Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 2 – Jesus, The Creator of Everything!)

(Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Isaiah 44:24; John 1:1-3; Col.1:15-16; Heb.1:2)

Genesis 1:1

The beginning of the five basic scientific realities (in a physical universe) are mentioned in Gen. 1:1

1. Time = In the beginning
2. Space = The heavens
3. Matter = The earth
4. Force = The Spirit of God
5. Motion = moved (F.H. Capron, cited by Thomas, p. 31)

1. The Plural name <u>ELOHIM</u> allows for the claim that Jesus Christ took part in Creation (Genesis 1:1)

2. The Plural Pronouns "<u>Us…Our</u>" allow for the claim that Jesus Christ took part in Creation (Genesis 1:26-27)

3. The References to Plurality in the Creation Account must be reconciled with the claim that <u>God alone Created all things</u>.

Isaiah 44:24 "Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, **I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens <u>alone</u>; that spreadeth abroad the earth <u>by myself</u>"**

4. Several different N.T. writers give the answer to the mystery of the creation account

a. The Testimony of John

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

b. The Testimony of the writer of Hebrews

Heb. 1:2 – God…Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds**;

c. The Testimony of the Apostle Paul

Col. 1:15-16 - Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **For by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Since Jesus made it all, then I am RESPONSIBLE to Glorify and Trust my Creator, Jesus Christ!

I am His by virtue of Creation, and by virtue of Salvation

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

If a Creator exists, these are some of the resultant consequences:

1) I am known by the Creator.
2) I am inferior to the superior Creator.
3) I am responsible to the Creator.
4) I will be judged (held accountable) by the Creator.
5) I should live for the glory and purpose of the Creator.
6) I am not the master of my life. *Therefore, I cannot live any way I please; I must do His will.*

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Genesis 1:1

Introduction:

Genesis, a book inspired by God (II Tim. 3:16) and written through Moses, is the first book of the Hebrew Torah (Law) and is titled by the first word in the book - *"Bereshith."*

It is the first of five books called in Greek "The *Pentateuch."*

The English Word "Genesis" is derived from the Greek Septuagint's title for this book. In Hebrew, its title *"Bereshith"* (from the first word) means origin or beginnings. So "Genesis" means beginnings or origin.

This is an appropriate title since this book records the beginnings of the entire physical universe.

Genesis gives us an accurate understanding of how. . .

--the world began (an understanding which eludes the minds of the proud, humanistic, so-called agnostics and atheists)

--mankind began

--the family began (through Adam and Eve)

--sin began (in the Garden of Eden)

--government began (through Noah - Gen. 9:6)

--the world's nations began (through Shem, Ham, and Japheth)

--the Jewish nation began (through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)

The beginning of salvation history-- the story of God and man, sin and grace, wrath and mercy, covenant and redemption-- also begins in the Book of Genesis. These themes are repeated often throughout the rest of the Bible.
(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary) (Copyright (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

An understanding of Genesis is foundational to all theology and doctrinal understanding. The rest of the Bible builds on the historical facts presented in this book.

"It is no accident that God is the subject of the first sentence of the Bible." (Derek Kidner, Genesis, p. 43).

God is the focus of the entire Bible.

In Gen. 1:1, God does not prove Himself; He asserts Himself. He does not argue for His existence; rather, He bolding states it.

This is instructive to us regarding our apologetic (defense of the faith). We don't need to prove the existence of God to anyone. God's creation does a good enough job of that (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:20).

I'm a presuppositionalist: I presuppose that all men know God exists (whether or not they will admit it. "There are no atheists in foxholes.")

Verse one summarizes the whole chapter. God made everything.

Gen.1:1 - "Baresheet bara elohim at hashamayim wat ha-aretz"

So much is said in ten words.

The first chapter of Genesis has probably given rise to more thought, discussion, and controversy than any other (W.H. Griffith Thomas, Genesis, p. 24).

While many call it "Myth from man's imagination," I believe it is "historical fact from divine revelation."

***In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**

Genesis 1:1 teaches us that… **There is a POINT at which TIME BEGAN**

"The beginning" - Not the beginning of eternity; nor the beginning of the abode of God (the "third heaven" - II Cor. 12:2), but the beginning of the physical universe (the earth's globe, the sky, and outer space).

The beginning of the five basic scientific realities (in a physical universe) are mentioned in Gen. 1:1-2 -

1. Time = In the beginning
2. Space = The heavens
3. Matter = The earth
4. Force = The Spirit of God
5. Motion = moved

(F.H. Capron, cited by Thomas, p. 31)

Until God spoke creation into existence, nothing existed.

We are today living in a "bubble" of time which had its beginning in Gen. 1:1.

Although the eternal God is not bound by time ("One day is as a thousand years"), He has chosen to create time, and to allow His temporal creation to exist during a limited time frame. After the Millenium, time shall be no more, the former things shall pass away and eternity future will continue.

1. The Plural name ELOHIM allows for the claim that Jesus Christ took part in Creation

(Genesis 1:1)

To substantiate our claim that Jesus took part in Creation, I first of all appeal to the word translated God. It is the noun, Elohim.

Elohim is the only name used for God in Gen. 1. This name, used over 2500 times in the Old Testament, refers to God as the "Strong One," the mighty God.

The word Elohim is a plural name. This is significant.

Some call it a plural of Majesty. We also know it as a plural of Tri-unity. That God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit took part in Creation as the One, true and living God.
In a day in which God wanted to teach monotheism, it is interesting that Moses uses a plural word to describe God. Why? To imply that there is plurality in the Godhead.

All things were created by the Triune Godhead
(The Trinity was involved in creation)

Evidence:

a. Man was created:

1) By the Father

- Rev. 4:11 - 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.)

2) By the Son

- John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- Col. 1:15-16 - Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

- Heb. 1:2 - Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3) By the Spirit

- Psalm 104:30 - Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.
- Job 33:4 - The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.
- cp. Gen. 2:7 - "breathed" and "breath" = "ruach," which can be translated "Spirit")

"The verb used for create (*bara*) is used in Scripture exclusively for the activity of God. Humans may "make" (*asa*), "form" (*yasar*), or "build" (*bana*); to the Hebrew, however, God creates." (Allen P. Ross, Creation and Blessing, p. 106).

God created the world out of nothing
("Exnihilo" - i.e. without pre-existing materials)

> ***"Created"*** - The Hebrew word "barah" (Gen. 1:1; 1:27; 2:3; 5:2) "refers to a sudden, supernatural, bringing into existence of something that previously did not exist" (John Whitcomb).
>
> Other Scriptural Evidence:
>
> a. Hebrews 11:3 -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.
>
> b. Psalm 33:6 -By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.
>
> c. The repeated phrase--"And God said. . . and it was so"--indicates that the act of creation took place by the instantaneous power of the word of God (Gen. 1:6-7; 9, 11, 24, etc.)

For God to create such a vast, and yet detailed, balanced and beautiful universe, He must be awesome.

His power made it all, and His wisdom made it all just right.

> **The 6 Days of Creation:**
>
> **DAY 1 - The Heavens/Earth & Light (1:1-5)**
>
> **DAY 2 - A Canopy Expanse in the Sky (v. 6-8)**
>
> **DAY 3 - Dry Land/Seas & Vegetation (v. 9-13)**
>
> **DAY 4 - The Sun, Moon, & Stars (v. 14-19)**
>
> **DAY 5 - Sea Life & Birds (v. 20-23)**
>
> **DAY 6 - Animals, Reptiles, Insects, & MAN (v. 24-31)**

2. The Plural Pronouns "Us…Our" allow for the claim that Jesus Christ took part in Creation

(Genesis 1:26-27)

Genesis 1:26-27

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" - The plural pronouns must refer to God Himself (not including angels); because v. 27 describes man as being created in the image of God (not God and angels).

Since the Scripture asserts that God Himself created all things (Is. 45:12, 18), the "us" cannot refer to finite angelic beings, but to God's own triune essence.

"Let us make man in our image" - The Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) was involved in creation.

Evidence:

a. Plural pronouns - Genesis 1:26 - "Let us make man in our image." Cp. verse 27 - "So God created man in his own image."

b. Man was created:
   1) By the Father (Rev. 4:11)
   2) By the Son (John 1:103; Col. 1:15-16; Heb. 1:2)
   3) By the Spirit (Psalm 104:30; Job 33:4; cp. Gen. 2:7 - "breathed" and "breath" = "ruach," which can be translated "Spirit")

Man was created in the image and likeness of God.

In what sense?

a. "Image" ("tselem") - points to man's personality features that are reproductions of God's spiritual, intellectual, and moral qualities.

b. "Likeness" ("demuth") - points to man as not being the same as God, but as being similar in pattern or model.

c. Why does God use both words, "image" and "likeness?"

   To avoid the implication that man is a precise copy of God, albeit in miniature, the less specific and more abstract word "demuth" ("likeness") was added by God. "Demuth" then defines and limits the meaning of "tselem" (Humbert, Barr, T.W.O.T. Vol. 1, p. 192).

d. Man bears the image of God in three senses:

1) Man is like God in that he is a person (with personality). A "person" is a being who possesses self-consciousness, self-determination, intellect, emotion, will, world-consciousness, etc.
2) Man is like God in that he has a spirit (Jn. 4:24; I Cor. 6:20; cp. Eph. 4:23-24)
3) Man is like God in that he has a moral nature (a basic, innate comprehension of right and wrong - Rom. 2:14; Eccl. 7:29).

When Adam sinned the image of God in man was marred and defiled but was not obliterated.

*Since mankind still retains this sense of the image of God, his life has a dignity and is to be respected, honored, and protected. Doing so honors the Creator (Gen. 9:6; James 3:9).

e. Important Notes:

1) Man's being created in the image and likeness of God does not mean that man is an emanation of God ("Ethical Monism").

Man is distinct from and in no way is he one in essence with God.

2) Also, man being created in the image and likeness of God in no way identifies God as being physical or corporal. The Bible is clear: "God is Spirit" (John 4:24).

The crown of God's creation – man – occurred on the sixth day.

Mankind was created last because he was the most special of God's creation. Special because he would be made in God's image and likeness and because he would rule over the rest of creation.

Psalm 8:4-9 - 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:
7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;
8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.
9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

"Dominion over" - rule over; control over; stewardship over; man was to govern the elements and species of the world.

This dominion expresses God's desire and design that people be regarded as superior to the rest of the animal world and it explains why people have a natural tendency toward fishing, hunting, taming animals, utilizing domesticated animals for man's benefit, etc.

v. 27

"Male and female" - God created Adam & Eve both on the sixth day of creation (with a time frame in between during which Adam named the animals).

3. The References to Plurality in the Creation Account must be reconciled with the claim that God alone Created all things.

(Isaiah 44:24)

Isaiah 44:24 "Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, **I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself"**

God did not employ the use of Angelic Creatures in Creation. Angels cannot create. They cannot even pro-create!

So who is responsible for Creation?

4. Several different N.T. writers give the answer to the mystery of the creation account

a. The Testimony of John

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

v. 1

Who is the **"Word"** referring to? None other than eternal God (v. 1), who created all things (v. 3); who entered the world by becoming incarnate (v. 14) and who dwelt on earth in the days of John (v. 14).

Christ is identified as the "Word of God" in Revelation 19:11 – 13.

"A word is composed of letters, and Jesus Christ is "alpha and omega" (Rev. 1:11), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet" (Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, p. 284).

Words communicate
(Jesus was God's ultimate communication to man – Heb. 1:1-2)

Words command
(Jesus "by speaking the word only" gave orders that were carried out with swiftness and accuracy – Matt. 8:8, 4:20)

Words create
(Jesus' words not merely created impressions, they created reality – Heb. 11:3)

Hebrews 11:3

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.

Jesus Christ is called "the Word" (*logos*) because He is the Revealer of God (Jn. 1:18). He is the outward expression of God. He is the manifestation of God.

When He speaks, God speaks. What He does, God does. Every major act that God the Father ever accomplished, He accomplished through the instrumentality of His Son.

--He created through His Son (Heb. 1:2)
--He provided redemption through His Son (Col. 1:14)
--He sustains creation through His Son (Col. 1:17)
--He will judge through His Son (John 5:22)

Jesus is the self-disclosure of the Father. As the *logos*, He expresses God by the powerful acts of creation, revelation, salvation, judgment.

The Word existed before time, space, & matter

v. 1
"In the beginning" – John's Gospel begins with the same three words as the book of Genesis (which is the book of beginnings).

The word "beginning" points to the time when all forms of substance and life had their origin. In other words, the Word, Jesus Christ, existed prior to the beginning of the material and immaterial *cosmos*. Before the creation of physical and spiritual realities.

The WORD (Jesus Christ) is Eternal

The "Word" is the Creator of all.

Heb 11:3 - "The worlds" **-** the ages of time, space and matter that have been sovereignly planned and designed by God.

"Word of God" - *rhemati* - the spoken word of God. God spoke and matter, time, and space came into existence.
Gen. 1 - *"And God said. . . and it was so."*
The ***Logos*** of God (Jesus Christ - Jn. 1:1-3) spoke the ***Rhema*** of God and created the universe with His Word.
[Note the power of Christ's words - with His word He healed the sick, cast out the demons, calmed the storm, raised the dead (Lazarus), and will resurrect the departed dead in the future (Jn. 5:25).]

God created the world by His word; He sustains it by that same word; and He will one day destroy it by His word (II Peter 3:5-7).

Psalm 33:6-9 - *"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as a heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spake, and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast."*

b. The Testimony of the writer of Hebrews

Heb. 1:2 – God…Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds** *(aionas);*

God RULES the universe via His Son (v.2b)

"Heir" **-** the word referred to the one to whom a father would leave his property when he died.

Christ, after His resurrection and exaltation, became the chief owner of all things.

Psalm 24:1 - *"The earth is the Lord's."*

"All things" **-** not some things.

He is the "firstborn" ruler (preeminent one) because He made everything (Col. 1:15-18).

He who owns all has a right to all.

Everything you own ultimately belongs to Jesus Christ (not just "spiritual things").

Even your body is His (I Cor. 6:19-20).

Jesus rules! And will yet rule! (SEE: Psalm 2)

We are joint-heirs because of our union with Christ (Rom. 8:17).

God CREATED all things through His Son (v.2c)

"By whom. . . he made" **-** Creation was accomplished via (by means of) the Son. God the Father planned creation, but the Son performed it by the power of His Word (Heb. 11:3).

The Father is the Architect and the Son was the Builder
The Father planned creation, the Son performed creation.

God, the Father, can be likened unto a General Contractor but Jesus is the actual Construction Worker, Who made it all.

"The worlds" **-** two words: *tous/aionas*. Lit. "the ages."

According to Rabbinical use, the word refers not only to the periods of time, but to the content of the world (Reinecker, p. 664). The word refers to time, space, and the material world.

Jesus not only was involved in the initial creative process of the world (as the word *kosmos* would indicate), but He has also been actively working in this universe through out the ages, as the word *aion* implies.

c. The Testimony of the Apostle Paul

Col. 1:15-16 - Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **For by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

V. 15- "For" - because - giving a reason why Christ is the preeminent "firstborn."

Jesus is Creator:

Jesus created everything.

1) All beings and things "in heavens and in earth"
2) All that is material and immaterial
3) All laws, governing authorities and powers

"In Heaven" - Jesus created the angelic realm (the host of angels including Michael and Gabriel; the cherubim and seraphim, etc.)

"In earth" - everything from the Swiss Alps to the Islands of Hawaii; every kind of plant, tree, fruit, vegetable; every animal, fish, reptile and insect. And the crown of His creation - mankind - was made by and for Jesus Christ.
No wonder the elements obeyed His voice; and the demons trembled in His presence and respected Him. He is LORD of all, Creator of all!

It does not matter where it is (location); or what it is (essence); or how it is ("the powers that be") -- Jesus made it all.

The powers that be are ordained of God (Rom. 13:1) particularly of Jesus Christ!

When Jesus became man, He worked as a carpenter. A fitting trade for the one who built the universe, and yet what a humble trade. What humiliation for the Creator who spoke the world into existence to work much of his 33 years on earth using the simple tools of man and the elements of His own creation, to construct with.

"By ("dia") Him and for ("eis") him" - Christ is the beginner and benefactor of creation; He is its source and goal. He did it, and is to be glorified by it. He is Creation's author and finisher. He is the architect and owner!

You were created by Jesus and for Jesus.

He made you for Himself; to glorify Him, to live for Him.

"Were created" - perfect tense, meaning that everything that Jesus created in the past, still exists in the present for Him; for His glory and purpose.

HE IS THE ETERNAL SUSTAINER OF CREATION (v. 17)

"He" is emphatic. He Himself is before all things.

"Before" - a word referring to time.

He exists prior to all things. Christ is pre-existent.

John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word."

John 8:58 - "Before Abraham was I am."

"Consist" ("sunistami") - lit. to stand together; to hold together; to cohere.

Jesus is the "principle of cohesion in the universe" (Lightfoot).

Jesus Christ Himself is the "unifying band which encompasses everything and holds it together" (Lohse).

"A guide took a group of people through an atomic laboratory and explained how matter was composed of rapidly moving electric particles. The tourists studied models of molecules and were amazed to learn that matter is made up primarily of space. During the question period, one visitor asked, "If this is the way matter works, what holds it all together?" For that, the guide had no answer." (Wiersbe, p. 50).

Who keeps the planets each in place? -- Jesus

Who keeps the orbit of the earth around the sun consistent? -- Jesus

Who keeps the seasons (of spring, summer, winter, and fall) regular? -- Jesus

Who keeps the Laws that govern life on earth (EX: gravity, etc.) in tact? -- Jesus

Who keeps nations from becoming totally unglued and civilizations from destroying each other? -- Jesus

Who, then, will interrupt the present order of all things in the Day of the LORD? (Rev. 5:12-17; 15-17) -- Jesus!

Who alone can keep your life and family from erupting and exploding and becoming unglued? -- Jesus!

Since Jesus made it all, then I am RESPONSIBLE to Glorify and Trust my Creator, Jesus Christ!

I am His by virtue of Creation, and by virtue of Salvation

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

If a Creator exists, these are some of the resultant consequences:

1) I am known by the Creator.
2) I am inferior to the superior Creator.
3) I am responsible to the Creator.
4) I will be judged (held accountable) by the Creator.
5) I should live for the glory and purpose of the Creator.
6) I am not the master of my life.

Therefore, I cannot live any way I please; I must do His will.

CONCLUSION:

If Jesus made it all, He has power over all, authority over all, sovereignty over all, dominance over all, and preeminence over all.

"This is my Father's World."

If Jesus be God, then He is to be feared and obeyed. We have no choice but to do what He wills, and to surrender our lives to Him.

Songs:

--"This is My Father's World"
--"Our God is an Awesome God"
--"Great is Thy Faithfulness"