

God's Creation of the Universe Revisited

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Abstract

This is a re-examination of the history of the origin of the universe as recorded in the Bible and an attempt to find out if God actually created man on the 6th day, if not, which day did he create man. There is also the question as to when God actually completed his work of creation and whether there were different phases involved in the process of creation. The research method used is a case study of the creation of the universe, life, man, plants and animals and an analysis of records in the Bible. Findings are, that there were three phases in the process of creation and that the process did not come to an end on the 6th day as the process continued on a day after the 7th day on which God rested. The work also found that there were three other days of creation aside the first 6 days and are referred to as days 8, 9 and 10 bringing the total days of creation to 9 not 6. This work asserts that man was not created or did not come into existence on the sixth day. The main conclusions are that God did not create man on the 6th day because the decision to create man on the 6th day was only a pronouncement of a plan of action that was executed on the 8th day and that the plan also included that of creating the woman. Since man was not created or did not come into existence on the 6th day, the process of creation did not end on that day but continued on day 8 in which the man was formed and came into being. Also the creative work of God came to an end after forming the woman called Eve and establishing the marriage institution. Consequently, the process can be said to have been completed on day 10, the day the woman was created. That there were three phases in the process of creation and three other days of creation apart from days 1-6 which are days 8, 9 and 10.

Key Words: Creationism, Creationists, Palaeontology, Day- age theory, Gap theory, Phase,

1. Introduction

Creationism is a broad range of beliefs which appeal to God's miraculous intervention to explain the origin of the universe, life, and the different types of plants and animals on earth. Those who adhere to it referred to as creationists; invoke divine intervention to explain at least some of these phenomena. However, they do not necessarily agree on the length of time involved in creation. In the second half of the 20th century, the most visible and politically active creationists maintained that the entire universe was created within the past 6000 to 10,000 years. Before English naturalist Charles Darwin published his 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859, most people in the West including the great majority of scientists accepted creationism in some form, although they rarely used that term to describe their views. Despite mounting evidence of the great antiquity of life on earth, the traditional biblical account of a six-day creation in the Garden of Eden which culminated in the appearance of Adam and Eve has stood the test of time and continued to appeal to many Christians.

Writing in 1852, American commentator William B. Hayden estimated that one-half of the Christian public remained loyal to this traditional view while the other half adopted one or the other of two popular reinterpretations of the creation account contained in the book of Genesis in the bible. These reinterpretations permitted Christians to accept the accumulating paleontological evidence without abandoning their faith. The first was the so called Day-Age theory in which the six days of the biblical creation of Genesis 1:1-2:4 represented vast geological ages rather than 24-hour periods. The rival reinterpretation, known as the Gap theory, allowed for an immense interval between an initial creation and the creation of the Garden of Eden in about 4000 BC.

During the first half of the 19th century, at least three competing versions of creationism circulated in scientific circles. One version espoused by Swedish naturalist Carolus Linnaeus, loosely followed the biblical story in proposing that there was a simultaneous creation in one location of single pairs of animals, which then multiplied and migrated to their eventual homes. In contrast, English geologist Sir Charles Lyell advocated the notion of multiple centres of creation established at various times and in different places. Swiss-American naturalist, Louis Agassiz, who held the third view, denied that species originated in single pairs whether at one location or many. Agassiz held the view of simultaneous creation of multiple individuals in each species which were all distributed over the arrear

God meant for them to inhabit. These views especially the last two, allowed for earth's history to extend far beyond 6000 years.

However, the Bible in Genesis records that the universe came into being through the spoken words of God who did so in partnership with God the son and the Holy Spirit. Man was in the process created by him and given some mandate. This is in contrast with the scientific or biological view of Charles Darwin that man evolved from apes through a process regarded as evolutionary trend. This work which adopts the position of creationists is a revisit of the entire process of creation by God and an attempt to answer such questions as, on which day did God actually create the man called Adam, when did he actually complete his creative work and were there different phases involved in the process of creation and if there were, how many were they.

Creation defined

The word '*create*' means to make something i.e. to bring something into existence, to use imagination to invent things or produce works of arts. Another definition defines it as 'to make something happen or exist'

'**Creation**' which is derived from the word 'create' implies, making something i.e. the act of bringing something into existence e.g. the earth and its inhabitants or the world and everything in it; something created by somebody i.e. a product of human imagination or invention. It is also the 'act or process of making something that is new or of causing something to exist that did not exist before.' e.g. the making of the world especially by God as described in the Bible- the creation of the world and all the living things in it.

'**Creativity**' another word derived from 'create and creation' is 'the use of skill and imagination to produce something new or a work of art, having the skill and ability to produce something new.'

'**Creator**' another derivative is a person who has made or invented a particular thing e.g. God.

'**Creature**' is a living thing real or imagined that can move around such as an animal'

Who is God?

God is a Supreme Being: the being believed in monotheistic religions such as Judaism, Islam, and Christianity to be the all-powerful, all-knowing creator of the universe and worshiped as the only God.

'Christianity, Islam and Judaism see God "as the being or spirit that is worshipped and is believed to have created the universe.'

1.1 State of the Universe-Phase 1

Genesis chapter 1 tells us from verse 1 that in the beginning, heaven and earth existed having being created by the self-existent God. This could be regarded as the *first phase* of God's creation. This is because God as recorded in Genesis 1 verse 25 usually examined his work of creation and when he is satisfied with what he had done, he score it by saying 'it was good.' He would then proceed to the next stage in the process of creation. Thus after creating heaven and the earth, he probably examined what he had created and at the end of his assessment, he did not say 'it was good' as he did as from day 1 to 6. This was because the earth was without form and it was void. His dissatisfaction with his work in this phase one could have prompted him to commence phase 2.

Apart from the fact that the earth was without form and void i.e. it was empty; there was no light so darkness pervaded the earth hence no work including that of creation could be done. Also only God the father, son and Holy Spirit and the host of heaven existed. Since the Bible says the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, it imply that in creating the earth, God created two, the dry earth and the 'wet earth' or earth that was covered with water called river. '.....by the words of God the heavens were of old and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.' but the dry earth was yet to be created.

As earlier indicated, when God created the heavens and earth, the earth was imperfect hence it was described as without form and void. Hence God did not see it as good as he declared after the things he created within six days. It was this lack of form and void state or emptiness of the earth that probably prompted God to embark on creating the things he created to occupy it so as to fill the emptiness as recorded from Genesis 1 vs 3. So he proceeded to the next Phase which is phase 2. However, on the dark earth existed Satan and his agents i.e. fallen angels that were expelled with him from heaven. The evidence of this can be found in the visit the serpent paid to Eve in the Garden of Eden.

1.2 How Did He Create

By the words of the Lord were the heavens made and all the host of them, by the breath of his mouth.' {2 Peter 3 vs. 5} Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the words of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. His words had creative powers hence his creative works apart from that of man; woman, animal and birds were instantaneous. Jesus who was part of the creation process demonstrated this at the wedding in Canaan in John 2 vs. 1-11 when he turned water into wine. God in his second phase of creation recorded

from Genesis 1 vs.3 was methodological and procedural. He did not do anything without a plan or design and as such did nothing haphazardly. He took one step at a time like a builder or a sculptural artist would do. Hence at the end of each creative exercise, he carried out an assessment and at the end could see and pronounce that 'it was good.'

1.3. Phase 2

Phase 2 which is made up of days 1 to 7, was an attempt which became manifest, to deal with the void state or emptiness of the earth by creating things that would fill the emptiness. Before this, he first created the light. The purpose was to enable his creature that would roam the earth do so in the day while others could do theirs in the existing darkness. Thus in Day 1- God called the light into being and separated it from the darkness though they were to exist side by side. He called the light day and darkness, night and gave the light power to rule over the day and darkness to rule over the night. On this day also, God created the morning and evening.

Day 2- God created the firmament to separate the waters above the earth that brings rain upon the earth and the waters of the earth.

Day 3- God created the dry earth or land by commanding the waters on the earth to gather together and called the waters seas. He thereafter created the grass, herbs, and fruit trees.

Day 4- On the fourth day, God created seasons, days and years, the sun to rule the day, moon to rule the night and the stars. Collectively, the sun, moon and stars were to give light to the earth.

Day 5- every living thing that inhabits the water or water creatures and birds or winged creatures were created and they were commanded to be fruitful, multiply and fill the water and the earth.

Day 6- on this day the Bible records that God created other living creatures by commanding the earth to bring forth cattle, creeping things and beast after their kind. On that fateful day, God also said 'let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'" Thus this day is seen as the day God created man. Here, God only conceived a plan of creating a man and came up with a sketch or diagram of the conceived man like an artist would do or an architect drawing a plan of a house that a builder would use does. The design or diagram include such external features like the head including the eyes, nose and mouth, neck, chest cavity, abdomen, buttocks, waist, arms, thighs and legs. Others are internal organs like the brain, nervous system, respiratory system, circulatory system, digestive system, reproductive system and excretory system. So on this day, God only drew or made a plan or sketch of the man he had agreed with the Son and Holy Spirit to create while the production of the man or execution of the plan which the Bible call forming or moulding took place not on the 6th day but on a latter day. It could also be said to be a pronouncement by God of his intentions in the same way as a government comes out with pronouncements of what it plans to do for its people in a budget or national or worldwide broadcast. This could stand as the first broadcast in the universe and by this, we can assume or conclude that the first broadcast took place in heaven and God could therefore be regarded as the first known broadcaster.

The man to be created was to be after their likeness. In addition, God saw that there was the need for someone to exercise control over all that he had created so he took the decision and further decided that the conceived man would be conferred with that power. This delegation of power could be regarded as the beginning of modern day practice of delegation of power or duties in administration or management. 'And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle and over all the earth and over everything that crept upon the earth.' Who were those referred to here by God to have the dominion as he could not have been referring to one person? The answer is the man and woman God planned to create. The word 'them' is a pronoun and the objective form of the word "they": used to refer to a group of people or things other than the speaker or people addressed. In verse 27 of the book of Genesis chapter 1 we read, 'so God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them.' This reveals that the pronouncement or plan to design a man also included the woman who later became known as Adam and Eve.

In that broadcast, God pronounced blessing that would follow them when they come into being and outlined their duties and responsibilities which were or are to be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth, subdue it and exercise dominion over it - 'and God blessed them and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth {sic} upon the earth.' So the plan to create a man and the woman was also not executed on day 6 but another day after God rested on day 7. In verses 29 and 30 of Genesis Chapter 1, God made provision for their sustenance in that pronouncement - 'and God said behold I have given you every herb bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth and every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed to you, it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth and to every fowl of the air and to everything that creepeth {sic} upon the earth wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat, and it was so' Genesis chapter 2 vs. 1 tells us that God's creative work

concerning the heaven and earth i.e. phase 1 and 2 including the design of the man and woman was completed on the sixth day and that God rested on the seventh day. He also blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.

1.4. Phase 3

There was an event that took place on a day after the 7th day in which God rested that could be regarded as the 8th day and which could also be said to be the commencement of phase 3. We have said that God was methodical in creation and usually created one thing per day and thereafter would carry out an assessment of his work. Thus after resting on the 7th day, he probably found that two things were missing. The first was that rain was yet to fall on the dry earth to water it. The second was that there was no man on the earth to till and keep it. This lay credence to the point that God did not create man on the 6th day because if he did, why would there be no man to till the earth and keep it? Verses 5c and 10 of Genesis 2 tells us that because of this i.e. the absence of rain, plants were yet to emerge on the earth hence it could not be inhabited as it could not sustain life. These factors could have prompted God to rest on the 7th day and keep on hold the creation of man and the woman and even animals until the problems were taken care of. This is more so as the biblical account of the creation of human beings occurs twice: in Genesis 1:26-27 and in Genesis 2:18-24.

God had a solution to this. First he sent a mist from heaven to water the dry earth. Second, he proceeded to produce the man he had sketched in Gen 1 vs. 26 or give birth to the man he had conceived. So God formed or moulded the man he had designed like an artist or a builder using an architectural design. He did this by taking clay which the Bible call dust moulded it like a sculptor into the form of the man he had designed in Genesis 1 vs.26. At the end of his work, the moulded man was just a piece of an art work without life like a modern art work or artefact. The work was incomplete because though the moulded man was the image and likeness of God, it was unlike God in having no life and thus incomplete. God then proceeded to breathe into the nostril of the man who began to breath and became a living being or living soul. 'Yahweh fashions a man (Heb. *Adam*, "man" or "mankind") from the dust (Heb. *ad amah*) and blows the breath of life into his nostrils, then plants a garden (the Garden of Eden)' These events did not take place on the 6th day but a day after the 7th day in which God rested or took a break and the day could be regarded as the 8th day.

One can thus infer that God only concluded the second phase in the process of creation on the 6th day and not the entire process of creation as he resumed his creative work on the 8th day from where he left off on the 6th day. This was after he took a break on the 7th day.

Thus when he took that break, on the 7th day, it was only the end of phase 2 in his process of work. Second, that God did not bring man into existence but designed not only the man but also the woman on the 6th day. Third that he formed or brought man into existence on the 8th day after resting on the 7th day and caused him to have life or soul which no artist has been able to achieve. 'The word "soul" can be translated as "being." It is not referencing man's spiritual nature, but of his being alive'. Fourth that God is not only the first sculptural artist but the best that has ever existed.

Because God was procedural in his creation, did one thing per day, he would have carried out an assessment of his work of the 8th day. In the assessment, he would have asked himself what next. This question would have been asked the following day which could be the 9th day; He would have observed that the man needed a garden or a place of habitation even though the entire earth had been handed over to him. So he decided to plant a garden and there was no vegetation since rain had watered the ground and we presume he did this on the 9th day. He thereafter took Adam and placed him in the garden.

On that same 9th day, God continues his work by making every tree that was pleasant to the eyes and good for food including the tree of life, and that of knowledge of good and evil to grow in the garden to sustain him. He created a river which split into four to irrigate the garden thus becoming the first agriculturist and irrigator. He in addition produced solid mineral of gold, bdellium and onyx stone in the garden. Thereafter, God directed Adam to dress and keep the garden.

Again after reviewing his work of the 9th day, he observed that something was missing. Man was alone as he had no companion to fellowship with, and fulfil the command to be fruitful, multiply, dominate and replenish the earth. In addition, Adam needed help if he was to comply with the command to dress and keep the garden. God also found that Adams diet was incomplete due to the absence of animals and birds. God was not pleased with this hence the Bible says 'and the lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him an help meet for him. {sic}' This decision could have been taken on the 10th day of the 3rd phase of creation.

In Genesis 2 vs.19, God also took the animals and birds through the process that man went through by forming them i.e. animals and birds he had conceived to create on the 5th and 6th day in Genesis 1 vs. 20 - 25 and gave them to the

man for sustenance and to name them. He had in genesis 1 vs 27 and on the 6th day designed a woman along with the man so on the 10th day as in Genesis 2 vs.21 & 22, he formed the woman by using a rib taken from Adam through a surgical operation not clay or dust used for the man. God thus becomes the first known surgeon. God then proceeded on the same day to bring them together thereby creating the marriage institution, conducted the first wedding ceremony and with the garden, created a home where a man and woman would dwell together so as to fulfil the obligation of being fruitful, multiply, fill and replenish the earth.

Conclusion

This work does not contest the fact that God carried out creative work on day one, completed it on day 6 and rested on day seven as recorded in the Bible. However, the point being made is that it was only the end of the second phase of the process of creation as there were three phases in the entire process of creating the universe by God. And that there were other days, day 8, 9 and 10 other than days 1 to 6, in which God also worked by executing the plans he conceived on days 5 and 6. The decision to create man on the 6th day was only a pronouncement of a plan of action that was executed on the 8th day and that the plan also included that of creating the woman.

Man was not created on the 6th day hence the process of creation did not end on that day but continued on day 8 in which the man was formed and came into being. Also the pronouncement to create the man and woman amounted to a broadcast of an intent making God the first known broadcaster and the first broadcast took place in heaven. The surgical operation carried out in taking a rib from Adam to create Eve makes God the first surgeon while the moulding of the man, woman, animals and birds makes God the first ever sculptural artist and the best ever by making them to breath and have soul. The creation of a garden in Eden and causing rain to water it also makes God the first agriculturist and irrigator.

From the foregoing, we can infer that the creative work of God came to an end after forming the woman called Eve, establishing the marriage institution by declaring 'therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh and conducted the first wedding ceremony in handing Eve over to Adam. Consequently, the process of creation can be said to have been completed on day 10, the day the woman was created.

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