

**Introduction:** Most cultures and most people ask questions about the origins of all that is now. Has everything always been here? Or, was there a beginning? If there was a beginning: Did everything happen at once? Or was there an order of things coming into being? \*\*\* Most people have experiences and encounters with something beyond the material. Is this just emotions? Or, might there be something that is spiritual? \*\*\* Some of us have heard about what have been called ‘creation myths’ since the beginning of the Enlightenment which discounts whatever cannot be tested or seen. In these, various ‘gods’ each did their part in creating the world as we can know it. None of these ‘gods’ were omnipotent or omniscient. As they created, they had struggles. Their greatest efforts came as they tried to subdue a primordial sea characterized by chaos from storms and filled with sea monsters to be overcome. \*\*\* In the last three centuries scientists have discovered that there was a moment of creation from nothingness when all the molecules of the universe instantly came into being. Over time these were formed into what we see now. There was a time when all our planet was underwater; but, then land emerged, the sea became distinct, fresh water emerged on land and the water cycle began. Then, various animal species emerged in the sea, air and on land. Finally, people came into being. \*\*\* This is the order of events The True God revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai in what we call Genesis one and two. Moreover, in the prophets, wisdom books and psalms of Scripture, God gave us more details about creation. \*\*\* Two thousand years ago The Word, who created all there is, came to the world He created as a human (John 1). He revealed more about God’s creation in what we call the Gospels, the New Testament and the Revelation. \*\*\* Let’s look closer at our texts from both Genesis and the Gospel according to John.

**I. God created everything by His Word.** (*Genesis 1:1-6, 24-28, 31-2:3*)

A. From the confusion of the land and the darkness of the deep waters, God spoke and brought order. (*Genesis 1:1-6*)

1. In beginning, created God the heavens and the earth. (*Verse 1*)

**Creator:** The one True God, initiated creation as something new. In Scripture only God creates this way. Human creation is described as shaping something out of what already exists. God creates out of His sovereignty and absolute power, while human creation depends on Him and what He has created.

2. And the earth (was) confusion and empty; and, darkness upon the face of the deep, and The Spirit of God was hovering upon the face of the waters. (*Verse 2*)

**Spirit:** The Spirit is of God and distinct from God. And the Spirit is hovering over the waters.

**Poetry:** After describing the earth, notice the similarity and differences concerning ‘upon the face of’.

First: darkness ... the deep; second: The Spirit of God ... the waters.

**Empty-void:** At this time, the earth is formless and void. This would suggest that the waters, parallel to darkness, were also chaotic.

**Darkness:** Darkness is parallel with Spirit of God, but this appears to be a contrasting parallel. This would suggest God is about to do something with darkness.

3. Then God said, ‘There will be Light’, and then was Light; then God saw that the Light was good; then God divided between the Light and between the darkness; then God called The Light, Day, and the darkness He called night; then there was evening and then there was morning: day one. (*Verses 3-5*)

**Word-deed:** Notice the pattern for how Light came to be. First, God spoke a word that there would be Light.

Then, there was Light. God spoke Light into being. No struggle, He spoke and it was.

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**See-good:** After Light existed, God saw it and declared it good. This is part of His creation pattern.

**Darkness-night:** God named both Light and darkness, calling them respectively, Day and night.

**One Day:** After saying all this, God said to Moses, ‘one day’, in the creation context.

4. Then God said, ‘There will be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and it will be causing separation between waters to waters. (*Verse 6*)

**Separation:** With the expanse (firmament – KJV) God is beginning to bring order to chaotic water.

**Contrast to deep:** The books of Job and Psalms give more insight into this. Job said: ‘He has encircled the face of the waters with limits ... He has calmed (NAS, RSV, YLT) the sea with His power and by His understanding He smote the sea monster’ (Job 26:10-12). The prophet Asaph wrote: ‘Thou did divide the sea by Thy strength and Thou shattered the heads of the dragons upon the waters; and Thou crushed in pieces the heads of the large serpents’ (Psalm 74:12-14). Again, God speaks and it is.

B. God spoke and created breathing life on the land, culminating with people in His image; He saw it was all very good and rested. (*Genesis 1:24-28, 31-2:3*)

1. And then God said, ‘The earth will bring forth living creatures to their kind (species): animals and creeping things and beasts of the earth to their kind (species), and then it was so. (*Verse 24*)

**Speak land creatures:** Once again, God speaks about living creatures being brought forth of the earth according to their kind.

2. And God made the living creatures of the earth to their kind, the animals to their kind and everything creeping on the ground to its kind; then God saw that it was good. (*Verse 25*)

**Make land creatures:** Once again, God creates by Word then deed as He did with Light. But now He is making living creatures from the earth by His Word – land creatures.

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**Good:** Just as Light was good, so is every living creature God made good.

3. Then God said, ‘We will make ‘adam’ in our image, according to our likeness; and, they will rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the animals and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth; then God created ‘adam’ in His image, in the image of God, He created him: male and female He created them. (*Verses 26-27*)

**Image of God:** Biblically, an image represents someone. ‘Adam’, in God’s image, rules in the plural (they) as male and female. Therefore people represent God, who is ‘spirit’ on His physical earth.

**Rule:** They rule as stewards under God and dependent on Him (Psalm 8).

**Male and female:** Both men and women are in the image of God, created together by His Word.

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4. Then God blessed them, then God said to them, 'You all must be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and make it subservient; and you all must rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every creeping thing upon the earth. (*Verse 28*)  
**Blessing:** This completes the three parts of God's creation. In addition to speaking the Word and doing what He says, finally, God blesses what He spoke and did.  
**Challenge:** We must be amazed and overwhelmed by the power and ease with which The True God created heaven and earth, bringing order out of chaos, then filling everything with life, including people created in His image, all this by His Word to bless us.
5. Then God saw all which He had made, and behold(!): very good; then it was evening and then it was morning: day six. (*Genesis 1:31*)  
**All-very good:** With the creation of 'adam', people – men and women in His image, God sees everything as very good.  
**Application:** Day six challenges all of us to rule God's very good creation as respectful stewards because God has declared it all very good.
6. Then the heavens and the earth were finished, all the host of them; when God had finished on the seventh day His work which He had done; then He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (*Genesis 2:1-2*)  
**Finish:** After six days God had finished all His creation work: the heavens and earth and all the host of (everything created to fill) them.  
**Rest:** With nothing more to do, God took a Sabbath rest on the seventh day.
7. Then God blessed the seventh day, then He made it holy; because in it He had rested from all His work which He had created: God to make. (*Genesis 2:3*)  
**Bless:** God blessed the seventh day when He rested from all His creation work which He had finished by making it holy as He is holy (Leviticus 11:44-47).

**II. The Word has been eternally with God and through Him everything came into being; and, Life was being in Him, The Light of people. (*John 1:1-5*)**

- A. In the beginning The Word was already being God; and, through Him, all things came into being. (*Verses 1-3*)
  1. In beginning was being The Word, and The Word was being with The God; and, God was being The Word, same was being in beginning with The God. (*Verses 1-2*)  
**Repetition with variety:** We are given four clauses of equality with four nouns. The four clauses are complementary chiasms of the nouns in different formulas. The formulas are beautiful and will be posted on the FCC website for those who want to see God's beautiful logic.  
**The Word WITH The God:** In beginning (the moment just before creation) ... The Word was WITH The God ... same (The Word) ... in beginning WITH The God. So, The Word is distinct from God.  
**The Word IS God:** And God was being (IS) The Word. Equal signs work both ways. The lack of the definite article before God means God is more than The Word, but The Word IS God. This is a key truth in the doctrine of The Trinity.  
**Application:** I pray many will take time this week to understand the formulas (or the words above) in order to comprehend and be in awe of the mystery that The Word is both God and separately with God.
  2. All things came to be through Him, and without Him came into being not one thing. (*Verse 3*)  
**All came to be by The Word:** This says The Word is a person (fully God), by whom God created.

**Homiletical Idea: God created by His Word. (#4)**

**Same truth:** The rest of the sentence says (in a negative way) everything came to be by The Word.

- B. The Life that was always in Him is The Light of people, shining in the darkness; but, the darkness cannot take the light to itself. (*Verses 4-5*)
  1. In Him Life was being, and The Life was being The Light of the men (people). (*Verse 4*)  
**Life:** The Word, being fully God and all that God IS, is Life – always: yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).  
**Life=Light:** And The Life of The Word is The Light for all the people of the world. The rest of the Gospel of John describes how whoever believes all he wrote about The Word (The Savior) may have eternal life in His Light.
  2. The Light is currently always in the darkness shining, and the darkness it (the Light) has not comprehended. (*Verse 5*)  
**Shining in darkness:** Jesus came to His people who were walking in darkness to be Light to them (Isaiah 9:2; Matthew 4:16).

Title: *The Word is Light shining in darkness. (#1)*

**Darkness NOT comprehended:** Darkness has not been able to take light into itself. This makes sense because whenever light enters a dark place darkness disappears. The last chapter of the Bible says 'And night shall be no more ... for the Lord God will be their light' (Revelation 22:5, RSV).

**Application:** We must bring The Word who IS Life, The Light of people, to people still in darkness. We can do this because darkness can never comprehend nor seize The Light or the people of The Light.

**Now NOT yet:** Darkness is still here until Jesus returns. But Jesus came so people do not have to stay in darkness (John 12:46), and He will shine on those living in darkness (Luke 1:79) because in Him the darkness is passing and the light is now shining (1 John 2:8).

**Conclusion:** After God created everything, the land and seas were chaotic; but, God spoke and brought order and distinction to land and sea. Then, He spoke and made living creatures in the sea and sky, and on land, and finished by creating people in His image. He did this through His eternal Word, who is being Him and with Him, that is: He is equal yet distinct from God. And, the Word is Life and Light to all people in the darkness, in which He shines.

**Homiletical Idea: God created by His Word. (#5)**