

# Genesis and Science

## Creating our world

### GENESIS 1, REVISED STANDARD VERSION

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup> And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. <sup>11</sup> And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to their own kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years," <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. <sup>17</sup> And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

### Genesis 1, A Revised Science Version

In the beginning there was only God. Just God. Nothing else. No time, no space, no energy, no matter.

But it did matter to God.

So God created something out of nothing. God created time and space and energy and particles.

And God created the laws for this universe.

And there was neither night nor day.

Then energy became light.

And God saw that the light was good.

This was the first day. Three minutes long.

Then the matter came together

And became nebulae and stars and exploding novae.

And this was the second day

Two billion years long.

And God saw that it was good.

Then came bodies of liquid and gas.

And bodies of solid rock with water and air.

And these bodies rotated from dark into light.

Another day.

Six billion years long.

Then in a special place

The waters became rich.

And out of this richness came life.

And this life divided and multiplied and transformed.

And God saw that it was good.

And this was one more day.

Three billion years long.

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20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens."

<sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. <sup>25</sup> And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup> And God said "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in the fruit; you shall have them for food.

<sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth, and to every beast of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

<sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done.

Then the waters brought forth swarms of living creatures.

Tiny floaters became small swimmers, and seaweeds, and fish.

And Earth rotated from dark into light.

A fifth day.

One hundred seventy five millions long.

Then life crept unto the land. And grew out of the ground. And sprang into the air.

There became earthworms and ants and snails and birds. And there became ferns and flowers and grasses. And alligators and lions and rabbits and apes. And God saw that it was good.

Then this universe became aware of itself.

An ape looked up and saw the stars. And thought.

And wondered. And it is said God told these humans: "Take care of things."

And God saw everything that had happened.

And behold it was very good.

And the earth rotated from dark into light. The sixth day. Four hundred million years long.

Now God rests and enjoys this the seventh day. Five million years long. So far.

Not The End . . .but still a Beginning.

*(Inspired by "Kid's Corner" Sunday school class art, Fall 2009, Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton, Oregon.)*

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## Comparing sequences

Current cosmology, geology and biology	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Genesis 2:4-2:23
<p>The “Big Bang” produces gravity, electromagnetic force, matter dominating antimatter, darkness (3 minutes long; 13.6 billion years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>First stars (13 billion years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Our sun (4.8 billion years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Our earth (4.4 billion years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Life on earth (3.8 billion years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Photosynthesis (2.6 billion years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Multicellular organisms (1.6 billion years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Invertebrates and fish (400 million years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Plants with seeds; animals on land (300 million years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Reptiles (250 million years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Mammals (240 million years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Great apes (13 million years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Genus <i>Homo</i> (2.5 million years ago)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Humans, <i>Homo sapiens</i> (200,000 years ago)</p>	<p>Day 1: God created the heavens and earth and God created light.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Day 2: God created the firmament heaven and separated it from the waters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Day 3: God gathered the waters into one place and let the dry land appear and put forth vegetation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Day 4: God created the stars, the sun and the moon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Day 5: God created creatures of the waters and birds of the air.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Day 6: God made the beasts of the earth and created man, male and female.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Day 7: God rested.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>(ca 4004 BCE)</p>	<p>God made the heavens and the earth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>God formed man from the dust of the ground.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>God planted a garden in Eden and put man in this garden to till it and keep it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>God formed every beast of the field and bird of the air. The man named these living creatures.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>God made a woman.</p>