

HOW THE WORLD BEGAN

Did the world have a beginning or has the world always been in existence? This may surprise you, but almost no one believes that the world always was. Most everyone and especially scientists believe that the world including atoms and molecules did have a beginning sometime in the past. As Christians we believe that God created the heavens and the earth. Is that reasonable to believe in today's scientific climate?

The Bible says

Genesis 1:1 "in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Does the Bible say when that beginning was? No, but scholars have added up the ages of the different Bible characters and compared their ages to later events that were clearly dated and found that the first man, Adam, came on the earth about 4000 BC or 6000 years ago. These dates from the Bible also match up with scientific findings in regard to the time when human beings began to appear and leave a record of their appearance. But what about prehistoric men or dinosaurs, where do they fit into the Bible? First of all in regard to prehistoric people, it is obvious from the Bible that there were no human beings prior to Adam. **Genesis 2:7** says "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground." It is especially important to understand that there has never been any "half-man half-animal" found anywhere in the world. The pictures of these supposed people, seen in textbooks, were all manufactured to look

like they were real. But, how about dinosaurs, did they really live and if so when? The Bible mentions in detail a creature that easily could be a form of a dinosaur: **Job 41:1** says "Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook?" Read the whole chapter 41 of Job which describes this horrible animal. God created these giant creatures on the fifth day of creation. Most Bible scholars believe that these dinosaurs became extinct after Noah's flood because there was less vegetation on earth for them to eat.

How did God do it?

Before God created the first atom or molecule, there was absolutely nothing in existence except God. When God spoke the Word everything came into existence immediately. The earth, the sun, the moon, and all the planets were suddenly made "ex-nihilo" out of nothing. **Genesis 1:2** says "And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." The earth and the heavens were now in existence, but without any function. The rest of **Genesis chapter 1** tells how God created light **day 1**; atmosphere or air (firmament) **day 2**; made dry land appear and caused grass, plants, and trees to begin to grow and reproduce **day 3**; made the sun, moon, and stars to have purpose in lighting the earth, controlling the ocean tides, guiding animals in their travels, and man in his planting and harvesting **day 4**; made birds to fly in the heavens and fish to inhabit the seas and caused them to reproduce **day 5**. Then we come to the final and most important day of creation **day**

6: God created animals, with living souls, out of the dust of the ground and told them to reproduce after their kind. And then we read in **Genesis 2:7** "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." God made man to be the highest of His creation. While animals had bodies and souls, man like His creator, is a three-part creature with body, soul, and spirit. With his spirit man is able to make contact with God. Because man is made in the image of God, man is a moral creature blessed with a conscience. Because man is made in the image of God, he will live as long as God lives which is forever. Death may end the life of your pet, but death will not end your life. God made man to be superior over all of His creation and gave him the responsibility to "dress it and to keep it" **Genesis 2:15**

What others believe.

First of all others believe that the world came into existence by an explosion but neglect to mention where the things that exploded came from in the first place.

In regard to the beginning of man, others believe that man came from the swamp when a simple creature crawled out of the water, developed lungs, grew legs and all other earthly needs for men on earth all in a short enough time to stay alive. Talk about a miracle: I choose to believe the Bible.

If you have any questions for us, you may contact us at bmason6@bellsouth.net or you may call one of our counselors at 864-498-1943