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## Questions About The Creation - Part II

By Bryan Hodge

Continuing article from last weeks' bulletin knowing that there are other common questions asked about the account of the creation, this will provide more concise answers . . .

### **4. Could there be gaps in genealogy after creation?**

It is thought by some that billions of years can be fit into gaps in genealogy. This allows them to believe in an old earth. It is true that some of the genealogy lists do contain gaps. For example: Ezra 7:3 lists Azariah as the son of Meraioth. However, there are six descendants between them (1 Chronicles 6:7-9). Also: Matthew 1:8 lists Uzziah as the son of Joram. However, he was not the immediate son (2 Chronicles 21:1 cf. 22:1 cf. 22:11; 24:1 cf. 24:27 cf. 26:1). The later record is often abbreviated. Matthew groups his list of names into three sections of fourteen generations (Matthew 1:17). The ESV Study Bible commented, "Perhaps for ease of memorization, or perhaps for literary or symbolic symmetry, Matthew structures the genealogy to count 14 generations from each major section." However, this argument is weak. (a) The reason that we know of such gaps is because the Bible fills in details in other lists. This does not suggest billions of years of history unlisted anywhere in the Bible. (b) There is a great difference between gaps in names listed and gaps in chronology. For example: The Bible lists 10 generations from Adam to Noah and 1056 years (Genesis 5). Even if there were 50 generations there remains 1056 years of chronology. (c) Can you fit billions of years into 13 generations? Let me explain - How many years are there between us and Jesus? A bit over 2,000 years. How much time between Jesus and Abraham? About 2,000 years. The billions of years need to be fit into the time between Abraham and Adam. How many generations existed according to the Bible between these two men? The answer is twenty (Genesis 5 and Genesis 11). Enoch is confirmed to be the seventh from Adam (Jude 14 cf. Genesis 5). This leaves 13 generations in which to find these great gaps in genealogy into which one can insert billions of years. However, remember that there is a huge difference between gaps in genealogy and gaps in chronology! Chronologically there are 2,008 years between Adam and Abraham (this is based on Noah being 502 when Shem was born, and Terah being 130 when Abraham was born).

### **5. How was there light on day one (Genesis 1:3), yet the sun, moon and stars were not created until day four (Genesis 1:14-18)?**

Some have suggested that the sun, moon and stars were created on day one, but were not visible upon earth until day four, due to the shroud of thick vapor. However, the words, "Let there be..." are the same words that appear throughout this chapter (1:3; 1:6; 1:14). This sound like creation.

Bert Thompson and Gary Workman have written, "On the first day God said, 'Let there be light' (Hebrew *or*) whereas on the fourth day God said, 'Let there be lights' (*ma-or*, light-bearers). Therefore, God's first recorded statement created independent light without a light-bearer. And since God instructed the light-darkness cycle on that day, we must conclude that the light came from a fixed direction and that the earth rotated on its axis. In eternity there will again be light without the sun - Revelation 21:23" (Difficult Texts From Genesis, p. 14).

#### **6. What is the firmament (Genesis 1:6-8; 1:17)?**

The original word (*raqia*) refers to an "expanse" or "something stretched, spread or beaten out" (Difficult Texts From Genesis, p. 15). The ESV reads, "an expanse." The firmament refers to the atmosphere (Genesis 1:6-8). The firmament refers to outer space (Genesis 1:14-17). God "stretches out the heavens like a curtain" (Isaiah 40:22).

#### **7. Why are there two different creation accounts (Genesis 1:1-2:4 and Genesis 2:4b - 2:25)?**

There is a different emphasis. The first presents creation in a straight forward chronological order. The second puts man's role in the created order, man's warning from God, and the creation of the first family unit as the focus. Billy Bland has written, "One brother likened it to a 'instant replay, isolated camera,' where the cameraman allows the viewer to go back and see an event in greater detail" (The Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship, The Book of Genesis, p. 79. Bland is quoting Bob Winton's outlined Commentary on Genesis). The book of Genesis is divided into nine sections: (1) The generations of the heavens and earth (Genesis 1:1-2:4). (2) The generations of Adam (Genesis 2:4b-5:1). (3) The generations of Noah (Genesis 5:1b-6:9). (4) The generations of the sons of Noah (Genesis 6:9-10:1). (5) The generations of Shem (Genesis 10:1b-11:10). (6) The generations of Terah (Genesis 11:10b-11:27). (7) The generations of Isaac (Genesis 11:27b-25:19). (8) The generations of Jacob (Genesis 25:19b-37:2). (9) The generations of the sons of Jacob (Genesis 37:2b-50:26). The focus in each section is different.

#### **8. Isn't there too much activity in Genesis 2:18-25 for a 24-hour day?**

Eric Lyons has answered this point in an Apologetics Press article entitled, "Too Much Activity on Day Six?" In this article he makes the following points: (a) Adam did not have to search for all of the creatures. God brought them to him (Genesis 2:19). (b) Adam did not name all of the animals on earth. He named all cattle, birds of the air, and beasts of the field (Genesis 2:20). Excluded are sea creatures, and creeping things. (c) It is possible that the animals brought to him and named by him were limited to the animals which resided in Eden. God was trying to send a message to Adam. There was no helper comparable to him to be found. He was unique, and he needed a mate. (d) It does not say that he named every species of animals that now exists (for example today there are hundreds of different varieties of dogs, cats, cattle, etc.), or might have then existed. Likely, he was giving names to "kinds".