



What Really Happened “In the Beginning” According to the Bible?

When Did Time Begin?

“In the beginning God...”

The “beginning?” When was that? Only God himself is eternal so it is reasonable to think “the beginning” refers to the beginning of TIME, a dimension like a window in the midst of eternity. What did He do? He “created the heavens and the earth” but what does that mean? The stars weren’t made until the fourth day, so what happened?

It’s sort of like when you begin a construction project. What do you start with? Basic materials, of course, like lumber, nails and paint. But what raw materials did God provide first?

ATOMS? What are they? The building blocks of all physical reality, atoms are composed essentially of three things:

SPACE MATTER energy

NOTICE the words of Genesis 1:1:

“In the beginning [right at the start] GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS.”

Look it up, and you’ll find the original Hebrew word for heavens there is SHAMAYIM. It simply means **stretched out space!**

Think ! God even had to make the empty space in which to put everything.

Then what?

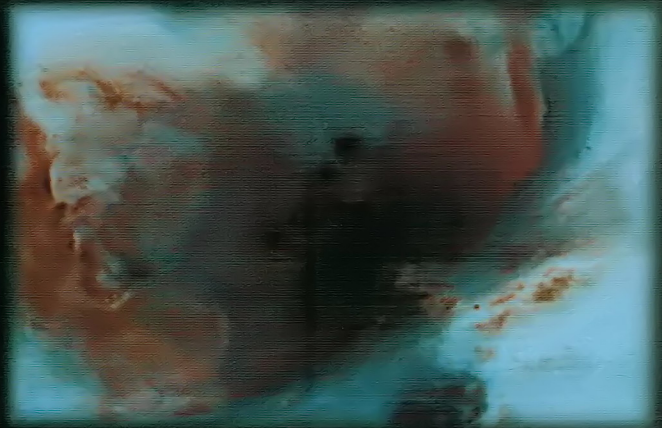
“God created...the earth.”

The original word there for earth is ERETS (Hebrew for “earth”) which simply means the dirt or MATTER from which everything else is made, but it was not yet as we see it today. So what was the condition of these RAW MATERIALS in the beginning? God says they were...

“without form and void.”

Think ! When you take the blocks and build something, THEN you have “form.” Before that the MATTER was without form.

The physical structure of matter had apparently not yet been organized and the earth was truly empty (void) of the things that were necessary for life. Also we read that *“the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”* Was this H₂O water? Since there was not yet “form” in created matter, it might be more correct to call it “fluid.” Beginning with Genesis 1:3 we see God developing a **logical sequence of creative acts** to change the “without form and void” condition of the earth.



Try to imagine formlessness