

## SUMMA GENESIS:

WHY YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE STARTING AT THE VERY  
FIRST VERSE AND WHY THIS DOES NOT IGNORE SCIENCE.

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## **CAN THE DAYS IN GENESIS BE TAKEN METAPHORICALLY?**

It is true that there are many uses of the word day. I go to work four days a week, I remember the days when I watched Saturday morning cartoons, and it took me days to learn my multiplication tables. Each one is being used in a different tense. The former is referring to a 24-hour day, the latter is referring to a time period, and the final is referring to an indefinite length of time. How can one tell which tense is being used? The only way to determine the definition is by looking at the clues in the immediate vicinity. In context, sunrise and sunset are mentioned in Genesis.

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. The days of Genesis do not have to be taken literally as Peter says “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”
2. These days can represent long ages and do not have to be taken as 24-hour periods. After all the definition of day may be different.
3. There could have been a time in between the first verse and the second verse in which the events of millions of years took place. After all the next verse indicates that the Earth was formless and void. This could have been after a great cataclysm such as a meteor.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. The verse in question is referencing God’s omnipotence in response to human weakness. It is also describing how God will keep His promise and that He will not break it.
2. The third day brings about flowering plants, the fourth brings about the sun, and animals are not brought forward until the fifth and sixth days. If a plant does not have sunlight for just a few days it will wither. Even if the plant could last without sunlight, there are no animals by which to spread the seed. The plants would quickly become extinct.
3. The Gap Theory is illogical in that Moses gives the Sabbath commandment in relation to God creating the Earth in six days. This theory would put suffering before the Fall which is against orthodox Christianity.

## **ARE THERE TWO SEPARATE CREATION ACCOUNTS?**

They are not two separate accounts, but simply God providing more details that could not be provided with a single account. God in His infinite wisdom wanted to give us everything that we needed.

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. The entire creation story is recounted in the second chapter of Genesis and is widely different. If one is to act as a biblical literalist, he must accept two contrasting stories at the same time.
2. The second chapter of Genesis has God recreating the plants and animals that he already made in Genesis 1. Even worse, the order is now switched. This was included by God to emphasize that we should not take this literally.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. Genesis 2 is not a retelling of Genesis 1, it is a close up of the sixth day and recounts the events that transpired. God gives this close examination for two reasons: 1. Man is His greatest creation and is thus given a spotlight. 2. It provides a further understanding of how things became the way they are.
2. The language in Genesis 2 actually indicates that God, in the case of plants, caused them to grow in the present setting and in the case of animals, brought them forward. They are not recreated. One does not say that a tree is created for the first time when a sapling grows from the seed.

## **IS SALVATION POSSIBLE WITHOUT A LITERAL GENESIS?**

The story of the Garden of Eden is inextricably linked to the story of Salvation. The start of the former is a sin and the latter begins with a sacrifice for sin. The end of the former is a curse of all sin and death, whereas the latter is redemption from all sin and death. This was included in the Bible for a reason: The first was the ultimate failing of humanity that caused a rift between God and man, whereas the second was the ultimate submission to God that bridged the eternal gap.

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. All that is needed is the saving power of Christ from His death on the Cross. Genesis has nothing to do with this story and thus does not need to be literal.
2. Jesus would have come to redeem the world even without the sin in Eden.
3. Adam and Eve would both have eventually died in the Garden and thus Christ's redemption of death would still hold value.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. Sin and death first came about as a result of the curse that was placed on mankind and Earth as a result of the consuming of the forbidden fruit. Without this, there is no need for a sacrifice of Christ.
2. If Adam and Eve had not sinned in Eden, Christ would not have come. For Paul tells us, the sin of Adam brought death into the world and the redemption of Christ destroyed the power of death.
3. When the couple is banished from Eden, God says that they must not be allowed to return, lest they eat from the Tree of Life and live forever. In order to keep this from happening the Almighty placed a flaming sword and a cherubim to guard the way.

## **IS GENESIS RELEVANT ONLY A MYTH?**

The entire Bible has to be taken as a whole and selectively editing it does not do justice to its nature.

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. Genesis serves no other purpose than to provide a way for the Jewish people to understand the origins of humanity.
2. Genesis 1 is merely a creation myth and one can move on to Genesis 2-3 without this first chapter.
3. Since the first chapters of Genesis are merely myth, they should be treated as such and not treated as history.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. The Genesis account creates the biblical definition of marriage and Jesus Himself uses this passage to defend the sanctity of marriage before the Sadducees.
2. It is important to read the Bible in its entirety without skipping anything in order to understand it.
3. This objection assumes the finding before reading and thus has no place here.

## **DO SCHOLARLY METHODS OF INTERPRETATION HOLD ANY VALUE?**

They hold value as long as they do not undermine scripture.

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. The majority of scholars do not believe in a literal Genesis and they have found that it can be interpreted in other ways.
2. Scholars have confirmed that there were four sources that came together to write the Old Testament. One major piece of evidence is that the perspective shifts
3. Different sections of the Bible give different names for God. Thus, it is only logical to conclude that these were separate writers.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. Do not forget that the majority followed the Canaanite gods and the majority of the scholars persecuted Christ. Just because something is the majority opinion, does not make it right.
2. If you look at the story of Noah, you will see something shocking when you look closely. The first and last events are God confirming a covenant with Noah, the second and second to last events are the animals entering and leaving. This goes through the entire narrative. If we were to separate this beautiful arc amongst four sources, we would cut the poetry to bits. Just because God is named differently does not mean the author is different, it just means that God has many names. The reason that it takes different perspectives is because God gave different parts of the Bible for different reasons: history, prophecy, moral instruction, or an explanation of nature.
3. God name is never to be spoken. We know that each name given describes a different aspect of His nature that is to be emphasized at any one time.

## **CAN GENESIS BE TAKEN AS A PARABLE?**

Myths and parables are a specific class of literature that is identifiable by context clues and circumstances. Therefore, it is possible to tell what the intention of the “author” is by looking at this. The account in Genesis does not include these context clues and is thus best accepted as historical account.

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. Jesus frequently used parables in order to explain an overarching notion or idea. The account in Genesis tells us how sin quickly corrupts mankind.
2. The story of creation in Genesis is a story created by the Ancient Israelites to explain how the world first came to be. This is shown in how it has many similarities to other creation myths in the same area.
3. The creation story is a myth, in that it shows several ideals present within creation stories. (creation from nothing, a curse by a deity, and a global flood) Therefore the Israelites borrowed from these cultures in order to create their own story, the themes were adapted to fit the needs of Israel.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. It is true that Jesus, Paul, and the prophets use parables. However, each one of these is preceded by a problem or a question proposed to the speaker. Jesus gives parables in response to questions or problems posed to Him. Paul uses parables when the churches he creates write to him with problems. The prophets use parables to address corruption as God prompts them. None of these circumstances are present within the first chapter of Genesis.
2. To say this is to deny the authority of the Bible for God gave the Word to the people. If this is not so, what else have the people created? Did they create the prophets out of thin air as well as the entire sacrificial system? This opens a flood gate of questions and concerns.
3. It is true that there are several other myths that have common themes and it is equally possible that these themes were taken from Israel by the surrounding nations. There are enough dissimilarities between Israelite creation and the others to create concern for this objection: Creation ex-nihilio, whereas in all other stories the deity is formed from the universe and then reshapes the universe.

## **DOES LITERALISM THROW OUT ALL OF SCIENCE?**

It logically follows that there are only two possibilities for the origins of life: special creation or accidental formation. Since we know that the latter uses mountains of falsified/fabricated data and is based solely on unverifiable assumptions, it can be rejected. Also, most of the people who advocate these theories are atheists and do not accept God's Word. It is demeaning to God to use their words over His.

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. Scientists have proven that the Earth is millions of years old by the use of radioactive dating. This means that the Earth does not have to be only 6,000 years old, but can actually be millions of years old.
2. Scientists have found the missing links, such as Piltdown Man and Nebraska Man and thus prove that man evolved from lower animals. This means that the creation in Genesis was created much later and is based on socio-cultural standards of Ancient Israel.
3. The universe is expanding and thus we can see that the universe is billions of years old not just a few thousand.
4. Creation science pre-supposes the answer and then seeks evidence to prove it.
5. Galileo was a humble scientist that was silenced by the Church for attempting to argue against what they held to be true.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. This method of dating is based on the assumption that one can solve for two variables at a time, that all circumstances have not changed over the course of time, and that the original amount is known. These assumptions make it impossible to use as a reliable method of dating the Earth.
2. Nebraska Man was a single tooth from which an entire ancient man and his wife were reconstructed. It was later revealed that it was actually a pig's tooth. Piltdown Man was actually a composite skull from three different genres fused together.
3. Galaxy NGC 4319 and the quasar Markarian 205 are according to red shift theory, billions of years apart, but are connected by a luminous bridge. This has even been confirmed by evolutionary scientists. If red shift was true, this would not be possible.
4. Evolutionary science assumes that evolution is true and then seeks to prove it by altering evidence. On the other hand, the Bible describes what has happened and then scientists put it to the test, coming up with flawless results.
5. Galileo and the Church were actually in complete concurrence. The scientists of the time, basing their views on Aristotelian ideals convinced the Church to move against Galileo.



## **CAN MAN INTERPRET THE BIBLE BY HUMAN STANDARDS?**

I can only imagine what would happen if man started to define what God meant rather than God deciding what He meant. Without getting into a discourse, what happens when man decides what marriage means? The Pharisees decided how it was best to keep the Law by a number of legal restrictions and thus led themselves into sin. God is the final arbiter of His word.

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. The Bible was written hundreds of years ago. We know so much more about science and technology than we did back then.
2. The Bible endorses slavery this is just one more ancient idea that we should not believe. Therefore, we need to take some things in the Bible with a grain of salt and not all of them are to be taken exactly as they appear.
3. People are smart it is clear that not everything has to be taken word-for-word. For we know that the provisions against having two types of material in one cloth was a parable for marrying into other nations.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. The Bible was written many years ago, but it revealed a number of truths that the ancient world denied and the modern accepts. For example: the cleanliness laws in Leviticus were one of the major reasons that the Black Plague slowed and stopped. Before this, people did not follow these laws and died as a result. Matthew 24 and Job 26 clearly give the notion of the planet as we understand it today.
2. What we call slavery, in the Bible, was actually indentured servitude. We only call this slavery, because the “slaves” were eventually freed.
3. At the same time, we must not take that too far. When people decide what to keep and not to keep, it often leads to sin. The Ancient Israelites ignored God’s warnings about idols and thus fell into sin. When man is the final arbiter of the Word, the devil is alongside him.

## **DO THE GENEALOGIES IGNORE NORMAL LIFE SPANS?**

It is a terrible logical fallacy to isolate one period in time and compare it to another. Times were very different as was everything else. Just as we know that it is impossible to live 500 years, it is impossible for a virgin to give birth and for a great sea to be split in two.

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. The lifespans in Genesis are impossibly long and nobody could possibly live that long.
2. Matthew 1 and Luke 3 offer slightly different genealogies. They differ due to theological purposes ie. number and how they are divided. It is only logical to conclude that Genesis would do the same.
3. The genealogies cannot be literal because they have sisters marrying brothers and cousins marrying cousins, which is of course incest.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. Firstly, this assumes that the ecosystem was identical to what it is today. We know that the flood brought rain and outpouring from underwater springs to dramatically shift the Earth's landscape. Many scientists have argued that the early Earth would have been a tropical environment which is also conducive to long life spans. This would also cause plants and animals to be much larger and result in more than enough food. It should be noted that people in pre-industrial societies eat much healthier foods and get more exercise. With this entirely different landscape, environment, and way of life, it would only logically follow that lifespans would be greater. Also when the life spans are examined across time by graph, it is shown that they for the most part get shorter as the environment changes. Life spans radically change after the flood of Noah's day when there was a sudden and dramatic ecological difference.
2. Matthew 1 and Luke 3 offer an identical line of descent for Jesus. They do not mention all of the same people because the word often translated as "father of" or "son of" is more closely translated to "preceded" or "descended from" respectively. This would be the same thing as one listing his ancestors as great-great-great grandfather, great-great grandfather, and father. Does this mean that the great grandfather or grandfather did not exist?
3. Firstly, this was not listed as a sin for the people before the Israelites were in the wilderness before Mt. Sinai. Secondly, the scientific reason that God likely created this law was to avoid interbreeding which propagates holes in the genetic sequence. After just being created, the genetic code was perfect and without flaw. With mutations over the generations, these gaps appeared and by the time that the Israelites reached Sinai, it was severe enough for God to institute this law. Thirdly, did God create a large number of individuals or simply one pair of people to populate the Earth?

## WERE MOSES, JESUS, AND PAUL AMBIVALENT TO GENESIS

### WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:

1. Moses was interested in leading the people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. He also acted as a prophet and interceded for the people. As a whole this could still have happened without a literal Genesis.
2. The message of Jesus centered on salvation of His people and the care for neighbor as one's self. A literal Genesis has nothing at all to do with salvation by the Cross.
3. Paul was interested in making sure that people followed Jesus and ensuring that they did not fall away from the faith. The first chapters of Genesis have nothing whatsoever to do with this.

Moses never once even gave the notion that the Messiah would be divine and Jesus never once mentions that gay marriage is wrong. Does that mean that these should not be accepted either. Not all of the writers wrote on every matter, some things were more important to the audience than others.

### HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:

1. Exodus 20 gives the Ten Commandments and the Fourth is about how to keep the Sabbath. This same commandment gives the example of how God created the Earth in six days and rested on the seventh. Not only is this a historical account, but God gave an example for humanity. It is true that God does not need to rest, but He did make it holy and decree that no work was to be done. Just as He stopped the work of creation after the sixth day, He expects us to do the same.
2. Luke 17 describes the End Times by Jesus' own mouth. Here, He references the flood of Noah's day and the destruction of Sodom. He does this to show that just as these were unavoidable, so will the End Times be unavoidable. However, why would Jesus reference these and not many of the plagues that are historically accurate such as those that fell on Egypt, the serpents in the wilderness, or the lions within Israel? The reason that Jesus knew that people would doubt these events as well and he references them to tell us that they are a literal history. Many of the same people that deny that the first chapters of Genesis cannot be taken literally also argue that these cannot be taken literally either.
3. Romans 5 is one of the places where Paul argues for sin's redemption through Christ. Paul argues that sin and death came through Adam and through Christ man was redeemed. Paul goes all the way back to Genesis in order to describe how sin is redeemed in Christ and treats it like history. Paul uses this comparison, not once, but four times and emphasizes that it is the sin that reigned from Adam until Moses, which includes Eve as well. Thus, although the first couple brought sin into the world, Jesus redeemed this and Paul uses a literal Genesis to explain this.

## **WAS THERE SUFFERING BEFORE THE FALL?**

### **WHAT ARGUMENTS DO THE ATHEISTS AND EVOLUTIONISTS USE:**

1. Death took place before sin because Adam and Eve could not eat meat without the death of an animal.
2. It is quite obvious that there was death before sin because all of the animals were in the Garden and the carnivores ate meat.
3. Adam and Eve walked around naked through the Garden and thus were unprotected against stray branches and thorns.

Suffering is tied as one to the Curse. As such sin and death brought suffering into the world and therefore, it could not exist prior.

### **HOW SHOULD A GODLY CHRISTIAN RESPOND:**

1. It was not necessary for the first humans to kill animals in order to obtain food since they had a limitless supply of fruit as well as access to the Tree of Life. God also tells the couple to eat of any of the trees, and they are not allowed to eat meat.
2. At the end of time, all things will be made as they were in the beginning. The Prophet Isaiah describes this world:  
  
“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.”
3. In all of this, things will return to what it once was and death will not exist.
4. The world was created perfect and “very good”, thus there was no suffering until Adam and Eve, together brought the curse. The first thorns and thistles did not appear until after the Fall when the Curse brought them into existence.

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