

**Text: Genesis 1:1-31**

Section 1

*1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2)*

The origin of the world is stated very matter-of-factly here: God created it. Notice that no attempt to explain or to prove God's origin or existence is made. His Being is immediately accepted as self-evident. How arrogant and blasphemous it is when people presume to subject God to man-made standards of investigation and empiricism, saying "I won't believe unless this experiment, method, etc. proves to my satisfaction that God exists." The fact that everything in the world (including us) exists is the evidence given for God's existence, and that should be enough.

God is, again, self-existent, and this is the trait by which He Names and identifies Himself to Moses at the burning bush.

**13Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" 14God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you ' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations. (Exodus 3:13-15)**

The fact that God is and is God is sufficient reason for us to obey Him. While His Laws and commands generally make sense when the results of obedience and disobedience are examined and compared, even if this were not so we must still obey. "Because I said so" is a good reason to do something when God is the one doing the "saying so."

**1Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2"Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'I am the LORD your God. 3'You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes. 4'You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; I am the LORD your God. 5'So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the LORD. (Leviticus 18:1-5)**

God created the world *ex nihilo*—"out of nothing." Calvin's remarks on this point are pertinent, and especially so when considering that he was writing 300 years before the modern theories of evolution and uniformitarianism came about. As Solomon said, "**there is nothing new under the sun.**"

When God in the beginning created the heaven and the earth, the earth was empty and waste. He moreover teaches by the word "created," that what before did not exist was now made; for he has not used the term יצר, (*yatsar*), which signifies to frame or forms but ברא, (*bara*), which signifies to create. Therefore his meaning is, that the world was made out of nothing. Hence the folly of those is refuted who imagine that unformed matter existed from eternity; and who gather nothing else from the narration of Moses than that the world was furnished with new ornaments, and received a form of which it was before destitute. This indeed was formerly a common fable among heathens, in maintaining this gross error is absurd and intolerable. Let this, then be maintained in the first place, that the world is not eternal but was created by God. (John Calvin's Commentary.)

Finally, all the Members of the Godhead have always been present, and were present and involved in the act of creation. The Spirit is mentioned in verse 2, while Christ's presence and work in creation are discussed in John chapter 1:

**1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (John 1:1-3)**

Section 2

*3Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light day, and the darkness He called night And there was evening and there was morning, one day. (Genesis 1:3-5)*

The Bible plainly teaches that light and darkness, and day and night, were created several days before the sun and moon. So what? Is creating in this order beyond God's power? Some see this "out of order-ness" of the Genesis account as grounds for rejection of that

account. However, again quoting Calvin, we are reminded that the power to give and withhold light belongs not to celestial bodies, but to God.

Let there be light It we proper that the light, by means of which the world was to be adorned with such excellent beauty, should be first created; and this also was the commencement of the distinction, (among the creatures). It did not, however, happen from inconsideration or by accident, that the light preceded the sun and the moon. To nothing are we more prone than to tie down the power of God to those instruments the agency of which he employs. The sun an moon supply us with light: And, according to our notions we so include this power to give light in them, that if they were taken away from the world, it would seem impossible for any light to remain. Therefore the Lord, by the very order of the creation, bears witness that he holds in his hand the light, which he is able to impart to us without the sun and moon. (From John Calvin's Commentary.)

Of course it is possible to have light without the sun and moon! In fact, the Book of Revelation plainly states that in the "New Jerusalem" there will be no need for the sun or any other "source" of light, since God will supply it directly.

**1Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2in the middle of its street On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; 4they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 5And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:1-5)**

### Section 3

*6Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. 8God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. (Genesis 1:6-8)*

So God made the sky (this is the "expanse"). Lots of theorizing has been done about the statement "*let it separate the waters from the waters.*" Many modern creationists suggest that there was a much thicker covering of water vapor (or even liquid water) in the upper atmosphere at this time, which was emptied when the Noahic flood occurred. This is the theory of Henry Morris discussed in his books *The Genesis Flood* and *The Genesis Record*. Meanwhile, D. Russell Humphreys's book *Starlight and Time* believes that there is actually a layer of water at the outer reaches of space, and uses this to construct a complex theory to account for the distance of stars to the earth. Calvin simply believes that the "*waters above the expanse*" are clouds. For our purposes right now, I am content to know that "God made the sky."

### Section 4

*9Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. 10God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:9-10)*

The earth is 2/3 water, yet the waters do not overrun the earth but are instead collected into their proper places (for the most part). This in itself is considered a great miracle throughout Scripture.

**7He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;  
He lays up the deeps in storehouses. (Psalm 33:7)**

**8"Or who enclosed the sea with doors  
When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb;  
9When I made a cloud its garment  
And thick darkness its swaddling band,  
10And I placed boundaries on it  
And set a bolt and doors,  
11And I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no farther;  
And here shall your proud waves stop'? (Job 38:8-11)**

**21'Now hear this, O foolish and senseless people,**

**Who have eyes but do not see;  
Who have ears but do not hear.**

**22'Do you not fear Me?' declares the LORD**

**'Do you not tremble in My presence?  
For I have placed the sand as a boundary for the sea,  
An eternal decree, so it cannot cross over it.  
Though the waves toss, yet they cannot prevail;**

**Though they roar, yet they cannot cross over it.  
23'But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart;  
They have turned aside and departed. (Jeremiah 5:21-23)**

Let us, therefore, know that we are dwelling on dry ground, because God, by his command, has removed the waters that they should not overflow the whole earth. (From John Calvin's Commentary.)

In verse 10 we see for the first time the comment "*and God saw that it was good.*" At this point in time, God could honestly say of His creation "*that it was good.*" Why? Because it had not yet been marred by sin. Everything that is now wrong with the world, both in society and in the natural world, is present because of the presence of sin. Most of all, death, the greatest present deformity compared to God's original creation, exists because of sin.

**12Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—(Romans 5:12)**

### Section 5

*11Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. 12The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. 13There was evening and there was morning, a third day. (Genesis 1:11-13)*

Modern scientists search the solar system for evidence of light, heat, and liquid water, assuming that if these are present, life will automatically appear. The Bible, however, states that even when the conditions for the beginning of life were present, life did not appear until God specifically spoke it into existence.

**6By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.  
7He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;  
He lays up the deeps in storehouses.  
8Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.  
9For He spoke, and it was done;  
He commanded, and it stood fast. (Psalm 33:6-9)**

God alone is the Giver of life. Although all creatures, humans included, are commanded to reproduce and "*fill the earth,*" they can only do so insofar as God enables them. Every plant, every animal, every person is specifically created by God. In light of this fact, a sin like abortion, even in awful cases like rape or incest, becomes unthinkable.

**3Behold, children are a gift of the LORD,  
The fruit of the womb is a reward.  
4Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So are the children of one's youth.  
5How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them;  
They will not be ashamed  
When they speak with their enemies in the gate. (Psalm 27:3-5)**

### Section 6

*14Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; 15and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. 17God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. 19There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day. (Genesis 1:14-19)*

Now God made the sun, moon, and stars. They exist not only to govern light and darkness, but to "*be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years.*" As "*signs*" they are to govern our measurement of time, but no more. The Bible specifically warns against the sin of astrology.

**24Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb,  
"I, the LORD, am the maker of all things,  
Stretching out the heavens by Myself**

**And spreading out the earth all alone,  
 25Causing the omens of boasters to fail,  
 Making fools out of diviners,  
 Causing wise men to draw back  
 And turning their knowledge into foolishness, (Isaiah 44:24-25)**

**1Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.**

**2Thus says the LORD,**

**"Do not learn the way of the nations,  
 And do not be terrified by the signs of the heavens  
 Although the nations are terrified by them;**

**3For the customs of the peoples are delusion;  
 Because it is wood cut from the forest,  
 The work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool.**

**4"They decorate it with silver and with gold;  
 They fasten it with nails and with hammers  
 So that it will not totter.**

**5"Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they,  
 And they cannot speak;  
 They must be carried,  
 Because they cannot walk!  
 Do not fear them,  
 For they can do no harm,  
 Nor can they do any good."**

**6There is none like You, O LORD;  
 You are great, and great is Your name in might. (Jeremiah 10:1-6)**

Regarding the creation of the stars and their distance from the earth, numerous theories have come about to account for this. One of the most complex, again, occurs in Humphreys's book *Starlight and Time*. Other creationist scientists have devised theories, while other believers see this as reason to question the literalness of the Genesis 1 account. Rather than debate this now, let us be content with Matthew Henry's answer on the subject.

In the fourth day's work, the creation of the sun, moon, and stars is accounted for. All these are the works of God. The stars are spoken of as they appear to our eyes, without telling their number, nature, place, size, or motions; for the Scriptures were written, not to gratify curiosity, or make us astronomers, but to lead us to God, and make us saints. The lights of heaven are made to serve him; they do it faithfully, and shine in their season without fail. (From Matthew Henry's Commentary.)

## Section 7

*20Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." 21God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. 22God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day. 24Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. 25God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:20-25)*

God made all the animals, and instructed them to reproduce "*after their kind*." The presence of this command from the very beginning should be sufficient to dismiss attempts to harmonize Genesis and Darwinian evolution. Moreover, the Levitical Law clearly forbids the crossbreeding of both plants and animals.

**19'You are to keep My statutes. You shall not breed together two kinds of your cattle; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor wear a garment upon you of two kinds of material mixed together. (Leviticus 19:19)**

In short, God made specific species (or at least genera) of plants and animals from the very beginning. While a greater or lesser degree of variation has occurred among plant and animal life has occurred since creation, no new "*kinds*" have appeared, and we are not to tamper with the created order in an attempt to "improve" upon what God has made. In light of this, the current proliferation of "genetically modified" plants and animals, and most especially the creation of "chimeras" (for example, pigs with human blood), must be seen as an abomination before God.

## Section 8

26Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. 31God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:1-31)

God said, "Let Us make man...." God's reference to Himself in the plural has almost universally been interpreted by Christians as an indication of the plurality of Persons in the Godhead. God is One, but exists in Three Persons, Father, Son, and Spirit. The New Testament plainly identifies all Three as God.

**30"I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)**

**26"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, (John 15:26)**

Man is made in God's image. This refers not so much to our bodily form as to our possession of an eternal soul, having the capacity for fellowship and communion with God, and responsibility before God to obey Him and to give an account for our obedience. Paul speaks of the regeneration that occurs when one becomes a Christian as the restoration of the image of God in him.

**9Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him-- 11a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. (Colossians 3:9-11)**

**17So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (Ephesians 4:17-24)**

While God evidently filled the earth with plants, animals, fish, birds, and insects, He made one man and one woman. Thus, all of mankind is descended from this first pair. This fact should serve as a rebuttal to all that claim the superiority of one "race" over the others. All are descended from Adam.

**26and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' (Acts 17:26-28)**

Unfortunately, when Adam sinned, He passed on the sinful nature to each of his descendants. We are, by birth and nature, sinners, abominable before God, and in desperate need of a Savior to prevent our justly being cast into Hell forever.

**21For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)**

**12Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—(Romans 5:12)**

Man is to rule over creation, exercising dominion, not domination. The first term refers to faithful rule and government under God, the second refers to man trying to usurp God's place as Lord and King of all creation, and unlawfully trying to subject all of creation and other people's to his will. God warned the Israelites to, when they demanded a king, ensure that he read, studied, believed, and followed God's Law. When they had kings that did this, Israel enjoyed peace and prosperity. When they had kings that were rebellious, they suffered war, want, and death.

**14**"When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' **15**you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman. **16**"Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.' **17**"He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. **18**"Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. **19**"It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, **20**that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel. (Deuteronomy 17:14-20)

The establishment of earthly governments among men is part of God's intent for our dominion, and we are to obey those in authority as an act of obedience to God.

**1**Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. **2**Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. **3**For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; **4**for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. **5**Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. **6**For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. **7**Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. **8**Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. (Romans 13:1-8)

However, when those authorities overstep their bounds and force us to choose between obedience to God and obedience to man, we are to obey God at all costs.

**29**But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)

Notice that God gave Man fruits and vegetables for food, but not animals. God did not specifically give man animals for food until after the Flood, although it is possible and even likely that men began to eat meat soon after the Fall.

**1**And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. **2**"The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. **3**"Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. **4**"Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. **5**"Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.

**6**"Whoever sheds man's blood,  
By man his blood shall be shed,  
For in the image of God  
He made man.

**7**"As for you, be fruitful and multiply;  
Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it." (Genesis 9:1-7)

Why was there not carnivorous behavior before the Fall, because death did not enter the world until man sinned. It was sin that introduced both physical and spiritual death into the world, and that resulted in our need for a Savior.

**23**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

## Section 9

Have any of you actually read Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*? I have. You would think that, for all the veneration that this man has received, his book would be a model of scientific method and scholarly acumen. You would, however, be mistaken. Instead, it's just a book full of suppositions based on assumptions of atheism and uniformitarianism—I'm not sure it even rises to the level of what scientists would now term a "theory." To me, such thinking is the result of the rejection of God and His Word, even the first chapters of Genesis. Paul tells us in Romans 1 that the rejection of God leads to foolishness, which is what much of the academic establishment now spews forth.

**18**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **19**because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. **20**For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being

understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. 28And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32)

Man is sinful, and has rejected God and His Law from the very beginning. Our sin makes us despicable in God's eyes, and He will reject us unless we repent—turn away from sin—and believe on Him. He promises to accept—to save—all that call on Him in faith!

37Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39"For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." (Acts 2:37-39)

9that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (Romans 10:9-13)