*Beginning**

Genesis 1:1-5 (1) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
(2) 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.
(3) And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
(4) And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
(5) And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.
Why is there so much confusion, controversy and falsity concerning the grandest doctrine that is relevant to all mankind? The special creation of all things by the eternal, self-existent God. If atheists, agnostics, and humanist can cause just a minuscule doubt about the beginning as recorded in the Bible, satan has achieved his intent. The first four words in the old testament and of the entire Bible says; In the beginning God. *One fact stands out, God was already here, and He created the heaven and the earth and everything therein! In the garden of Eden, satan appeared in the form of a serpent. Having already used that masquerade, in these last days one of the forms he appears in, is the form of scientists falsely so called, to create doubt in the beginning of creation. A child may ask where did God come from in sincerity, however atheists, agnostics, and unbelievers use this question to further the agenda of satan. It is true that God's children are creatures of faith and need so to be.* So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17) . *The atheist boldly states that God does not exist; the theist affirms just as boldly that God does exist; the agnostic laments that there is not enough evidence to make a decision; and the skeptic doubts that God's existence can be proven with certainty. Who is correct? Does God exist or not? So, does*

the Word have anything to say about God's lifespan? Listen to this; Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God (Psalm 90:2). *Or this;* Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the **everlasting God**, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding (Isaiah 40:28). *The atheist has asked, "Where did God come from?" God did not "come from" anywhere, nor is He "going to" somewhere. That would posit an origin, and possibly an end for God, when, in fact, He possesses neither, He is everlasting, eternal, without beginning or end, forever and has always existed and always will. Are you listening?;*
Romans 1:18-20 (18) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;
(19) Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.
(20) For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his **eternal power and Godhead**; so that they are without excuse:
"Where did God come from?" Is in the truest sense of language—a nonsensical question. It is right and proper to inquire regarding the origin of matter/energy (or any other temporal, non-eternal entity), because such entities do, in fact have origins. But one cannot inquire logically regarding the origin of an entity that is defined as eternal, for such a question is meaningless. Therefor, in the truest sense that can be expressed by language, the life expectancy of God is without beginning or end; lasting forever; always existing. Although we cannot see him, faith in His existence is without excuse. Observation of His handiwork is evidence enough to prove the manifestation of His existence. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so

that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear (Heb 11:3). *However not all have faith in God, and instead put their trust in humanist ideas, which is rejection of the Christian religion in favor of a belief that the advancement of humanity is by its own efforts. For the pure of heart, the rejection of God's word can only lead to one conclusion;* There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Pro 14:12). *Long ago, Solomon addressed the plight of humanist ideas in these words;* Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it (Ecclesiastes 8:17). *Although atheistic scientists have attempted to answer questions about the beginning of creation for many years, still no one has a legitimate naturalistic explanation for what New Scientist magazine calls our planet's "biggest mysteries," To conclude that Earth received just the right amount of "carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, and sulfur," by time, chance, and non-intelligence is irrational. Question everything; What has time, chance, and non-intelligence ever produced? The fact is; there is not an adequate non-intelligent, random, naturalistic cause for the "just-right" Earth to exist. The only rational explanation for the precise design of Earth, the cosmos as a whole, and life on Earth is an intelligent supernatural Creator.* Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre (Psalm 45:6). Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen (1Tim 1:17). *And just how much time does it take the only wise God to create everything material? Well listen to this;* 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 20:11). *God ended His*

work at the conclusion of the sixth day, His crowning achievement being the creation of mankind. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: (Genesis 1:26). *The word does not stop there, it reveals how He achieved that task in the next chapter.* 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 (Gen 2:7). *One thing of amusement to me personally, is how dust can get onto and into everything. And everyone knows dusting is a demanding chore. So it is with God concerning man whom He made of dust. Now turn to;*

Genesis 3:1-6 (1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

(2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

(3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

(4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

(5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

(6) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

This almost seems too easy doesn't it? Why did the deception apparently require so little effort? Bare with me and consider some thoughts about this situation, why was Eve so easily deceived? Part of the answer could have been the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Eve may not have been aware of lust, but it must have existed because

mankind possessed freedom of choice. Without lust can there be freedom of choice? Turn with me to;
1John 2:15-17 (15) Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
(16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes,and the pride of life,is not of the Father, but is of the world.
(17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.
There is no doubt Eve was deceived by satan, but listen to this; she had never heard a lie, how was she to distinguish? When in doubt, obey the word of God, that's what Eve should have done. The other considerations were, when she saw the food value of the tree (the lust of the flesh), and it's pleasing nature to behold (the lust of the eyes), and the desire to make one wise (the pride of life), she broke the commandment of God by her own free will. However Adam was not deceived by satan, he willing accepted the forbidden fruit from the hand of Eve. Therefore, both were guilty of disobedience and both suffered the penalty. Turn with me to;
Genesis 3:22-23 (22) And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:
(23) Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.
In the beginning satan had the capacity to make moral decisions but choosing not to, he was held accountable for his actions. He is still as devious as ever. Therefore one should be careful of the minuscule doubts that satan will try to plant into our minds by surreptitious methods. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1Peter 5:8).
Now consider this teaching of Paul concerning the gospel;

Galatians 1:6-8 (6) I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
(7) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
(8) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
Were these people removed from Him because of minuscule doubts planted in their minds by satan's ministers? Faithful Christians, there is not another gospel, but there be some that would pervert that gospel, perhaps unknowingly. Take for example Apollos who unknowingly was perverting the gospel, but after instruction gladly accepted the knowledge of truth contained within the gospel. He was not contentious as some are, he accepted the gospel willingly, wanting only the gospel truth. Turn with me to;
Acts 18:24-28 (24) And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.
(25) This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.
(26) And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.
(27) And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:
(28) For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.
We must realize the gospels contain teaching that is peculiar to the Law, the original moral law, and that law is both preparatory and anticipatory for the Kingdom of Christ. When

this biblical fact is realized and accepted, then it becomes a matter of carefully studying and determining if a particular teaching within the gospels is Mosaic, or a Kingdom truth. One should; Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2Timothy 2:15). *Place the truths where they belong when considering the gospels. Up until the time of John the Baptist, the ordiances of the law was preached. This is where the emphasis was placed. But from that time on, the emphasis was on preparing the way of the Lord and the kingdom that was at hand. Even the prophets of old prophesied of the Christ and His kingdom.* And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, (Daniel 7:14). *It is true the ordinances of the law were in force until the cross and that Jesus came to fulfill the law. Nevertheless, the preaching of John the Baptist was to prepare the way of the Lord and the preaching of Jesus was primarily of the approaching kingdom of God, or the church of our Lord. It is in the gospel of Matthew we learn that Christ would build His Church. Without that knowledge we would be in the dark. He said;* And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt 16:18). *Astonishingly Paul describes the gospel as the power of God. What power could be greater? Listen to this;*
Romans 1:16-17 (16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
(17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
The very first verse in the gospel according to Mark is about the beginning of that power. Turn with me to;
Mark 1:1-3 (1) The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the

Son of God;
(2) As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.
(3) The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
There are two scriptures that deal exclusively with a beginning, they are Genesis 1:1, the beginning of the universe, however there was much to do before it was complete, and Mark 1:1, the beginning of the gospel, however there was much to do before it became complete, the climax being God's Son on the cross. Sadly, there have been dismemberment attempts made against both. Mark chapter 1 tells of Christ coming to John to be baptized, (v 9-11). After that we find Jesus came preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God. We would not know "time was fulfilled," if not for the beginning of the gospel; now thumb down to verses;
14-15 (14) Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
(15) And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.
The preaching of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, was preparatory to the apostles preaching the gospel, that began on the day of Pentecost. Jesus preached the kingdom was at hand while the apostles preached the Kingdom had arrived. The four gospels are a transition period from faith to faith and are positioned where they belong. The gospels are the hinge upon which the door of the old law was closed and opened the door of the gospel of Christ. The gospels contain numerous references to things that did not apply during the lifetime of Jesus, but of anticipation. For instance the description of the new birth in John 3:3-5. This new birth cannot be regarded as in the old law, because the old law could not translate one into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Did the gospel that the apostles preached after the cross pertain to the New

Testament or to the Old? Obviously it was the New, because it was Jesus that told them to preach the gospel to all the world in Mark 16:15 after He had risen. The old law, looking forward in anticipation to the coming Messiah fulfilled it's course. In the gospels, anticipation was replaced by reality and consummated on the cross. If the four gospels were a part of the old, then where were the salvation promises to every tribe, nation and tongue promised by Christ in Mark 16:16? Forgiveness was not promised in the old law, but in the gospel. The victory of the Messiah was; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (Col 2:14).
The gospel was not a part of that handwriting of ordinances that was against us. NO, in the gospels the ordinances were taken out of the way, nailed to His cross. Furthermore the gospel of Christ is faultless and therefore could not have been a part of the old in which were faults! Are you listening?
Hebrews 8:7-13 (7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.
(8) For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:
(9) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.
(10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:
(11) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.
(12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their

sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.
(13) In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.
That new covenant had it's beginning in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John verified in;
Hebrews 2:1-3 (1) Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.
(2) For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;
(3) How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;
Salvation was spoken by the Lord first in the gospels, listen Mark in the first statement he had written said; The beginning of the gospel. *A beginning is the first part or the first action of a new promise, thus a beginning is the first part of a future or present tense, not past tense. There are too many beginnings in the gospels for them to belong in the old. The prophecy of the Church, forgiveness of sins, the prophecy fulfillment of Messiah, all beginning in the gospels. Belief in the gospel is the cause, trust and confidence. Faith in Christ, the effect. Only those who first believe the testimony, and by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus is the Son of God, and are baptized into His death for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of God assuring them of pardon. If there are prayer requests for other reasons, please come while we gently persuade with song.*

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

surreptitious; (1). done, acquired, etc, in secret or by improper means (2). operating by stealth (3). characterized by fraud or misrepresentation of the truth

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Christ and the Time of Creation

by Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

Evidence for Creation › Evidence from Scripture › Accurate Data › Scientific Accuracy

Christians who go along with the standard "old-earth" model of the evolutionists need to realize that they are going against the strong testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, for He clearly affirmed the truth of recent creation. Jesus Christ was the Creator of all things (note John 1:1-3,10; Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:2,10; etc.) and so knows far more about when He created the world than all the modern evolutionary geologists and Big Bang astronomers combined. Christ says there have been people on the earth since the very beginning of the world--and He ought to know, for He was there!

For example, when the Pharisees asked Him about marriage and divorce, He replied that "from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6). He did not say that God made the first man and woman fifteen billion years after the beginning of the creation, but right from the beginning of the creation. In fact, the whole creation had been prepared for them (even the stars had been made to serve them "for signs, and for seasons," Genesis 1:14,16), and they were given "dominion … over all the earth" (Genesis 1:26). Such a stewardship responsibility would be an anachronism if animals and plants had already been living and dying—many even becoming extinct—for long ages before they were placed under some kind of human "dominion" (note also Hebrews 2:6-8).

Soon after this primeval dominion mandate, sin and death entered the world, and God had to begin His work of redemption. His divine Lamb "was foreordained before the foundation of the world" and to all intents and purposes became "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world," with the names of those who would be redeemed "written in the book of life from the foundation of the world" (I Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8; 17:8). What conceivable purpose could God have had in interposing a billion years of suffering and death in the animal kingdom prior to implementing His great plan of salvation for lost men and women? He is neither cruel nor capricious, and would never be guilty of such pointless sadism. A further question is why so many evangelical Christians seem eager to advocate such an unworthy compromise!

Beginning with Abel (the first prophet of God according to Jesus in Luke 11:51), God sent prophet after prophet to transmit His word to men. More often than not, their message was opposed, even to the point of bloodshed, and this has been going on from the beginning. Jesus Himself referred to "the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world" (Luke 11:50). That is, prophets have been preaching and dying since the very foundation of the world—not starting five billion years later.

This opposition to God's plan has been instigated by Satan himself. Jesus called Satan "a liar, and the father of it," as well as "a murderer from the beginning"

(John 8:44). He had not only deceived Eve with his humanistic philosophy ("ye shall be as gods," Genesis 3:5), but also had caused Cain to murder God's first prophet. This too was at "the beginning," not five billion years after the beginning, for even if animals had been dying for a billion years before this, as theistic evolutionists claim, their deaths could not be called "murders." Note also 1 John 3:8: "The devil sinneth from the beginning."

There is yet coming a time of God's great wrath on this unbelieving world. Again it was Jesus who said: "In those days shall be affliction, such as was not since the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time" (Mark 13:19). The clear premise of this prophecy by Christ was that there had, indeed, been tribulation and affliction "since the beginning of the creation which God created" (and, therefore, people had been on the earth all during that time), but that the coming period of "great tribulation" would be still worse.

Also note that, according to these words of Christ, the creation had both a "beginning" and a termination ("created" is in the past tense, in consistency with the use of this word all through the Bible). The world and its inhabitants are not continuously being created, as evolutionists and many progressive creationists would have us believe, for the creation was a completed event of the past. See also Hebrews 4:3 for a clear affirmation that all of God's "works were finished from the foundation of the world."

Thus, the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom all things were created in the beginning, has repeatedly made it clear that the supposed billions of years of a groaning, travailing creation (note Romans 8:22) prior to man's creation and fall never existed at all. God created men and women at the beginning, and then, when Adam sinned, quickly began to implement His great plan of redemption. To the redeemed He has promised "a kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34), without the slightest intimation that there would be a fifteen-billion-year prelude before He would ever start the program of redemption.

The same emphasis was later carried forward by His apostles. Peter, for example, promised the soon return of Christ, "whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21).

Similarly, at the birth of John the Baptist, the prophet/priest Zacharias stressed that God's "horn of salvation" was coming, "as He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began" (Luke 1:70). Thus, just before and just after Christ's earthly ministry, we are assured that Jesus spoke clearly and truly when He said that God's prophets have been transmitting God's word to man not just since human history began, but "since the world began." Thus, the world and its human inhabitants began essentially at the same time.

Consider also the testimony of the apostle Paul: "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things

that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). This powerful verse explicitly tells us that the evidences of God can be seen so clearly in His created world that it is inexcusable for people not to see them. Furthermore, they were being seen and understood by people, not just since a certain imaginary population of evolving hominids somehow acquired souls, but "from the creation of the world."

Lest anyone equivocate over the meaning of "world," note that two different Greek words have been translated as "world" in the passages cited above. In Matthew 13:35; 25:34; Luke 11:50; Hebrews 1:10; 4:3; 1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; and Romans 1:20, the Greek word is kosmos. In Matthew 24:21; Mark 13:19 and Acts 3:21, the word is an aion. As defined in Strong's Greek Dictionary of the New Testament, kosmos means an "orderly arrangement" (that is, a cosmos instead of a chaos), referring in Biblical context to the fact that the heavens, the earth, life, man, and man's systems had been divinely designed and arranged, not randomly produced by chance processes. Aion is defined as "age," and as "world," thus carrying the concept of both time and maker. In modem terminology, it suggests the space-time-maker "continuum" which constitutes our physical universe. Thus, whether the "world" in these texts is considered as the universe of space, time, and maker, or as the orderly structure of all its components, it does not make any difference as far as the time of creation is concerned. People have been a part of the created world since both the beginning of time and the foundation of the world.

This, of course, is also the teaching of all Old Testament passages dealing with this subject, as well as other New Testament verses we cannot consider here because of limited space. In my book, Biblical Creationism (Baker, 1993), I have analyzed every passage in the Bible dealing in any way with the subject of creation, with the conclusion that the unequivocal teaching of the whole Bible is recent creation of all things. There is no hint of long geological or astronomical ages before man anywhere in the Bible.

Why, then, do so many Christians insist that we should believe in these long ages, pushing our Creator as far out in space and as far back in time as we possibly can? The apparent reason is that they feel it is more important to be "scientific" (as currently defined) than Biblical (as eternally defined, Psalm 119:89). The statement of Dr. Pattle P. T. Pun, professor of biology at Wheaton College, is typical.

It is apparent that the most straightforward understanding of the Genesis record, without regard to all the hermeneutical considerations suggested by science [emphasis mine] is that God created heaven and earth in six solar days, ... However, the Recent Creationist position ... has denied and belittled the vast amount of scientific evidence amassed to support the theory of natural selection and the antiquity of the earth (Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation, March 1987, p. 14).

Although Dr. Pun is undoubtedly a sincere and gracious Christian, he feels,

nevertheless, that we must base our Biblical hermeneutics on "science," and the same is apparently true of most of his colleagues at Wheaton and in the American Scientific Affiliation, as well as of numerous leading theologians, scientists, and educators throughout the evangelical world.

Although ICR scientists (with academic qualifications at least equal to those of Dr. Pun and his colleagues), as well as large numbers of other creationist scientists in many fields hold the greatest respect for true science (i.e., knowledge, not naturalistic extrapolation), we believe that the clear teachings of Jesus Christ--as well as God's word in general--must be given higher priority. His approval carries far greater value than that of our professional peers, in the light of eternity, and He taught that the world is young.