

## Genesis From The Beginning

With all that our children are being bombarded with, with what they're being taught in public schools concerning the age of the earth, dinosaurs and man's introduction in the scheme of things, what is the real truth on the matter? Where can an honest person find such information without bias and not just ride the bandwagon of believing something just because some famous person said it and the majority believe it? Have you ever been asked by a parent or other person of authority after following someone else's ill behavior "If he jumped off a cliff would you just jump off after him?" How many physicians in the past just took for granted that "bloodletting", for example, was an acceptable practice before doing their own research to find out, ultimately, how dangerous it really was? Didn't they just jump on the bandwagon as their predecessors before them? And if the so called experts on the age of the solar system can't all come to some sort of agreement on how old the earth actually is, with all good conscience, how can they be so bold to make **any** claim with respect to time or age of all things physical? What is the ultimate source? We understand it, without a doubt, to be the Bible.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth.

So then, some will surely ask, "When, according to the Bible, was the beginning?" To answer that question we need to have a way of measuring time, from the present, back to that very point. We can do so by determining how long man has been here, since Jesus stated that...

Mar 10:6 ... from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'

From Jesus' statement we know man has been here "from the beginning of creation". He would have known that since He was with God "before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of [us]" (*1 Pet 1:20*).

Joh 1:2 He was in the beginning with **God**. 3 All things were made through **Him**, and without **Him** was not anything made that was made.

Gen 1:26 Then **God** said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So **God** created man in **His** own image, in the image of **God** He created him; male and female **He** created them. 28 And **God** blessed them. And **God** said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And **God** said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And **God** saw everything that **He** had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

As a side note, man wasn't given the livestock of verse 26 for food in the beginning. As a matter of fact man wasn't permitted to eat meat until after the flood when Noah and his family left the ark. The same went with "every beast of the earth" which included 'lions and tigers and bears, oh my'. They too God had "given every green plant for food" which would have made it that much easier for Noah and his family to gather such for their almost one year's journey on the ark.

Gen 6:21 Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them."

Upon leaving the ark...

Gen 9:1 ... God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.

So, on the sixth literal day God created man. Thus the earth is five days older than man. Now let's again start from the present and measure time back to that point. First we need to measure back to the time Jesus came. Why should that be so important? Since time is measured in years and years are recorded by dating with reference to Jesus' birth, shouldn't it be deemed appropriate to begin from the point of His coming? We are in the year 2015 A.D. (*anno Domini*- Latin for "in the year of our Lord") and Jesus, according to secular dating, was on the earth at the beginning of the first century A.D. So far we've established, by this method, about 2,000 years as a portion of the age of the earth. What next? There are two inspired genealogies of Christ recorded in the Bible. The first is found in Matthew's account which is through Jesus' mother Mary. It only takes us back to Abraham.

Mat 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,...

Mat 1:16 ...and (another) Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Biblical genealogies are usually traced through the family patriarchs. Matthew lists 42 generations between Abraham (*who lived to be 175 years old*) to Jesus through "Mary, of whom Jesus was born". Luke, whose account traces Jesus lineage through Joseph, lists 55 generations. Both were from the same tribe (*Judah*). A generation isn't measured by the age of those living in it as it is the time between birth and procreation. The average generation then was measured between a man's birth and his early twenties to early forties, all depending on when he began to have children. Therefore the approximate number of years between Jesus and Abraham would amount to another

2,000 years, totaling thus far, 4,000 years. But what then of the period between the life of Abraham and Adam's creation? We next look at Christ's genealogy in the account Luke wrote through Joseph, who "was supposed" to be Jesus' father with Mary who he "found to be with child from the **Holy Spirit**", and "being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly" (*Mat 1:18-19*).

**Mat 1:20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the **Lord** appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

So we know the rest of the story in that Joseph became a father to Jesus knowing he was raising, as his own, the Son of God.

**Luk 3:23** **Jesus**, when he began **His** ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (**as was supposed**) of **Joseph**, the son of **Heli**,...

**Luk 3:33** ...the son of **Amminadab**, the son of **Admin**, the son of **Arni**, the son of **Hezron**, the son of **Perez**, the son of **Judah**, **34** the son of **Jacob**, the son of **Isaac**, the son of **Abraham**, ...

**Luk 3:38** ...the son of **Enos**, the son of **Seth**, the son of **Adam**, the son of **God**.

*"In chapter 3 of the book that bears his name, Luke lists 55 generations between Jesus and Abraham—a time that archaeology has determined to be about 2,000 years (see Kitchen and Douglas, 1982). In that same chapter, Luke documents that there were only 20 generations between Abraham and Adam. How much time is covered by those twenty generations? Since Genesis 5 provides the ages of the fathers at the time of the births of the sons in the period between Abraham and Adam, it is a simple matter to calculate the approximate number of years during that time span—a figure that turns out to be about 2,000."*

Kyle Butt- Apologetics Press: The Bible Says The Earth Is Young (2002)

Putting this all together then we can see that the earth isn't "billions" of years old but a mere six thousand, give or take a few years: 2,000 from Adam to Abraham, 2,000 between Abraham and Christ and another 2,000 from when Christ walked the earth unto today. With this established by the only consistent source on the age of the earth, we can definitely trust it for the truth it presents on all other matters of science and faith. What a shame it isn't referred to in secular classrooms of contemporary learning. Especially when there are so many other scientific facts that have been revealed through the pages of inspired writings long before the age of modern science. That said, let's go back to the beginning in order to reveal the whole plan that God had in which to redeem man through His Son.

### The Garden

**Gen 2:5** When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up--for the **LORD God** had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, **6** and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground-- **7** then the **LORD God** formed the man

of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

- This is just repeating what had already been noted in chapter 1 but in more detail. At that time a mist was created from when God separated “the waters from the waters” (1:7) and on the third day when He spoke and “dry land [appeared]” (1:9). It was that mist, from the receding waters along with the heat of the sun, that created enough moisture to water what was then created of the plant life until rain would come later. Rain did come shortly thereafter and wasn’t postponed until the flood of Noah’s day since there’s no evidence that the mist lasted that long. Most of the flood waters came from beneath and not from above (7:11). But that will be for another lesson at a later date.

Gen 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Gen 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

Gen 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- Adam recognized Eve as having his own human nature, apart from the animals he had already been acquainted with when he gave them their names. But there was something about this attractive creature Adam called “Woman” that made him forget his place and lose his favor with his Creator. Thus, there became...

### Trouble in Paradise

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

- Nowhere in the Genesis account does it say that the serpent was Satan speaking through it. We have to go the opposite end of the Bible to the Revelation to find that information. When John, on the island of Patmos, received visions that were to be delivered to the churches of Asia, he received one in particular that revealed what Daniel foretold back in Dan 7:14.

Rev 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

- The woman here represents the people of God under the Old Covenant. They were the Messianic community, a remnant of God's chosen people, Israel, specifically of the tribe of Judah. It was through this prepared group that God would send His Son into the world to save it. But...

Rev 12:3 ... another sign appeared in heaven (*Gk.3772- the sky. Heaven itself is too holy a place for such evil to occur.*): behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her Child he might devour [Him].

- This is speaking of the time of Jesus birth when Herod ruled Palestine as puppet king of Rome. It was through Herod that Satan, represented by the dragon, made a vain attempt at ending the scheme of redemption. Many of the Jews who were in positions of authority at that time, speaking of "a third (*incomplete number*) of the stars of heaven", fell because of their opposition to Jesus as the Messiah. When Herod was informed by the wise men seeking the whereabouts of the newly born King of the Jews, he was perplexed that such a birth would happen without his knowledge. He sent them away to "search diligently for the Child" (*Mat 2:8*) so that he might also worship, but had actually planned on murdering Him. He was concerned that his reign would not pass to his own son.

Mat 2:12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The star had directed the wise men to a house, not a stable, where Jesus, Joseph and Mary were staying.

Mat 2:11 And going into the house (*Gk.3614- residence*) they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

By this time Jesus would have been around two years old because of the decree Herod made to kill "all the male children... who were two years old and under" that were from the town where Jesus would have been born.

Mat 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that

region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

After having ushered the Christ into the world, the faithful remnant of God's people under the Old Covenant transitioned into the New. Jesus was born "when the fullness of time had come" (*Gal 4:4*), "increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (*Lk 2:52*), proclaimed "the gospel of the kingdom" (*Mat 9:35*), "endured the cross, [having despised] the shame" (*Heb 12:2*), "died for our sins...was buried" and "raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (*1 Cor 15:3-4*) "and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (*Heb 12:2*) Thus the Old Testament remnant...

**Rev 12:5** ... gave birth to a male Child, One Who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her Child was caught up to God and to His throne,

- John revealed to the churches of Asia a vision of what he had already seen, in Acts 1:9-11, of Christ ascending back to Heaven, fulfilling a prophesy in Dan.

**Dan 7:13** "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a Son of man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. **14** And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- So what of the dragon? What happened to him since he was unable to thwart God's plan to redeem mankind?

**Rev 12:9** And the great dragon was thrown down, that **ancient serpent**, who is called the devil and **Satan**, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

- Satan was behind the persecution Rome inflicted on the infant church and John was to warn them of its, then, imminent coming. Later, John...

**Rev 20:1** ... saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. **2** And he seized the dragon, that **ancient serpent**, who is the devil and **Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years, **3** and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

- The thousand year binding represents the present Christian age of reprieve from a worldwide persecution. It began when Constantine became Emperor of Rome and will end at the loosing of Satan from his prison. Thus revealing who the serpent was that tempted Eve in the garden. And though he's chained, he still "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (*1 Pet 5:8*). He does so by shrewdness as Paul feared would happen to the church at Corinth.

**2Co 11:3** But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

- Jesus also referenced Satan when speaking to His detractors.

**Joh 8:44** You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

*"The devil deceived our first parents, and they became subject to death, Gen. 3. As he was the cause why death came into the world, he may be said to have been a murderer in that act, or from the beginning."* Albert Barnes

**Gen 3:2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

**Gen 3:4** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**Gen 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband **who was with her**, and he ate.

- That very first sin was caused by disobedience to at least three rules. First, that they both were guilty of going against the one law God gave them. Eve admitted she knew of the law when the serpent first asked her if God actually told her there were any trees from which she and Adam were not to eat of (*v. 1*). But then Satan went on to use a half-truth to confuse Eve into committing what came to later be understood as "the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eye and pride in possessions" (*1 Jn 2:16*). The "good and evil" Adam and Eve would come to know came with a price, the loss of a direct relationship with God. The second and third parts of their disobedience were with respect to the creation order. Adam forgot his place as well did Eve. Paul would later deal with a situation which warranted writing Timothy concerning that order.

**1Ti 2:12** I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. **13** For Adam was formed first, then Eve; **14** and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

- After eating the forbidden fruit Adam and Eve realized for the first time they were naked and were thus ashamed. That's when God approached them.

**Gen 3:8** And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" **10** And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." **11** He said, "Who told you

that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

- Already knowing where they were and what they did, **God** questioned them concerning their disobedience in order for **them** to admit what they had done firsthand. It was the first time the “blame game” was used as a way of thinking one might pass their faults on to someone else and not suffer the consequences.

Gen 3:12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me (*here trying to make God guilty for giving Eve to Adam*), she gave me fruit of the tree (*thus passing the blame on to Eve*), and I ate." 13 Then the **LORD God** said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- She knew better, but the fact remained, **Adam** was responsible for **Eve's** protection because of the order of the creation. But what of the serpent?

### The Ultimate Plan

Gen 3:14 The **LORD God** said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

- To understand the fate of the serpent we need to understand what is referred to as its offspring, along with what is meant by the woman's. Speaking to the serpent, a.k.a. **Satan**, the **Lord God** made reference to his children as **Jesus** did in **Jn 8:44** when **He** said to **His** detractors “**you are of your father the devil**”. Sin, which is the product of **Satan**, breeds a following that is anathema to anything good. And since **Jesus** is the epitome of all that is good, hostility was always present by those who, unconsciously, were only doing **Satan's** bidding. So why didn't **God** say there would be hostility between the seed of **Adam** and the serpent or between the offspring of both **Adam** and **Eve**? This is where we find the true meaning of the passage with reference to “her offspring”. In **Gal 4:4**, **Paul** noted that **Christ** was “born of woman”, showing that **Joseph** had nothing to do with **Mary** conceiving her “child from the **Holy Spirit**” (**Mat 1:18**). Thus making **Jesus** both man and **God** in the flesh in order for **God** to give the ultimate sacrifice for the redemption of **His** creation. That body that **Jesus** occupied was created so that **He** could leave **His Father's** side, come to the earth becoming one of us, live as a human with all that comes with it, in pain and temptation and yet do so without succumbing to “the sin which so easily besets us” (**Heb 12:1- MKJV**).

1**Jn 3:5** You know that **He** appeared to take away sins, and in **Him** there is no sin.

- It was through the death, burial and resurrection of **Jesus** that the Old Law was nailed to **His** cross (**Col 2:14**), therefore satisfying the requirement of the law of sin and death. **His** heel being bruised, i.e. **He** died but **His** death resolved in **His** resurrection, was minor to the crushing blow **Satan** received.

Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

- How does that sacrifice apply to us today? By our copying Christ's same steps in our obedience to His word.

Rom 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

- The scheme of redemption was completed when Jesus defeated Satan by bruising his head, dealing a crushing blow to the tempter's reign of terror through his authority to possess the eternal souls of the disobedient.

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, Who has made us both (*Jew & Gentile*) one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body (*the church*) through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

- Have you been "brought near by the blood of Christ"? His blood cannot save without being applied through the act of obedience in baptism because as Peter said "baptism... now save[s] you" (*1 Pet 3:21*).

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