

Who Witnessed the Creation?

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Many scientific authorities believe they know how the heavens and earth were created, and when these events occurred. However, very few of them give credit to Almighty God for creating everything that exists. The belief of the majority is that the incredible complexity and organization of the universe happened by chance. It is interesting to listen to some of their explanations because they will acknowledge many laws that exist such as gravity, centrifugal force, thermodynamics, biogenesis, etc., but deny that a higher power must have created them. In other words, they believe these many laws came into existence without a lawgiver, or creator. This position requires faith in a number of hypotheses and theories, combined with a significant amount of fantasy.

At the other extreme, there are many sincere religious people who believe the Earth was created by God somewhere between five and seven thousand years ago. They prefer to deny any scientific evidence that contradicts this position. This too requires a great deal of faith combined with fantasy. Consequently, both the scientific and religious camps are functioning on (blind) faith combined with fantasy, and both are in error.

In this study, we will examine God's challenge to Job regarding the creation of the universe because it appears Job believed he knew a great deal about Almighty God and His works. This same challenge applies today for everyone who believes they have the correct answers to questions involving the creation of the heavens and earth,

Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Now prepare yourself like a man; I (God) will question you (Job), and you shall answer Me. **4Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding** (Job 38:2-4; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The main point of God's challenge was to wake Job up to the reality that no human being has the wisdom to know how and when the heavens and earth were created, let alone the reason for their creation. This does not mean that God expects mankind to be ignorant about these things. However, He does expect His subjects to exercise humility, as opposed to pride, when it comes to understanding the truth about these important subjects,

God resists the proud, but gives grace (SGD 5485, *charis*, unmerited pardon/favor) to the humble (Jas. 4:6; cf. Ps. 147:6; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly (cf. Mt. 9:10-13; 11:19; Rom. 12:16), than to divide the spoil (plunder) with the proud (cf. Eze. 28:17) (Prov. 16:18-19; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Those who approach God with the right attitude can expect to have some of their questions about the creation of the heavens and earth answered,

Lord, **you have heard the desire of the humble**; You will prepare their heart; **You will cause Your ear to hear** (Ps. 10:17; emphasis added).

The humble He guides in justice, and **the humble He teaches His way** (Ps. 25:9; emphasis added).

When pride comes, then comes shame; but **with the humble is wisdom** (Prov. 11:2; emphasis added).

Conversely, those who deny the existence of Almighty God can expect to remain ignorant about how, when, and why the universe was created,

The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'... (Ps. 14:1a).

By examining some of the questions that God asked Job, it is possible to gain a better perspective of creation. Again, the correct answers to these questions about God's creative activities depends upon the attitude of those seeking a more accurate understanding (cf. 2Tim. 3:7),

Where were you when I (God) laid the foundations (SHD 3245 – to found, begin, appoint, sit down in conclave to discuss the details; cf. Ps. 2:2; including the establishment of laws related to this aspect of creation; cf. Ps. 119:152; Hab. 1:12) of the earth...? (Job 38:4a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Based on a correct rendering of the last scripture, God was referring to an aspect of His creation that pre-dated that of the physical earth (see study: Two Earths). Job 38:7 shows the archangels and all the other spirit-composed "sons of God" rejoicing together at the spiritual creation, which indicates that no sin had yet occurred in the spirit realm. Consequently, there was no need for the creation of a physical earth at that time. The physical earth was created in order to deal with sin (Rom. 6:23a), and once sin is finally dealt with the physical realm will no longer be required,

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which **the** (physical) **heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the** (physical) **elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up** (laid bare). ¹¹Therefore, since **all these** (physical) **things will be dissolved**, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the** (physical) **heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the physical** (elements) **will melt with fervent heat?** ¹³Nevertheless we, according to His (Almighty God's) promise, look for new (spirit-composed) heavens and **a new** (spirit-composed) **earth** in which righteousness dwells (cf. Ps. 119:172b) (2Pet. 3:10-13; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The new earth in 2 Peter 3:13 appears to be a reference to the earth mentioned in Job 38:4. This was a spirit-composed earth that did not have any physical foundations,

To what were its foundations (SHD 134, base, pedestal, sockets - used 56 times in the O.T. referring to the sockets on which the tabernacle stood) fastened? Or who laid (SHD 3384, directed, taught, instructed) its cornerstone (SHD 6438 + 68, ruler or chief one; cf. 1Sam. 14:38; Jgs.20:2; Isa. 19:13; Zech. 10:4) (Job 38:6; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Again, it has been assumed that God was describing the creation of a physical earth in Job 38:4-6, when He may actually have been describing the creation of a spirit-composed earth prior to any sin being committed. This spirit-composed earth appears to be described using the metaphor of a garden located east of Eden,

The Lord God planted a garden eastward in **Eden** (in relation to Almighty God's throne), and there He put the man whom He had formed (in God's spirit-composed image; cf. Gen. 1:26; see study: Did God Create Adam From the Dust?) (Gen. 2:8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The Hebrew word for Eden (SHD 5731) means "pleasure" or "delight" which are appropriate words to describe where Almighty God dwells. By examining the following section of scripture, it appears that God delegated some of His authority to other spirit-composed "sons" (angels) and these individuals then created the spirit-composed earth that was located east of Eden. These spirit-composed "sons" of Almighty God were also responsible for creating other spirit-beings under the Father's delegation. The first of these was named Adam,

Then God said, '**Let Us** (spirit-composed sons of God) **make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**...' (Gen. 1:26a; emphasis added).

The cornerstone mentioned in Job 38:6, laid by Almighty God, would have represented the individual put in charge of this creation. Prior to taking up his responsibility, this leader would have been trained by Almighty God (cf. Prov. 8:22-36). The following scriptures confirm the identity of this chief ruler,

He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God (Almighty), the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For **by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities (other rulers) or powers (other authorities). All things were created through him and for him.** ¹⁷And he is before all (created) things, and in him all things consist. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the preeminence (Col. 1:15-18; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Jesus said to them, did you never read in the scriptures: '**The stone (Christ) which the builders (rebellious leaders in the physical and spiritual realms) rejected has become the chief cornerstone.** This was the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes'?' (Mt. 21:42; Isa. 28:16; Ac. 4:10-12; 1Pet. 2:4-8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The language in Job 38:8-15 is primarily figurative, and therefore easily misunderstood. When God inspired the use of words like "sea", "clouds", "proud waves", "bars and doors", He was describing a change that took place within the spirit-realm that necessitated the temporary creation of a physical earth. This change came about as a result of Satan's rebellion against God's commands. The timing of when this occurred is speculative, and could have been millions of years ago,

You (Lucifer, now called Satan and the Adversary) were an anointed cherub who covers (Almighty God's throne); I (God) established (appointed) you; you were on the holy mountain (symbol of God's government) of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones (symbolic of administering God's law and commands; cf. Dt. 33:2). ¹⁵**You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity (sin; cf. 1Jn. 3:4) was found in you** (Eze. 28:14-15; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Prior to his rebellion, Lucifer participated in the creation of the spirit-composed earth which God described metaphorically as a garden east of Eden. Following his rebellion,

Satan was still located in this “garden” because Adam was told not to fellowship with him (cf. Gen. 2:17),

You (Lucifer) were in Eden, the garden of God... (Eze. 28:13a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Because Satan was powerful, attractive, and knowledgeable, he was able to convince many angels to follow his way of reasoning and doing things (Eze. 28:12b, 17a; Rev. 12:4). Perhaps he had a very convincing argument against the way the “chief cornerstone” was running Almighty God’s creative project. No doubt Lucifer, just prior to becoming Satan, believed he had better ideas and began influencing others with his opinions. It is reasonable to assume that his ideas were rejected at some point by the spirit-being who was in charge. As mentioned previously, that spirit-being became known later as Jesus Christ. This scenario could provide a plausible reason for Satan’s rebellion against Almighty God. Following this rebellion, God placed limits on Satan and used figurative language to describe these limitations,

So the Lord God said to the serpent: ‘Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the cattle, and more than every beast of the field; **on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life** (Gen. 3:14; emphasis added).

After Satan’s rebellion, he was no longer granted direct access to Almighty God. The spirit-being who became Jesus Christ was a witness to this truth as the next scripture confirms. Therefore, the “Lord” that Satan communicated with in Job 1:6 (see third scriptural quotation below) was Jesus Christ,

And he (Christ) said to them (the disciples), ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven (Lk. 10:18; cf. Isa. 14:12; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The rebellion of Satan and the fallen host is described in the 38th chapter of Job using different imagery than Genesis 3:14,

Or who shut in the sea with doors (see study: The Seas and Those Who Dwell in Them), when it burst forth and issued from the womb (metaphorically comparing Lucifer’s creation and rebellion that followed); ⁹When I made the clouds its garment, and **thick darkness its swaddling band** (cf. Gen. 1:2); ¹⁰When I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors (figuratively representing the restraints put upon Satan); ¹¹When I said, ‘**This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!**’ (Job 38:8-11; cf. Jude 13; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The fact that Satan can still function but in a limited manner is described in numerous scriptures,

Now there was a day when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. ⁷And the Lord said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ (“the Lord” here is the chief cornerstone because Almighty God is omniscient and omnipotent and would not ask this question) So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.’ ⁸Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered (set your heart on) my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns (turns away from) evil?’ ⁹So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’ ¹⁰Have you not made a hedge around him (protected him), around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹But now, stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse you (bless, but in an evil

sense) to your face!' ¹²So **the Lord said to Satan, 'Behold, all that he has is in your power (hand); only do not lay a hand on his person.'** Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord (Job 1:6-12; cf. Jn. 13:27; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Following on from "the proud waves that must be stopped" in Job 38:11, there is a transformation of these wicked spirit-beings into a clay form. This refers to the flesh and blood state they will be transformed into prior to their final judgment. There are numerous scriptures that explain this in more detail,

Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place (Gen. 1:3-5; cf. 2Pet. 1:19), ¹³that it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and **the wicked be shaken out of it?** ¹⁴**It takes on form like clay under a seal, and stands out like a garment** (cf. Isa. 14:15-20). ¹⁵**From the wicked their light is withheld, and the upraised (high/proud) arm is broken** (Job 38:12-15; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And the God of peace (Christ; cf. Isa. 9:6) will crush Satan under your feet shortly... (Rom. 16:20a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance (cf. Rev. 6:9-11); he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked (Ps. 58:10; Ed. note in parenthesis).

You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet... (Mal. 4:3a).

The balance of the 38th chapter of Job deals primarily with activities that take place in the physical realm. Even these present a challenge for mankind to figure out due to their complexity. As no human being witnessed any of the events involving the creation of the spirit realm or the physical realm, it is no surprise to see so much debate and confusion amongst both religious and scientific communities today. Suffice it to say, it is possible to understand certain aspects of God's creation, but a thorough explanation is not available at this time,

For now (during our short physical lives) we see in a mirror, dimly, but then (in a future resurrection of the dead) face to face. Now I (Paul) know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known (1Cor. 13:12; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Therefore, it is foolishness for so-called authorities on the origin of the universe to espouse their theories on how it was made, when it was made, and even why it was made as fact, and then teach it to others (cf. 2Tim. 4:3-4). Also, it is foolishness to dismiss out of hand the discoveries of science that can assist with a better understanding of past events related to creation. Respect toward God as the creator should be the foundation upon which any discussion on creation is made, and caution needs to be exercised when theories are presented, unless the presenter happened to witness the creation of the universe.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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