

DEVELOPMENT OF PLANET EARTH		
by Charles Dailey		
	Action	Key words
First Day Verses 3-5	Some light allowed to earth	day, night
Second Day 6 - 8	Air made so plants and animals could survive.	sky
Third Day 9 - 13	Dry land appeared, plants and trees	land, seas, vegetation seeds
Fourth Day 14 - 19	Sun, moon and stars could be seen. Days and years identified.	
Fifth Day 20 - 23	Sea life and birds appear	According to its kind, be fruitful
Sixth Day 24 - 31	Livestock, wild animals, mankind	Be fruitful, rule the earth
Seventh Day 2:2-3	Rest Day	God's work was completed

Further study can be done by using Gorman Gray's book on *The Age of the Universe*, available from Amazon.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Age-Universe-Biblical-Limits/dp/0965594203>

Mr. Gray's website also has useful information at:

<http://www.ageoftheuniverse.com/>

This lesson available for printing at: <http://goo.gl/rlpzUY>

## GENESIS CHAPTER 1

by Charles Dailey. NIV used. 2014. Revision of 10/14

Tablet 1 ends in Gen. 2:4 - Unsigned

**Genesis** was written for men and women who would be homemakers, farmers, hunters and herdsmen. The narration is observational language, not technical language developed centuries later. The entire chapter contains only 76 Hebrew root words.



The writer uses *days* to identify the passage of time. The casual reader would understand these as 24 hour days. "There was evening and there was morning - the first day."

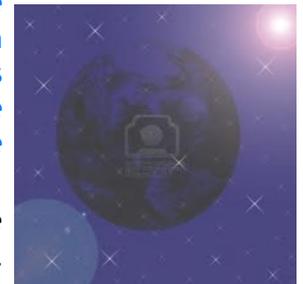
Moses was at least the editor of this section, if not the author. He refers to it in Exodus:

For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exodus 20:11 NIV)

Moses considered these days as literal, not ages or eras. But many believers are convinced that the days were longer periods, some even seeing vast periods of time. The length of time is not critical to understanding the story. That God created and Adam lived *are* critical to later understanding, but *how long* God took to create is not critical.

(1) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (2) Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

- We learn that God exists and was there when it all began. Matter is not eternal as is taught in Mormonism.



The darkened earth

made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

- The “according to its kind” boundary is restated.

(26) Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” (27) So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

- Effort was put forth to create mankind, a new class of creatures.
- While God is one, yet there is a multiple element to God as well. “Let us” implies this. Verse 2 has mentioned the Spirit and the entire creation is attributed to the Son according to Colossians:

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:16-17 NIV)

The plural nature of the one God can also be seen later in the narrative:

And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” (Genesis 3:22 NIV)

- Man is destined to rule the earth. He is God’s representative here. “...that they may rule...”
- Man is in the image of God spiritually but are male and female physically. Just as God has a spirit (vs. 2) and can speak, will, savor the good and direct others, so can man.
- Man was created as an adult. Evidently the animals and fish were also. Now we know which came first, the egg or the chicken.

## DAY 2

(6) And God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.”

(7) So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. (8) God called the expanse “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning— the second day.



(In some NIV editions, the word *vault* replaces *expanse*)

- Note that God is not creating, but making. (Make, as in “make the bed.”) This means to take existing materials and fashion them into something useful. God was rearranging the materials that he had created earlier (verse 1).
- Atmospheric gases such as nitrogen, oxygen, argon, carbon dioxide were formed. Now there was air at the surface of the earth. Plants, animals and people would be able to breathe.
- The word *sky* was first used. Atmosphere was used to separate the water in the clouds above the earth from the condensed water on the earth. The word *sky* is the same Hebrew word as *heavens* in verse 1, but the word was given a narrower definition. This is separation number two.

## DAY 3

(9) And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. (10) God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good. (11) Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. (12) The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

(13) And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day.

- God is distinct from his creation, not part of it as Pantheism teaches.
- The Hebrew word *bara* means to create something out of nothing. The power is beyond description. In this chapter he created the universe (verse 1), animal life (21) and mankind (27) out of nothing.
- The record does not say if creation of the universe was an *event* or a *process*. Either could have been used.
- Since God created the material universe, he controls it and is greater than it is.
- The earth was empty and dark for an unknown length of time. It could have been a month or a million years. Our planet could be very old. Years as a method of measuring time were not introduced until verses 14-18.
- All land was under water. This was a flood before Noah's flood.
  - That darkness was on the earth implies that light was elsewhere in the universe. Job:
 

"Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness" (Job 38:8-9 NIV)

## DAY 1

(3) And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (4) God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. (5) God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning - the first day.



- Action began when God spoke. This dark planet lit up. Sunlight (created in verse 1) was allowed to one side of the earth as it rotated. Something had been preventing this. On this first day, the mantle of darkness was thinned, allowing light to the surface of the water. Full light came on the fourth day.
- Words came into use to describe this new cycle as *day* and *night*.

(28) God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (29) Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. (30) And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it - I give every green plant for food." And it was so. (31) God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day.



- Man was to reproduce and subdue the earth. Plants and trees were his for food, but evidently meat wasn't eaten yet.
- This final day of creation was beyond good. It was very good. This is the seventh *good*.

## Summary:

1. This was a part of tablet 1 written with 76 root Hebrew words.
2. The words were observational, not technical.
3. First, God created the universe including the earth.
4. At some point, God began to prepare the earth for habitation.
5. The activities of each day can be seen on the chart on page 8.
6. These six days were similar, but the seventh (yet to come) will be different.

- *In this third separation*, dry land appeared. God's power over his creation is without limit. He spoke and it was so.
- Twice on this third day God evaluated his own work as *good*.
- God liked his own work. He stopped to smell the roses. It is God-like to enjoy our workmanship.
- More new words are added: *land, seas, vegetation, plants, trees, fruit and seed*.
- Direct sunlight came later, but was not necessary for vegetation to begin growing.
- Vegetation was the first life on earth. This creation was to be self-replicating and would not require replenishment from God.
- These trees probably did not have growth rings.

#### DAY 4

(14) And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, (15) and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.



(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. (17) God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, (18) to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

(19) And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

- God is making, not creating. God worked on the lighting. The sun, moon and stars had been created in vs. 1, now they appear to earth.
- The tools to calculate the passage of time are made. Days and years can be identified.

- Existing light from the universe was totally unveiled to earth.
- This is written from the standpoint of earth. It is observational.
- The seasons could not be marked or the years identified without seeing the planets. Now birds would be able to migrate and bears hibernate.

#### DAY 5

(20) And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

(21) So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (22) God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." (23) And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.



(22) God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." (23) And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

- God created sea life and birds.
- A limitation was placed. "According to its kind" sets boundaries, keeping them from blending. This also rules out macro evolution. Parrots could not become eagles. God had the power to restrict.
- He evaluated his work again and liked it.
- God blessed them and they could reproduce.

#### DAY 6

(24) And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. (25) God

