

Maker of Heaven and Earth

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Nicene Creed 381 AD

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

Your present is deeply rooted in your past.

Genesis 1:1

The story of creation is the true story of the Creator.

“In the beginning” refers to the beginning of time and space. God has forever existed outside of time and space, but in the beginning of time God created the heavens and the earth (*creatio ex nihilo*). Only God can create something out of nothing.

Albert Barnes notes that this one verse does much to establish what we believe about God. Genesis 1:1 denies:

- atheism – It declares the existence of God.
- polytheism – It declares one God created.
- materialism – It declares there is something more than stuff.
- pantheism – It declares that God is separate from creation.
- fatalism – It declares the freedom of God.

Genesis 1:2

“Formless and empty” become the canvas on which God would paint his creation. Genesis 1:3 through Genesis 2:3 tell the story of God giving form to the earth and then filling the earth.

Genesis 1 is a *poetic story*. It is written in the language of poetry; it has a rhythm to it. Poetry can be just as true as a science report or a historical essay. Poetry just has a rhythmic way of telling the truth.

(For example: *The Fly* by William Blake)

Using poetic rhythm, the creation story unfolds with God giving form to the earth and then filling the form.

Creation became days of forming and days of filling.

Day of Forming #1: Light (Gen. 1:3-5)

Each of God’s creative acts of forming and filling are marked off by days. Light was formed on Day 1.

Day of Forming #2: Water & Sky (Gen. 1:6-8)

Day of Forming #3: Land & Vegetation (Gen. 1:9-13)

God has stamped his creation with his goodness.

Day of Filling #1: Sun, Moon, & Stars (Gen. 1:14-19)

God formed (or created) the reality of light and then filled that reality with objects in the sky. He did that to mark seasons, days, and years.

Day of Filling #2: Aquatic Life & Birds (Gen. 1:20-23)

Day of Filling #3: Animals/Man & Green Plants (Gen. 1:24-31)

God made human beings (male and female) different than anything else in creation. We were made in his image.

After God saw all his forming and filling, he sat back and smiled and thought to himself, “This is very good.”

Days of Forming	Days of Filling
Light (Day 1)	Sun, Moon, & Stars (Day 4)
Water & Sky (Day 2)	Aquatic Life & Birds (Day 5)
Land & Vegetation (Day 3)	Animals, Man, Green Plants (Day 6)

Then God rested. Genesis 2:1-3

Chapter 2 goes on into a retelling of the creation story with a specific emphasis on the creation of Adam and Eve, the first human beings of God’s creation.

Chapter 1 is weighty and dense, but its rhythmic pattern invites us in to live, worship, and think in God's direction.

We are drawn away from all fictions to the one God who distributed his work into six days that we might not find it irksome to occupy our life in contemplating it.

John Calvin

Old Earth Creationists and Young Earth Creationists

- Old Earth Creationists believe the earth is billions or millions of years old.
- Young Earth Creationists believe the earth is 10,000 – 6,000 years old.
- Both groups believe God is the creator and that he created the heavens and the earth out of nothing as recorded in the Scripture.
- We believe that the doctrine of creation is an *essential*, closed-handed doctrine. We believe that the issue of the age of the earth is a *non-essential*, open-handed doctrine.

Dr. Mortensen and AiG are Youth Earth Creationists and they interpret the days of creation in Genesis 1 as six literal 24-hour periods of time. Pastor Derek disagrees with this interpretation.

Read Derek's response to Dr. Mortenson on the issue of "millions of years" online at www.cornerstoneamericus.com/aig.

The Context of the Days of Creation in Genesis 1

1) The creation of the earth before Day 1

Genesis 1 opens with a declaration of the creation of the earth as entirely covered with water. This act of creation occurred before the numbered days began.

2) The sun was not created until Day 4

If a literal day is defined as the amount of time it takes the earth to rotate on its axis as it revolves around the sun, then how can we have a literal day before the sun was created? The sun was created on the fourth day to mark seasons, days, of years (Genesis 1:14).

3) The poetic nature of Genesis 1

The creation account is not written in the language of science or history, but poetry which uses metaphor.

Where does this leave me?

Read the Scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you on the issue of the age of the earth. If you fight for the Young Earth view, you may be fighting the wrong battle.

We are all invited to live in the rhythm set in Genesis 1. God worked for six days and rested one.

We live in an age of extremes, where people either waste time (procrastination) or try to race ahead of time (hurry).

God calls us to live within time and to renew our hearts to his rhythm of work, work, work, work, work, work, REST.

All sin is falling out of rhythm with God. Jesus saves us from our sins through his death, resurrection, and the sending of his Holy Spirit to live in us. We work to maintain this relationship by prayer, worship, Bible reading, community, confession, and repentance.

All of these spiritual practices are not to make us better people, but to restore us to the rhythms of the Creator.



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