

# Examining the Cosmos

## Session 2

### The Creation of the Universe

#### Reference Document 2.

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## ***The Creation of the Universe<sup>i</sup>***

### **Genesis 1:1**

*“In the beginning God created [bara] the heavens and the earth.”*

#### ***What is a bara creation?***

o *bara*: to create; emphasizes the initiation of the object and implies no previous existence; used in Genesis 1 to refer to an act that only God can do, one that is outside of human ability; creation by divine fiat. [Robert Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, vol. 1 (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), #278.]

#### ***“In the beginning...” – Time has a beginning.***

o Related Scriptures:

**2 Timothy 1:9<sup>ii</sup>** “who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before *the beginning of time*,”

**Titus 1:2** “a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the *beginning of time*,”

**Hebrews 1:10** “He also says, ‘In the *beginning*, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.’”

**Proverbs 8:22-23** “The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, *from the beginning*, before the world began.”

**John 17:24** “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me *before the creation of the world*.”

**Ephesians 1:4** “For he chose us in him *before the creation of the world* to be holy and blameless in his sight...”

**1 Peter 1:20** “He was chosen *before the creation of the world*, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”

**“God created the heavens and the earth” – Everything that exists (all the matter in the universe) has a beginning.**

○ Related Scripture:

**Genesis 14:19** “and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, *Creator of heaven and earth.*”

○ **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Time has a beginning.
2. Matter and energy have a beginning.

**“God created the heavens and the earth” – God created the stars, sun, Earth and moon.**

○ Related Scriptures:

**Genesis 1:16** “God made *two great lights*—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the *stars.*”

**Job 9:9** “He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the *constellations* of the south.”

**Job 26:7** “He *spreads out the northern skies* over empty space; he *suspends the earth over nothing.*”

**Psalms 8:3** “When I consider your *heavens*, the work of your fingers, the *moon* and the *stars*, which you have set in place...”

**Psalms 74:16** “The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the *sun* and *moon.*”

**Psalms 102:25** “In the beginning you laid the foundations of the *earth*, and the *heavens* are the work of your hands.”

**Isaiah 37:16** ““O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have *made heaven and earth.*””

**Isaiah 40:26** “Lift your eyes and look to the *heavens*: Who created all these? He who brings out the *starry host* one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”

**Isaiah 51:16** “I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand—I who *set the heavens in place*, who *laid the foundations of the earth*, and who say to Zion, ‘You are my people.’”

**Hebrews 1:10** “He also says, ‘In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the *foundations of the earth*, and *the heavens* are the work of your hands.’”

### **Creation reflects the nature of God.**

○ Related Scriptures:

**Psalm 19:1-6** “The *heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands*. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they *display knowledge*.

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.”

**Psalm 33:5** “The LORD loves righteousness and justice; *the earth is full of his unfailing love*.”

**Psalm 50:6** “And the *heavens proclaim his righteousness*, for God himself is judge.”

**Psalm 97:6** “The *heavens proclaim his righteousness*, and all the peoples see his glory.”

**Romans 1:20** “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature— have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

○ **Scientific Predictions:**

1. The universe displays design.
2. The universe’s design is for the benefit of man's existence on earth.

**“God created” – Time, matter, space and energy came into existence through the power of a transcendent being (God] who is responsible for its design.**

**What does “transcendent” mean?**

God is independent of His creation and is not limited by the boundaries of space and time. As a result, God has the ability to create and remove His creation at will.

○ Related Scriptures:

**Job 38:4-7** [God speaking:] “Where were you *when I laid the earth’s foundation?* Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”

**Proverbs 3:19** “By wisdom *the LORD laid the earth’s foundations*, by understanding *he set the heavens in place*;”

**Isaiah 40:25-26** “‘To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?’ says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to *the heavens: Who created all these?* He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. *Because of his great power and mighty strength*, not one of them is missing.”

**Isaiah 45:18** “For this is what the LORD says—he who *created the heavens*, he is God; he who fashioned and *made the earth*, he founded it...”

**Isaiah 48:13** “My own hand *laid the foundations of the earth*, and my right hand *spread out the heavens*; when I summon them, they all stand up together.”

**John 1:1-3** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. *Through him all things were made*; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

**Hebrews 11:3** “By faith we understand that the universe was *formed at God’s command*, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

***God stretched out the heavens (in the past) and continues to stretch them out today.***

○ Related Scriptures:

**Isaiah 42:5** “This is what God the LORD says—he who created the heavens and *stretched them out*, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it.”

**Isaiah 44:24** “‘This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone *stretched out the heavens*, who spread out the earth by myself...”

**Isaiah 45:12** “It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands *stretched out the heavens*; I marshaled their starry hosts.”

**Jeremiah 10:12** “But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and *stretched out the heavens* by his understanding.”

***God created the universe to be ordered by certain natural laws (including decay and death).***

○ Related Scriptures:

**Genesis 1:16** “God made two great lights—the *greater light* to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the *stars*.” [The existence of stars demonstrates that the laws of physics have been in place since very early in the history of creation.]

**Genesis 2:16** “And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are *free to eat from any tree* in the garden . . .’” (God’s command to the man to eat plants implies that Adam would at least require the death of plant parts and that he had the ability to digest plants.)

Such processes demonstrate that the laws of physics were established long before Adam was created.)

**Jeremiah 33:25-26** “This is what the LORD says: ‘If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the *fixed laws of heaven and earth*, then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them.’”

**Romans 8:20-23** “For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its *bondage to decay* and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the *whole creation has been groaning* as in the pains of childbirth *right up to the present time*. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

○ **Scientific Predictions:**

1. The universe has a transcendent cause.
2. The universe is expanding.
3. The laws of physics were fixed from a very early point in the universe’s history, possibly since the beginning.

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<sup>i</sup> As excerpted from the “OVERVIEW OF REASONS TO BELIEVE’S TESTABLE CREATION MODEL, (Using Genesis 1 as an Outline.)” Compiled by: Hugh Ross, Fazale Rana, David Rogstad, Kenneth Samples. Assembled by Krista Kay Bontrager

<sup>ii</sup> Note: All Scripture references are from the New International Version, unless otherwise noted. Italics have been added to Scripture references in some places for emphasis.