

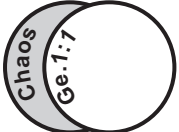


Creation Account: Origin of Matter and 'Chaos'

The relationship of the origin of matter and why we find chaos in Genesis 1:2 are the issues concerned below. There are three positions that are held by evangelical conservatives. The differences are distinct, yet in the end, we must take Genesis 1:1 at face value on faith (He.11:3).

Re-Creation (or Gap) Approach	The Initial Chaos Approach	Pre-Creation Chaos Approach
<p>CONCEPT: Genesis 1:1 describes the original creation of the earth, prior to the fall of Satan (Is.14:12-15; Ek.28:12-19).</p> <p>AS A RESULT: Because of Satan's fall the earth lost its original state of beauty and bliss and is found in a state of chaos in Genesis 1:2; Is.14:12.</p> <p>STRENGTH or VALUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps to explain the teaching of Satan's fall • Allows for a considerable time period or age of the earth <p>Advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arthur Custance</i> ("Without Form and Void") • <i>C.I. Scofield</i> (Scofield Reference Bible) • <i>Clarence Larkin</i> (Dispensational Truth) 	<p>CONCEPT: Genesis 1:1 is an independent introductory statement. Genesis 1:2 describes the state of the original creation as unformed and unfilled. So the universe is like an untouched block of granite before the sculpture begins to fashion it. Genesis 1:3 and following describes God's working and fashioning of the mass, transforming it from chaos to cosmos.</p> <p>The creation is not in an evil state resulting from some catastrophic fall. It is simply in its initial unformed state like a lump of clay in a potter's hands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Days 1-3 explain formlessness changed to form. (They remedy the chaos described in Genesis 1:2) • Days 4-6 explain emptiness changed to habitation. (They remedy the void or emptiness in Genesis 1:2) <p>STRENGTH or VALUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears to be the natural reading of the text as one story or event • Tends to see the earth as relatively young (10,000 years or less) <p>Advocates: <i>Kent Hovind</i> (Dr. Dino); <i>Ken Ham</i> (Answers in Genesis); <i>Henry Morris</i>, <i>Duane Gish</i> (Institute for Creation Research; SSS Radio)</p>	<p>CONCEPT: Genesis 1:1 is understood either as a dependent clause ("When God began to create...") or as an independent introductory clause ("In the beginning God created...").</p> <p>The creation account summarized in Genesis 1:1 begins in Genesis 1:2. This 'creation' is not <i>ex nihilo</i> (out of nothing). It is created out of the stuff existing in Genesis 1:2. (Where the 'stuff' comes from is not explained in the text). It is not the intention of the text to prove creation.</p> <p>The chaotic state found in Genesis 1:2 is before Genesis 1:1 at an unspecified time. The absolute origin of matter is not the subject of Genesis chapter 1. It is the relative beginnings of the world and civilization as we know it today.</p> <p>RESULT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis 1 should not be used to explain the chaos or the origin of matter. <p>Advocates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bruce Waltke</i> (Regent College)
<p>• Original creation of the earth (matter) out of nothing.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaos is the result of the fall of Satan (Is.14:12; Ek.28:12-19) • Re-creation of the earth as we know it today in 6 days (Ex.20:8-11) 	<p>• Chaos is simply the description of how it began.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original creation of the earth (matter) out of nothing in 6 days. 	<p>• Chaos exists before without explanation. The text does not try to explain why chaos exists, just the fact that it does.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter exists in Ge.1:2 without explaining its origin. The text is more concerned with explaining the relative beginnings of the world as we know it today.