

Foundations 03

The beginning

God create the universe

“In the beginning God created the heaven
and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

Introduction

In our last study, we looked at “In the beginning **God**” (Genesis 1:1a).

Emphasis on God existing at the very beginning.

In fact before the beginning.

Today, I want to start back with this passage, but concentrating on another aspect of this passage,

“In the beginning God created” (Genesis 1:1a).

We have said the the book of Genesis is about the origins or beginnings of... well lots of things.

But today we are going to look at Genesis as the record of THE beginning.

The beginning of...

Everything

The very stuff of... creation itself.

Herbert Spencer - 5 types of stuff

In one of John MacArthur's sermons he notes that...

Herbert Spencer, a non-Christian scientist, hailed as one worthy of many prizes in science, died in 1903.

*His greatest achievement, was that he discovered **the categories of the knowable**.*

That is to say he determined that everything that exists fits into one of five categories.

This was hailed as a massive, massive cataloging of realities. Spencer said, “

Everything fits into one of these categories,

- ***time***
- ***force***
- ***action***
- ***space***
- ***matter,***”

This was hailed by the scientific community.

In Genesis 1:1 we read...

- ***“In the beginning,”*** that's time,
- ***“God,”*** that's force, “
- ***created,***” that's action,
- ***“the heavens,”*** that's space,
- ***“the earth,”*** that's matter.

*Everything that Herbert Spencer discovered in 1903, or before that, was **in the first verse of Scripture**.*

The Bible says that God created everything, and in saying that, the Bible gives us all the categories that exist.

And He did this out of and from nothing, that is with no preexisting material, and He did it in six days.

The Atiests view of “Creation”

Today many eminent scientists say that everything came out of an infinitesimally small dot of stuff.

A singularity of space that contained all the matter and energy in the whole universe.

This became rather embarrassing as there is a **lot of stuff or energy** to get onto that small sport and someone had to buy all this stuff and have it shipped and then squashed not that space.

The BBC say that *“a few physicists and cosmologists have started to tackle it. They point out that we now have an understanding of the history of the universe, [What they mean is they have a guess] and of the physical laws that describe how it works. That information, they say, should give us a clue about how and why the cosmos exists.”*

But before there was a universe... there were NO LAWS of the physical universe.

They themselves have to come from somewhere.

They then began to say that “space itself is unstable. Rather than remaining perfectly smooth and continuous, space and time destabilise, churning and frothing into a foam of space-time bubbles.”

In other words, little bubbles of space and time can form spontaneously.

Be careful because the vacuum in your Thermos flask could erupt into another big bang.

OK they do not say that the vacuum in your flask can become another Big Bang.

They say “It is possible for the bubble, (of space time), to survive. But for that **we need another trick: cosmic inflation.**

The idea is that, a fraction of a second after the Big Bang, the quantum-sized bubble of space expanded stupendously fast. In an incredibly brief moment, it went from being smaller than the nucleus of an atom to the size of a grain of sand. When the expansion finally slowed, the force field that had powered it was transformed into the matter and energy that fill the universe today. Alan Guth calls inflation "the ultimate free lunch".

God the Creator

The VERY first... of everything.

Let us first read all of Genesis on the first day.

And what a day it was.

"In **the beginning** God created the **heaven** and the **earth**. v2 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. v3 And God said, Let there be **light**: and there was light. v4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. v5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." (Genesis1:1-5)

In this simple passage just under 100 words... everything is made.

There is a lot more work to go after this...

But the stuff of the universe is established here.

In **THE** beginning.

"In the beginning" (Genesis 1:1a).

Time

Several things are pretty clear about this statement.

- This is not A beginning but THE beginning.
- Not just the start of the earth or history, but of TIME itself.

At the very start of the Bible, God brings TIME onto being and for that moment on the Bible records the record of what happened in time.

History is - His Story.

The heaven and the earth.

"In the beginning God created **the heaven** and the earth." (Genesis1:1)

Heaven

Often the visible arch in which the clouds move the sky but can also mean the higher realm where the celestial bodies, (the stars and planets), exist...

We normally call it - Space.

But more than just the place where the stars are... but the very...

Three dimensions of where stuff is.

This "heaven" the space where this stuff is... is or will be is growing or spreading out.

The Bible says of God, that He...

"... spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea." (Job 9:8)

Three dimensions... Plus Time this gives us were and when stuff is... but we have not stuff.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and **the earth.**" (Genesis1:1)

Earth

Meaning something like "to be firm."

Often the planet that live on or the ground.

But probably here we are probably talking about the very STUFF that makes up everything.

The stuff of... stuff

Evolution teaches that nothing exploded into everything...

All but itself...

Nothing exploded —> and there was stuff.

The only creative explosion in history

If only they know it... they are only a tiny bit off.

Nothing did explode into everything...

But it was pushed...

God created Ex nihilo out of nothing.

Everything we see is made by God **out of nothing**.

"Ex nihilo" is Latin for "out of nothing": when phrased as ex nihilo nihil fit, "nothing comes from nothing", it means that the universe was formed from eternal matter; as creatio ex nihilo, "creation out of nothing", it means that matter is not eternal but had to be created by some eternal uncaused cause, frequently defined as God.

"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.**" (Hebrews 11:3)

God did not make the universe out of pre-existing stuff, but new and from nothing.

Matter and energy

The stuff we see...

This table, this microphone...

Are not really very solid at all.

A carpenter, knows about the grain of the wood and how it will cut or plain.

A molecular physicist knows that the wood is made of protons and neutrons and electrons and most of the stuff of the object is...

Empty space.

Electrons are just energy

Protons and Neutrons are made of quarks.

We can not see quarks. No one can but they still effect every part of your life.

We are supposed to believe this even though we can not see it.

But God... you can not see Him, how can you believe in him

We see the effects of Quarks and know they are there...

We see the effect of a knowledgable creative God, and now He is there.

"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." (Psalms 33:6)

"For he spake, and it was done; he
commanded, and it stood fast." (Psalms
33:9)

Talking of speaking...

And God said, Let there be **light:** and
there was light." (Genesis1:3)

Light.

Illumination or luminary - bright, clear, + day, light.

But - here in this verse probably the whole electromagnetic
spectrum.

There is no... Daylight, or rather no Sun and therefore
no sunshine.

But there is light.

So not we have...

- Time
- Space - as in where stuff is
- Matter or the stuff
- Light in all its greatness from ionising radiation to radio waves

Science and Creation

Work it backwards

Science looks at the evidence we have in the stuff we have around us, but are not big on eye witness testimony and even less so when it comes to the Bible.

A book that is more reliable than any historic book that we are told are reliable history like, Julius Caesar Gallic War.

So looking at the stuff science says...

The universe is expanding... therefore...

It must have been smaller.

But just how much smaller.

We know that the universe is expansion, the Bible agrees with that. In fact we could have know that way before Hubble and the Doppler effect.

But without a know starting point science... just kept running the middle backwards until they came to the idea an infinitesimally small dot.

But they actually have no evidence for that being the right point to start the model of expansion form.

Cars on the M25

Cars on the M25 have not always been circling the M25, we just can not see the start of the journey.

But if you just ran the model backwards no one would every start the journey.

Theoretical physics.

Theoretical physics can help us understand some things, but at points id does brake down.

In the university lecture room, **three oranges, take away five oranges = minus two oranges.**

Now take that down to the university **canteen** and pass a bowl of three oranges around a tale of five students and each of you take one.

You aren't left with minus two oranges, but a punch up, over the last orange.

God stretched out the heavens.

"I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, **have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.**" (Isaiah 45:12)

The universe is expanding, but not from an infinitesimal dot that was the beginning of everything.

But from the state that God created it in and then stretched it out from.

"He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and **hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.**" (Jeremiah 10:12)

Conclusion

There are lots of conclusions that we could come to...

The creator does not need the creation.

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" (Acts 17:24)

Many "god's" have to have followers bring them food and cloth them, wash them...

The true God.

The creator God is powerful and does not need to be helped.

God is worthy of our praise because he has created all things.

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Revelation 4:11)

Infant he is our help.

"Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth." (Psalms 124:8)

Perhaps the most obvious and the one I want to really grasp is...

God made it all... He owns it all

Everything belongs to God

If God created all things - and He did.

And made them all from nothing - and He did

The all of it belongs to God.

- You
- Me
- Our money
- Our family
- Our Nations

It all belongs to God

God sets the rules.

If everything belongs to God...

He... Should he choose - and He dose - can set the rules.

Manopoly

In England we think of Monopoly as game owned by John Waddington Ltd.

But they licensed it of Parker Brothers

The Parker Brothers brought the game from Charles Darrow but Charles Darrow did not own the game outright and they then had to buy the rights form Lizzie Magie who fist cam up with the game as a teaching aid to explain the negative aspects of private monopolies owning too much land.

God dose not have to buy the rights to creation form anyone.

He owns it and writes the rules.

You may not like that...

But that is how it is.

We will examine his rules for life and righteous living another time.

Today we are just establishing in our minds his right, that everything is the Lords.

For every house is builded by some man;
but he that built all things is God.
(Hebrews 3:4)

He build it. It is His.

The Earth is the Lords...

For the earth is the Lord's, and the
fulness thereof. (1 Corinthians 10:26)

The Land is His...

The land shall not be sold for ever: for
the land is mine; for ye are strangers and
sojourners with me. (Leviticus 25:23)

The stuff of the land is His.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine,
saith the LORD of hosts. (Haggai 2:8)

The animals of the Earth are His.

For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. (Psalm 50:10)

The PEOPLE.

You and me are His.

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. (Ezekiel 18:4)

That might sound a little... intimidating!

Or oppressive.

But God is a caring God.

God - is not distant

Let us compare these two passages that at just a few verses apart.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**
v2 The same was in the beginning with God.
v3 **All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.** (John 1:1-3)

So “the Word” (Jesus) is both God and creator of all things.

Yet...

"And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us**, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Jesus - God - the creator of all things -

"dwelt among us" !!!

The translations of that is... "to tent or encamp"

He pitched his tent next to ours.

Or in modern terminology...

"He lived just down the road from us"

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath **shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**" (2 Corinthians 4:6)

The creator of Light itself,

Came as Jesus to live with us, that we might know him.

And to die for our sins.