

Firm Foundations: Faith, Science, and the Creator

Lesson 2: In the Beginning, God

Overview

Genesis 1:1 is the foundation for origins, authority, and reality. We do not have to rely on man's reconstruction of the past or on "deep time" to explain how the earth appears old despite not having existed for long periods of time.

Key Truths

- God existed before space, time, matter, and energy.
- Scripture must govern our interpretation of origins.
- Creation happened because God spoke and brought all things into existence.
- When God acts, we cannot always use human reasoning to understand it.
- A mature creation can appear old because God created a functioning world from the beginning.
- Genesis presents creation as revelation, not speculation.

Key Scriptures

- Genesis 1
- Exodus 20:11
- Hebrews 11:3
- John 1:1-3
- 2 Peter 3:8

Common Interpretations Of Genesis 1

Literal-day view: Genesis describes six normal days of creation, followed by the seventh day of rest.

Day-age view: The days represent long periods of time rather than ordinary days.

Gap theory: A long span of time is placed between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2.

“Framework”: Genesis 1 is treated mainly as a literary structure rather than a chronological sequence.

Theistic evolution: God exists, but is said to have used evolutionary processes over long ages to create life.

(others)

Questions

1. Why do people often reinterpret Genesis 1 based around modern assumptions?
2. How does apparent age fit with a supernatural Creator?
3. If the light from a galaxy 230,000 light years away can now be observed on earth, what must be said about the light created along with that galaxy?