creation**

**Prevalent Secular View:** Atheistic Evolution

Everything came into existence by random chance and evolved over time through naturalistic, biological processes apart from any supernatural initiation or intervention

This is what children are presently being taught in our provincial school system from elementary to their high school years

**Prevalent Christian Views:**

**Theistic Evolution:** God began everything, then guided things along through evolution processes

**Gap Theory:** There’s millions and billions of years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. “Proponents of this version of Gap Theory believed that the universe was created full-form and populated only to be decimated by a cataclysmic war led between God and Satan. This war left the earth a wasteland, "formless and void" (and explains why we find fossilized dinosaur bones that seem to be millions of years old). So then, by theory, the recent Creation Week would be a re-Creation or restoration of a world that was once destroyed.” (BLB) This runs counter to Romans 5:12

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**Day Age Theory:** Each reference to the word “day” is not a literal 24-hour day we experience on a weekly basis. “Stating that the word, while often meaning a 24-hour period, can also refer to an indeterminate duration, these theorists proclaim that a valid (and moreover, proper) literal understanding of the Creation account will interpret each day as an era, or age, lasting a great length of time. Popular among those who support a Day-Age Theory is a theory of Progressive Creationism by which God, having created the major types of the animal and plant kingdoms at the beginning of the Sixth Day, waits and watches as they evolve naturally within their groups until at the end of this lengthy period referred to as ‘the Sixth Day,’ God creates man of the dust by fiat.” (BLB) According to how evolution unfolds, this requires having “humanoid creatures” being in existence long before Adam and Eve lived and also concurrent with their creation. There’s no indication of this anywhere within Scripture.

**Apparent Age Theory:** God made everything to appear very old

**Punctuated 24 Hour Theory:** God created things on separate, literal 24-hour days but with millions of years between them. Sort of like make it and let it stew in a crock-pot.

Other theories include the **Framework Hypothesis** and **Historical Creationism**. Both of these views are a pushback against a literal interpretation of Genesis 1

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Every one of these theories where God is seen as necessarily involved seeks to accommodate and harmonize scientific evolutionary thought with the Scriptures

In other words, there is the strong belief that what science tells us about the age of the universe, the earth and how present life forms came to be cannot be refuted – it is undeniably true

Therefore, as Christians, so as to not appear to the unbelieving world as unintellectual dunderheads, we must seek to dovetail what science states with the Bible

This being true, necessitates interpreting the Genesis 1 account in a non-literal way when it comes to the terms “day,” “morning” and “evening,” comprising together a 24-hour time period

Interesting enough, no other terminology within this chapter calls for a non-literal, figurative interpretation

e.g. light, waters, darkness, firmament, heavens, lands, sea, grass, herbs, seeds, fruit, stars, birds, cattle, male, female, fish, food, good

It is only the parts that have to do with time that require manipulating the text to make it say something else than it obviously seems to state

**Key hermeneutical principle:** When the text makes simple sense, seek no other sense

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Was Genesis chapter 1 purposefully written by God through Moses so only expert Hebrew scholars or highly educated theologians could possibly properly and accurately interpret it?

Granted there are other Scriptures which require much more interpretative thought and analysis due to their complexity and use of cryptic (puzzling) figurative language, e.g. Ezekiel 1 and many passages within the book of Revelation

But this is the very first chapter within Scripture

This is informing us where everything came from, who caused it to happen and how it happened in actual history

This is crucially, fundamentally important

God’s not trying to hide anything here so as the common person cannot immediately understand it

He reveals through divine inspiration to Moses a simple, plain rendering of what occurred when He created everything

What conclusions does this bring us to?

God created the universe and all that comprises it in 6 literal, 24-hour days

Since we can trace the subsequent generations following Adam’s life through Old Testament records, this necessarily places the historical age of our earth between 6,000 and 7,000 years.

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If this is true, then either atheistic or theistic evolution’s main foundational tenet that everything is billions of years cannot be successfully synchronized with the Scriptures

What this really boils down to is an “authority of Scripture” question

Is the Bible subservient to so-called infallible science?

This opens up Pandora’s box in many unsettling ways

What about the widespread supernatural happenings recorded with Scripture? e.g. Crossing Red Sea, Resurrection of Christ

Scientifically, these miracles cannot and could not actually happen but if we believe God exists and He has all power, can He not create everything in a 144-hour period of time?

Science is without question the primary god of western culture

People, generally speaking, will not question scientists since they are viewed as intellectually superior, e.g. If paleontologists were to change the age of a dinosaur bone at the ROM from 80 million years to 10 million, the vast majority of people wouldn’t seriously question it. But 70 million years is a very long time!

What we have to clearly understand is that atheistic, evolutionary scientists and mainstream scientific thinking is dictating what our culture primarily believes in regard to significant moral issues, e.g. abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, gender identity

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Our society and more than ever our governmental authorities are saying the Bible must submit to what science purports to be unquestionably true

This is why our present and upcoming journey through the first eleven chapters of Genesis holds such vast importance

The moral values we believe find their foundation in Genesis

If we do not take these first eleven chapters to be literally, historically true, then we will eventually compromise our present beliefs regarding the fundamental doctrines of our faith

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**“In the beginning”**

The universe is not eternal – it had a point of initiation

God’s eternal existence was outside the known universe

Heaven is separate from the known universe

One way we know heaven was eternally a real, distinct place is because angels inhabited it

In other words, it was not an invisible, spiritual reality but one with actual spatial realities

If the universe had a beginning, someone or something had to initiate it

There must be a first cause

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**“God”**

This is the Hebrew word “Elohim”

It signifies the infinite, unmitigated (absolute) power of God

This term is in the plural in the Hebrew language, so it indirectly allows for the trinitarian essence and nature of God

Genesis 1:26 points to this – “Let us make man in our image”

This is why reality cannot exist without relationship

God has eternally existed as three in one in a triune relationship - Father, Son and Spirit

This is why monotheism is not a rational or feasible possibility as a rational explanation regarding who God is

For instance, Islam teaches before the universe and even before the angels were created, all that existed was Allah who was a singular god

However, Genesis 1:26 speaks against this

Humans were made in the image of God

There is a triune reality which accompanies this

Will, emotion, intellect, body, soul and spirit

One would also expect the created order of this universe and world to reflect this

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Sun, moon, and earth in a precise triune relationship to make life possible

Earth, water and atmosphere in a precise triune relationship to make life possible

Many created things have an inherent, triune relationship

Trees – roots, branches, leaves – cannot survive without all three in relationship

Eggs – egg shell, egg white, egg yolk – can’t have an egg without this relationship

Human cardiovascular system – heart, blood, and blood vessels

Human cell – membrane, nucleus, cytoplasm

So, at the beginning, there was already a God who eternal existed within a triune relationship

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**“Created”**

The precise terminology here is “ex nihilo” – from nothing

Atheistic evolutionary theory says something came from nothing

Scripture says something can from Someone

Which sounds more plausible and rational in your thinking?

This points to the sovereignty and transcendence of God

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What He purposes to happen cannot fail to happen

He did not have to make attempts at making everything

As we shall see, His divine creative acts were “take-one” realities

Everything exists only because God exists

Therefore, all of creation, including us is subservient and under God’s ultimate and absolute control

Here-in lies the rub for atheistic evolutionary adherents

If God is the reason everything exists, which essentially includes humans, then there is an inescapable, divine accountability factor built into the equation of human existence

We are unavoidably accountable to the One who gives us our very breath

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**“Heavens and earth”**

We know much more of the universe’s extent than Moses was aware of when he wrote Genesis chapter 1

What this speaks to by way of divine revelation is there’s only one inhabited place in the universe with intelligent, living things

Almost every month there’s a new article posted in the news about the possible discovery of another planet that can support life as we know it to the extent we know it

However, God’s Word gives no indication of extraterrestrial life right from the very first verse throughout the entire Bible

This is an incredible, awe-inspiring reality when thinks of how immeasurably huge the universe is

We must remember what is unfathomable large to us is quite insignificant to God

Psalm 113, verses 4 to 6 and Isaiah 40:12 point this out with striking clarity

The first ten words of Scripture are the most important because there would be nothing existent unless they were true

We only have John 3:16 based upon Genesis 1:1

If Genesis 1:1 is false, then none of the remainder of Scripture is trustworthy