

Creation Theories (*Genesis 1-2*)

I. Introduction.

Background. Many denigrate the Bible as irrational, unscientific, or in error based upon the prevailing scientific estimated age of the universe. They see the Bible state that God created everything in 6-days, records about 4,000 years of genealogies, plus about 2,000 years since Christ. Over millennia, scientific estimates have varied wildly in 10's-100's of thousands, millions, and billions of years in age. In 2024, the universe is estimated to be 13.7B years old, plus or minus several hundred million years. Whatever estimate science coalesces upon is fine with the Biblical creationist. Creationists believe an eternal God created the universe supernaturally from nothing, so do not need any extra time. Evolutionists believe eternal matter exploded and evolved into everything over billions of years. Whatever the age, it matters not to the creationist.

Several late (18th-21st century) theories have arisen in an attempt for Christians to accommodate what they have been taught as scientific fact. Out of an attempt to reconcile evolutionary models or their need for additional time, **3 Key theories** have arisen and been forcibly imposed back into the normal literal reading of the *Genesis* creation account.

1. **Gap Theory.** Briefly it states that between *Genesis 1:1* and *1:2* there is a gap of undetermined time (consistent with whatever science believes today). They focus on "*the earth was without form, and void*" and discuss various judgments of God and 2 creation accounts, one in *Genesis 1* and the other in *Genesis 2*.
2. **Day-Age Theory.** Briefly it states that each day was an unknown period (consistent with whatever science believes today), but not a 24-hour or solar-day. To support this, they say a day can mean a period. They cite *Psa. 90:4* and *2Pe. 3:8* where they believe a day does not always mean a day. They also state that even though God created light and darkness on Day 1, the sun and moon were not created until Day 4 to even have a solar-day.
3. **Theistic Evolution.** Briefly states that God created the universe, but let it macro-evolve by its own natural processes He established. That way, this view can be consistent with whatever time and processes science believes today.
4. **Creation** (God alone, completed creation, with what we see today not as good, with less species than originally made). This true view maintains the *Genesis 1-2* creation account was accomplished in 6 literal 24-hour days. *Exodus 20:11*—"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the

*sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 31:17—"It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever: for in **six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed." Psa. 33:9—"For He spoke, and it was done, He commanded, and it stood fast."***

II. Scripture.

1. **1:1-2**—CREATION ACCOUNT OR OVERVIEW: "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*"
2. **1:3-31**—6 LITERAL DAYS OF CREATION: All begin with "*And God said...*" (**Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24**). And all end with "*And the evening and the morning were the ___ day*" (where "___" is first, second, third, fourth, fifth, or sixth; **Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31**).
 - A. "*The first day*" - Day 1 (**1:1-5**)—
 - B. "*The second day*" - Day 2 (**1:6-8**)—
 - C. "*The third day*" - Day 3 (**1:9-13**)—
 - D. "*The fourth day*" - Day 4 (**1:14-19**)—
 - E. "*The fifth day*" - Day 5 (**1:20-23**)—
 - F. "*The sixth day*" - Day 6 (**1:24-31**)—
3. **2:1**—CREATION FINISHED: "*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.*"
4. **2:2-3**—7th DAY GOD RESTS: "*God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.*"
5. **2:4**—CREATION DETAIL: Begins with "*These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.*"
6. **2:5-6**— NO RAIN, EARTH SUSTAINED, WORKERS NEEDED: "*God had not caused it to rain upon the earth*" and God used "*a mist*" to water "*the whole face of the ground.*" God says that the earth needed someone to work, "*till,*" or take care of "*the ground.*"

7. **2:7**—CREATED MAN: "***And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.***"
8. **2:8**—PLANTED GARDEN, PLACED MAN: God "***planted a garden eastward in Eden***" and put man there "***whom He had formed.***"
9. **2:9**—FOOD & GROWTH: "***And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.***"
10. **2:10-14**—RIVER & RICHES: God had made a river "***out of Eden to water the garden***" that parted into 4 rivers and there was good gold, "***bdellium and onyx stone.***"
11. **2:15**—PURPOSE: God's purpose for man in "***the garden of Eden***" was "***to dress it and to keep it.***"
12. **2:16-17**—PROHIBITION & PENALTY: "***And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.***"
13. **2:18**—MAN NEEDED HELP: God said it was not good for man to be alone so He planned to create a "***help meet for him.***"
14. **2:19-20**—MAN NAMED ANIMALS: God "***formed every beast...and every fowl...and brought them to Adam***" and Adam named "***every living creature...but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.***"
15. **2:21-22**—WOMAN CREATED: God caused Adam to sleep deeply, took 1 of his ribs, closed his wound, and made "***a woman, and brought her unto***" Adam.
16. **2:23**—MAN NAMED WOMAN: Adam acknowledged she was from his bones and flesh and named her "***Woman.***"
17. **2:24**—MARRIAGE INSTITUTED: "***Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.***").

18. **2:25**—INNOCENCE: Adam and Eve "**were both naked**" "**and were not ashamed.**"

III. Application.

1. Is it more reasonable to believe: 1) What God's Word says is how He created everything? 2) What the prevailing scientists currently theorize is the origin of the universe? or 3) An extra-Biblical way that attempts to reconcile what God says and scientists believe?

2. Did God need any time to miraculously create the universe (every material and immaterial thing that exists) out of nothing? Why?

3. Why does an atheistic or agnostic evolutionist need time for the origins of our universe?

4. Why do creation theories (other than completed Creation by God alone or Young Earth Creationists) add an undetermined amount of time into their creation accounts?

5. Why is the creation account paramount for Christians to believe and understand?

6. Can you really trust that God speaks to us with literal words that everyone can understand? Why?

7. After studying the theories and **Gen. 1-2**, do you believe in the literal creation account (a young Earth with the appearance of age)? Why or why not?