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## **SCIENCE, GENESIS AND CREATION (3) AND GOD SAID LET THERE BE LIGHT**

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.  
(Ge 1:3-5)

I am sure that you are all familiar with “magic” shows, where the magician says abracadabra, and then you see a rabbit! I hope that you are sane enough to know that the so called magician did not create the rabbit. It is all illusion, entertaining but not true.

Some people in their simplicity think that the word of God, “Let there be light” is like a magical word that caused light to be created. But this is not what the Bible tells us. There are many other verses in the Bible that speak to us about the creation, for example: “By the **word** of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” (Ps 33:6)

The Psalm here agrees with Genesis 1:3 about the “word” of the Lord being the cause of the creation of the heavens (the universe).

But if we go to Jeremiah 10: 12, we are told: “He hath made the earth by his **power**, he hath established the world by his **wisdom**.”

How can we reconcile these verses? Was the universe created by God’s “word” or by His “power” and His “wisdom”? The answer is this: “word”, “power” and “wisdom” are the same! For it is not the spoken word that the Psalmist refers to but the eternal Word, the Logos, the second person of the Holy Trinity.

The Fathers are very clear about this:

When it is said that God rested on the seventh day from all His works, and hallowed it, we are not to conceive of this in a childish fashion, as if work were a toil to God, who “spake and it was done,”--spake by the spiritual and eternal, not audible and transitory word.<sup>1</sup>

In First Corinthians 1:24, we are told: “But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power** of God, and the **wisdom** of God.” It is here that we can understand that Christ, the **Word** of God is also the **Power** of God and the **Wisdom** of God.

The beginning of the Gospel according to Saint John tells us the same thing:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (Jn 1:1-3)

The Liturgy of Saint Cyril illustrates what I am trying to say beautifully:

And everything Thou hast created through Thy Wisdom; Thy True Light, Thine Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God, Saviour, and King of us all Jesus Christ.

So, every thing that was created was created by the Eternal Word of God, not the spoken word of God.

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<sup>1</sup>THE EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS TO POLYCARP Nicene/Post  
Nicene Fathers Series I Vol II Chapter 8

Saint Paul tells us in Colossians 1:16-17, referring to our Lord:

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

All things were created *by Him*, for He is the Word of God. All things were created *for Him*, because:

The subsistence of all things depends on Him. Not only did He Himself bring them out of nothing into being, but Himself sustains them now, so that were they dis severed from His Providence, they were at once undone and destroyed.<sup>1</sup>

You see, in the first three verses of Genesis, we come face to face with the Trinity. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” Here is reference to God the Father. “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Here we encounter the Holy Spirit. “And God said, Let there be light.” Here we encounter the Word of God, by Whom all things were created.

### **AND THERE WAS LIGHT:**

The book of Genesis tells us that light was created on the first day of the creation, while the sun was created on the fourth day. So how can we explain this? Well, if we look at how scientists perceive of the “birth” of the sun, we can see how the book of genesis explains God’s miraculous creation in a very accurate and yet easy to understand fashion.

Science tells us that the sun started as a “giant molecular cloud” (GMC). This cloud is mainly composed of Hydrogen. Something happens that causes the centre of this big cloud to heat until the core temperature reaches 10 megakelvins, “at which point hydrogen begins

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<sup>1</sup>HOMILIES OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON THE  
EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE  
COLOSSIANS, Homily III N/PNF series I vol XIII

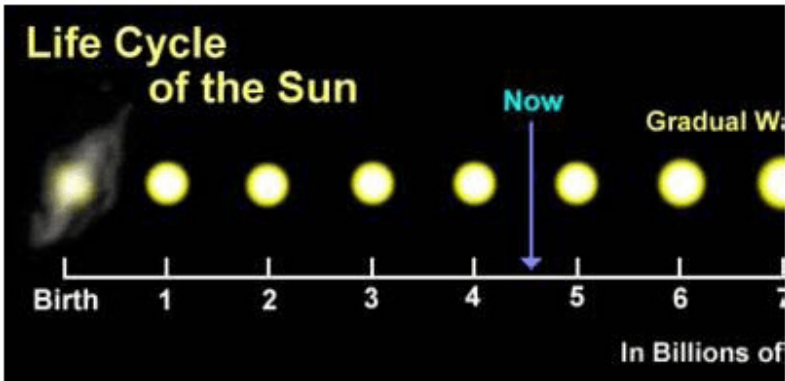
to fuse by way of the proton-proton chain reaction to deuterium and then to helium”<sup>1</sup> This is what we call a “nuclear fusion reaction” which releases enormous amounts of energy that becomes the source of solar heat energy. The same principle, unfortunately is used in producing the Hydrogen bomb.

Scientists speculate about what causes this fusion reaction to start in the “giant molecular cloud”

GMCs may collide with each other, or pass through dense regions of spiral arms. A nearby supernova explosion can also be a trigger.<sup>2</sup>

I have no problem accepting this scientific explanation but would like to qualify it by this: God created this GMC and then caused the fusion reaction to start by uttering the words “Let there be light”.

They also tell us that “This initial stage of stellar existence is almost invariably hidden away deep inside dense clouds of gas and dust left



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<sup>1</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellar\\_evolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellar_evolution)

<sup>2</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellar\\_evolution#Birth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellar_evolution#Birth)

over from the GMC.”<sup>1</sup> This means the newly born sun will not look as a sun to an observer on earth, but rather will be hidden inside “dense clouds and dust” What you expect in this situation is that there will be visible some diffuse light but the shape of the sun as a pie in the sky will not initially be visible to an observer on earth. This typical appearance of the sun will happen one billion years after its “birth”, as we can see from the graphic on the previous page, which is reproduced from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellar\\_evolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellar_evolution)

That is why the book of Genesis simply tells us that “light” was created on the first day and that the “sun” was created on the fourth day. The three days between the creation of light and the creation of the sun, is what the scientists conveniently rounded up to one billion years! (a figure they probably pulled out of the hat)

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. (Ge 1:4-5)

When the Bible tells us that God saw the light that it was good, it doesn't mean that God was surprised when He saw the light, for certainly He knew exactly how it will look like!

For what else is to be understood by that invariable refrain, “And God saw that it was good,” than the approval of the work in its design, which is the wisdom of God? For certainly God did not in the actual achievement of the work first learn that it was good, but, on the contrary, nothing would have been made had it not been first known by Him. While, therefore, He sees that that is good which, had He not seen it before it was made, would never have been made, it is plain that He is not discovering, but teaching that it is good.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellar\\_evolution#Birth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellar_evolution#Birth)

<sup>2</sup>THE EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS TO POLYCARP Nicene/Post  
Nicene Fathers Series I Vol II Chapter 21

I love this quotation! When God says that something is good it means “the approval of the work in its design, which is the wisdom of God” This means that every thing that was created was designed. And the design was actually the Wisdom of God, the Logos. This is a very profound statement. That means that the whole creation *was in the Logos even before its creation*. No wonder the Gospel of Saint John tells us : “In him was life” (John 1:4) And since the design of the creation was the Logos Himself then there is no wonder that everything that God created through His Logos turned out to be good! I love the word “design” because it agrees with what I said earlier that I believe that God is a scientist and not a magician. No wonder David exclaims “O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all.” (Ps 104:24)

### **AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIRST DAY:**

This brings us to a controversial point even among Christians: Were the days of creation regular 24 hour days? Like some fundamentalist Christians claim? Or were they actually ages, like science is telling us. In our Church we believe that they were ages.

Psalm 90:4 tells us: “For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.” And Saint Peter tells us: “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” (2 Pe 3:8)

All Christians believe that God created the universe. Unfortunately, some Christians take the words of Genesis literally. They are called “young earth creationists” Others, believe that the days of creation mean ages. These are called “old earth creationists”. There are so many verses that tell us that the earth is old, like Psalm 102:25 : “Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.” 2 Peter 3:5 tells us the same: “For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.”

Like we said before, God is a scientist, not a magician. He takes His time in doing things, even supernatural things. When He parted the Red Sea, God caused a strong wind to blow all that night before the sea was parted. (Ex 14:21) “He hath made every thing beautiful *in his time*.” (Eccl 3:11) God makes things according to His time, not ours!

Even the Fathers tell us that the days of creation are beyond our understanding:

We see, indeed, that our ordinary days have no evening but by the setting, and no morning but by the rising, of the sun; but the first three days of all were passed without sun, since it is reported to have been made on the fourth day. And first of all, indeed, light was made by the word of God, and God, we read, separated it from the darkness, and called the light Day, and the darkness Night; but what kind of light that was, and by what periodic movement it made evening and morning, is beyond the reach of our senses; neither can we understand how it was.<sup>1</sup>

Another argument is that after God created every thing, He rested on the seventh day. We are still living in the seventh day, so how can it be a 24 hour day?

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. (Ge 1:6-10)

One of the many areas where the Bible and science agree is the fact that the earth in its early age was covered with water.

Scientific orthodoxy holds that early Earth's oceans became permanent around 3.9 billion years ago, and for the first third of

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<sup>1</sup>THE EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS TO POLYCARP Nicene/Post  
Nicene Fathers Series I Vol II Chapter 7

Earth's history thereafter, oceans dominated its surface.<sup>1</sup>

This agrees with what we are told in the book of Genesis as we will explain shortly. But first, let us explain the meaning of the word heaven in the Bible.

The word “heavens” in the plural sometimes refers to the universe, since in Hebrew there is no equivalent for the Greek word “cosmos” which means universe.

When the singular word heaven is used it can mean either:

1. The first heaven or “heaven of the birds”, the sky or the atmosphere.
2. The second heaven or “heaven of the stars” or outer space
3. The third heaven or “Paradise” into which Saint Paul was caught up.
4. The Heaven of heavens or the place of God's abode.<sup>2</sup>

Now let us try to understand what the book of Genesis is telling us about what God did in the second day of creation.

In the verses quoted above, the Book of Genesis is talking about the creation of the atmosphere. We agreed that the early earth was surrounded by water. We are here told that God separated this water into two masses of water that have the atmosphere between them. The water below the firmament is the water that remained surrounding the early earth. The water above the firmament, we really don't know what this is. God doesn't have to tell us all his secrets. But there are theories. God called the firmament “heaven”, this is the first heaven or the atmosphere that surrounds the earth.

### **THE CANOPY THEORY:**

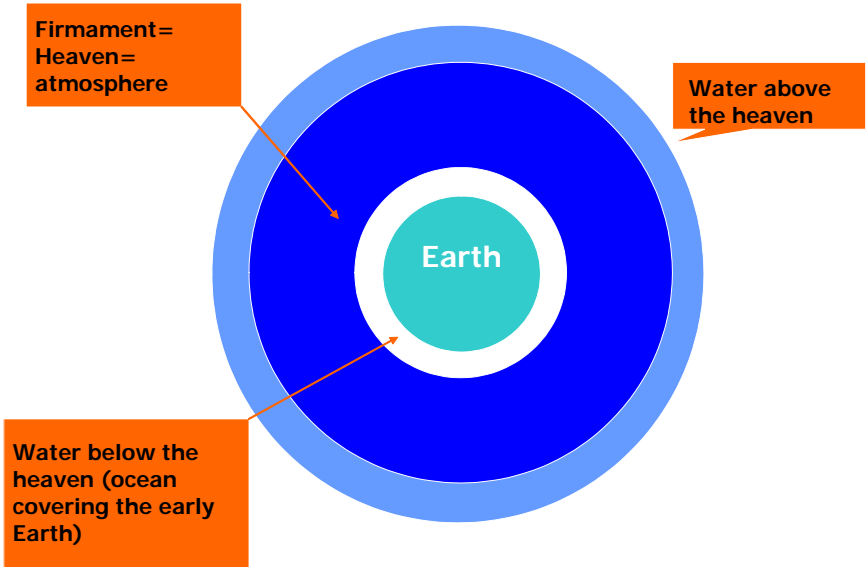
The vapour canopy is an idea adopted by some creationists which states that before the Great Flood the earth was surrounded by a “canopy” of water in either liquid, solid, or gas form, and that the water from the canopy contributed greatly to the flood waters. The earliest water canopy proposal was proposed by Isaac Vail in 1874, but the idea

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<sup>1</sup>Peter D. Ward and Donald Brownlee, *Rare Earth*, page 202

<sup>2</sup>Translated from the Arabic book “Heaven” by the tippie blessed Bishop Youannis

came to prominence in 1961 with the publication of the book *The Genesis Flood* by Henry Morris and John Whitcomb.<sup>1</sup>



Proponents of the canopy hold that the firmament described in the passage refers to the atmosphere, because Genesis 1:20 can be translated to state that God created birds to fly in the firmament. They note that the passage provides for waters both above and below the atmosphere, and infer that there was a canopy of water above the atmosphere before the flood.

Genesis 2:5-6 (KJV) is taken to provide that no rain fell before the flood, but the plants of the Earth were watered from a mist from underground: “And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.”

In Genesis 7:11 (KJV), the flood is described as beginning

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<sup>1</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vapor\\_canopy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vapor_canopy)

when the “windows of heaven were opened,” which proponents of the canopy model believe refers to an antediluvian vapor canopy: “and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.”<sup>1</sup>

Evolutionists and atheists scoffed at the theory and heaped scorn on creationists who believed in it. All you have to do is go to the internet and type canopy on Google then click. I am not going to waste your time by quoting the abusive comments of atheists on this theory.

Recent scientific discoveries, however, have given a lot of weight to this theory as we shall see in the following:

### **THE HYDROXYL PROBLEM:**

Scientists were puzzled by unexpected higher levels of Hydroxyl (OH) in the mesosphere:

The global distribution of hydroxyl (OH) in the middle atmosphere was recently measured by the Middle Atmosphere High Resolution Spectrograph Investigation (MAHRSI) on a satellite deployed and retrieved by the space shuttle. During 75 orbits, MAHRSI acquired 1800 daytime limb scans of the OH ultraviolet solar resonance fluorescence intensity. Each limb scan extends over the altitude region from 30 to 90 km and across 10° of latitude between 53°S and 63°N. OH number densities were retrieved using a Twomey regularization scheme constrained by the smoothness of the retrieved profile. Results provide a detailed description of the diurnal variation of mesospheric OH. **Midmorning OH densities had a well defined peak of about  $6 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  near 70 km**, a broad minimum centred near 64 km, and rose to about  $1 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at 50 km. This profile is in substantial disagreement with photochemical model predictions [Summers et al., this issue].<sup>2</sup>

What this means is the finding of a totally unexpected increase in the

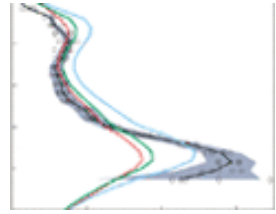
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<sup>1</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vapor\\_canopy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vapor_canopy)

<sup>2</sup><http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/1996GeoRL..23.2093C>

amount of Hydroxyl in the mesosphere with a sharp peak about 70 km. Above the earth.

Hydroxyl comes from water vapour, and if there is more than expected Hydroxyl, then there must be more than expected water vapour in the mesosphere. Scientists wanted to clear this point, so they sent a satellite with sophisticated instruments to measure the amounts of water vapour in the stratosphere. Here are the results:



In 1994, the HALOE instrument on board the UARS satellite measured the vertical distribution of water vapour. HALOE found two peaks in the H<sub>2</sub>O distribution: one at 50 km that matches the OH distribution, and a smaller, unexpected peak at 65–70 km. “Since Hydroxyl comes from water, maybe the funny water vapour distribution is tied to the Hydroxyl problem,” speculates Siskind, “but we're not sure how. All we can say is that we don't know everything.”<sup>1</sup>

Now science has discovered a peak in H<sub>2</sub>O distribution in the mesosphere! I love this guy because even though he is a scientist, he admits: “but we're not sure how. All we can say is that we don't know everything.”

Here is an abstract another article that speaks about the same discovery:

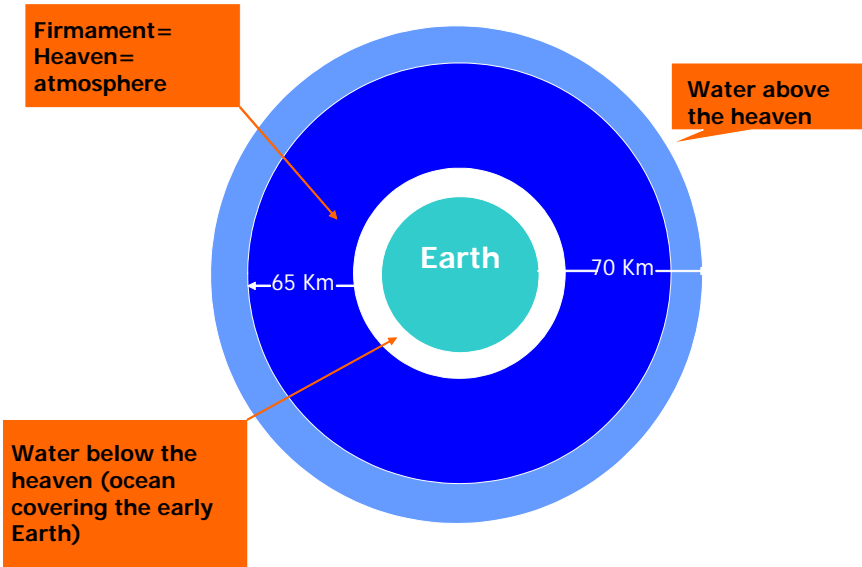
Satellite observations by the Middle Atmosphere High Resolution Spectrograph Investigation (MAHRSI) have produced global measurements of hydroxyl (OH) in the atmosphere. These observations reveal a sharp peak in OH density near an altitude of 65 to 70 km and are thus consistent with observations from the Halogen Occultation Experiment (HALOE) on the NASA Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite

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<sup>1</sup>New Measurements of Hydroxyl in the Middle Atmosphere Confound Chemical Models in Physics Today online <http://www.aip.org/pt/vol-53/iss-11/p17.html>

(UARS), which showed an unexplained H<sub>2</sub>O layer at the same level.<sup>1</sup>

The nine guys who wrote this article are the big guns of NASA. What they are telling us here is that they found an “unexplained H<sub>2</sub>O layer” between 65 and 70 km. Above earth. Unexplained? Just read your Bible gentlemen! You just discovered the water above the heaven!



This band of unexplained water that is 65 km above the Earth and that is 5 Km wide is probably the telltale of the canopy that existed before the flood, and that came down as rain for 40 days and 40 nights. Why didn't all the water come down in the flood? God ordered it to remain there so that when scientists of NASA investigate the mesosphere, they would find it and know that the Bible is correct. God is a scientist and he loves scientists and loves to share with them some of His knowledge, but only if they ask nicely!

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<sup>1</sup>Summers, M. E., R. R. Conway, D. E. Siskind, M. H. Stevens, D. Offermann, M. Riese, P. Preusse, D. F. Strobel, and J. M. Russell III: Implications of Satellite OH Observations for Atmospheric H<sub>2</sub>O and Ozone, *Science*, 277, 1967-1970, 1997.

When Moses wrote the Book of Genesis 4000 years ago, he didn't have MAHRSI OR HALOE OR UARS. He didn't know anything about OH or H<sub>2</sub>O, or even what the middle atmosphere is, but he had the word of God that cannot lie. Science is catching up with the Bible 4000 years later.

You know, we don't need confirmation from science for our Bible, because the Bible says it first. And if ever there is something in the Bible that scientists disagree with, we just tell them you guys have a lot of catching up to do!

I know you guys sing the Tasbiha or midnight praise and say "Praise ye Him heaven of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens", I want you to say that part very loud, taking pride in your Bible, which says things first.

### **THE THIRD DAY OF CREATION:**

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. (Ge 1:9-10)

In the beginning Earth was completely covered with water, so the next step in God's ongoing shaping of the Earth is the formation of dry land (continents). Like we said in an earlier lecture, God, like a sculptor, starts with the raw material and then gradually uses His tools to shape the earth which He had originally created "without form" (Ge.1:2) to conform to the design He had even before it was created.

The statue's form originates in the mind of the artist, who then subsequently shapes matter, in the appropriate way. The artist's mind is the ultimate cause of that form existing in matter, even if he or she invents a machine to manufacture the statues. .... This artist is God, and nature is God's handiwork.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Robert Angros and George Stanciu, *The New Biology*, 1987, pp 190-191

The same sentiment is conveyed to us by the Fathers:

On the first day God made what He made out of nothing. But on the other days He did not make out of nothing, but out of what He had made on the first day, by moulding it according to His pleasure.<sup>1</sup>

Peter D. Ward and Donald Brownlee, wrote this in their book *Rare Earth*, page 202:

Scientific orthodoxy holds that early Earth's oceans became permanent around 3.9 billion years ago, and for the first third of Earth's history thereafter, oceans dominated its surface. About 3 billion years ago, driven by tectonic activity and volcanism, significant continent building began. Over the course of the next 500 million years, exposed land mass dramatically increased from less than 3% to about 29% (current rate)

This really is nothing more than restating the poetic statements of Genesis 1:9-10 in scientific jargon. Commenting on this Fazale Rana and Hugh Ross, in their book *Origins of life*, page 40 tell us: "Once again the Biblical narrative tells us secrets that Science is discovering only now."

There is no satisfactory explanation for how the crust of the Earth formed, there are many theories but none of them is satisfactory, newer theories are proposed.

Two mechanisms have been proposed:

### **VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS:**

Volcanoes spew molten rocks that then solidified to form the crust of the Earth.

### **TECTONIC PLATES:**

Scientists found out that the crust of the Earth is broken into seven pieces (like a jig saw puzzle). These are called Tectonic plates. The

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<sup>1</sup>THE EXTANT WORKS AND FRAGMENTS OF  
HIPPLYTUS: PART IA.--EXEGETICAL ANF VOL V

plates move in relation to each other. Collision between plates is supposed to form mountains.

The Bible does not tell us how God made the dry land to appear, but neither does science with any degree of certainty.

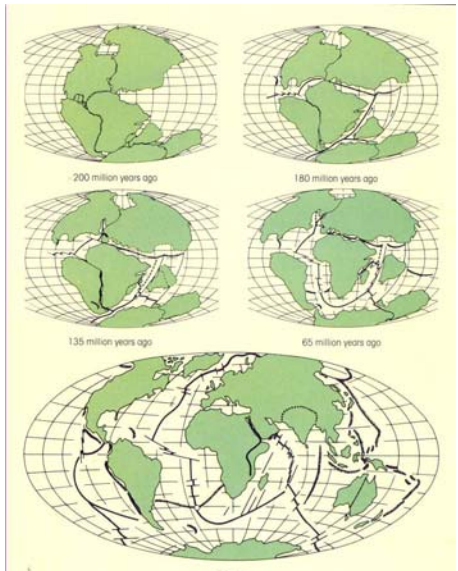
Gary Parker tells us this in his book *Creation Facts of Life*:

An evolutionist friend of mine once told me that the best evidence for Creation ... he knew was that *any land existed at all on the earth*. If our planet had spun down from a gas cloud, he said, the outer layer would consist of basaltic ocean crust (density  $3.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ), covered by a concentric layer of granite ( $3 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ), the whole thing covered by 3 miles (3 km) of water (density  $1.0 \text{ g/cm}^3$ )! He said it looked as if “someone with big hands” (the closest he would come to saying “God”) took the granite and shoved it up to form the dry land. Then he added that the “guy with big hands” was also smart enough to thin the basalt under the granite piles to maintain the earth in gravitational balance (isostasy) so that it wouldn’t fracture as it rotated.<sup>1</sup>

### CONTINENTAL DRIFT:

In 1915, the German geologist and meteorologist Alfred Wegener first proposed the theory of continental drift, which states that parts of the Earth's crust slowly drift atop a liquid core. The fossil record supports and gives credence to the theories of continental drift and plate tectonics.

Wegener hypothesized that there was a gigantic supercontinent 200 million years ago, which he named Pangaea, meaning "All-earth".



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<sup>1</sup>Gary Parker: *Creation Facts of Life* page 203

Pangaea started to break up into two smaller supercontinents, called Laurasia and Gondwanaland, during the Jurassic period. By the end of the Cretaceous period, the continents were separating into land masses that look like our modern-day continents.<sup>1</sup>

Genesis certainly supports this theory about the whole earth being one large continent for we are told: “And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.” If the water was in one place, then this implies that the dry land was in the centre of a gigantic ocean surrounding it.

We are also told about a “dividing of the earth” which happened during the life of one of the descendants of Noah, called Peleg, (not 200 million years ago). For, in Genesis 10:25, we are told: “ And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.”

It is possible that the cataclysmic events of the Flood caused the crust of the earth to crack and started this “continental drift” that led to the actual division of earth during the lifetime of Peleg. But this is another theory like Wegener’s except that it has some Biblical support.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/glossary/Contdrift.shtml>

## DID OUR LORD EAT THE PASSOVER?

An excerpt from the Book *The Seven Sacraments of the Church*<sup>1</sup> by the late Archdeacon Habib Guirguis:

Did Jesus celebrate the Passover before He instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist? If He did so, then say our Catholic brethren, He must have used unleavened bread. But, if He did not, as the Orthodox affirm, then He must have used leavened bread.

The argument arises from the Catholics' contention that Covenant Thursday was the Preparation day and that Good Friday was the Passover day. The Orthodox, based on sound interpretation of the Scriptures, believe that Good Friday was the Preparation day and that Saturday was the Passover day.

The Preparation day, i.e. the day before Passover, was the day in which the Jews consumed all leavened bread and burned the left overs, so that, come 6:00 p.m., when Passover starts, there would be no leavened bread in the house. It was also the day on which the Passover lamb is slain and roasted so that it would be eaten in the evening, i.e. when Passover starts (at 6:01 p.m.)

According to the Catholics, since Covenant Thursday was the Preparation day, then at the Last Supper which took place on the evening i.e. at the start of the Passover, there would be no leavened bread in any Jewish house. The Last Supper would thus be a Passover meal, followed by the Institution of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

The Orthodox teach that Good Friday was the Preparation day, that the Passover started on 6:01 p.m. on Good Friday, that Christ died on the Cross at the same hour the Jews slew their Passover lamb, and thus Christ became our Passover. (ICO 5:7) Because the Passover coincided with the Sabbath day (Saturday,) it was called a "High Sabbath." It follows then, that the Last Supper was an ordinary meal, where ordinary leavened bread was consumed, and not a Passover meal when only unleavened bread would be used. Here are the proofs:

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat ... and it was the **preparation of the Passover** ... then delivered he Him therefore unto them to be crucified. (John 19:13-16)

The Jews therefore, because it was the **preparation**, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. (John 19:31)

There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' **Preparation day**

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<sup>1</sup>Habib Guirguis: *Asrar Al Kanisa Al Sabaa* pp 88-91

for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.” (John 19:42)

And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in the stone, wherein never man before was laid. **And that day was the preparation** and the sabbath drew on. (Luke 23: 53-54)

It is obvious that the trial of Jesus before Pilate, His crucifixion, the breaking of the legs of the two thieves, and the burial of Jesus happened on the preparation day. Proof that Good Friday was the preparation day.

Now **the next day, that followed the day of the preparation**, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.” (Mat 27:62-64)

The chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate the next day, after the burial, which is the day after the preparation, another proof that Good Friday was the day of preparation.

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, **and bought with them the potter's field**, to bury strangers in. (Mat 27:3-7)

And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, **coming out of the country (literally, coming back from the field)**, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.” (Mark 15:21)

And **he bought** fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.” (Mark 15:46)

If Good Friday was the Passover day, the chief priests could not have bought the potters field, nor could Joseph of Arimathea buy linen, nor would Simon the Cyrenian be working in the field, for it was unlawful to buy, sell or work during the Passover.

Now **before the feast of the passover**, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. **And supper being ended**, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and

went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. (John 13:1-5)

The Last Supper and the washing of the feet of the disciples on Covenant Thursday happened BEFORE THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER. So, the Last Supper could not have been the Passover meal.

And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, **Buy those things that we have need of against the feast.**”(John 13:27-29)

If the Last Supper was the Passover meal, why would the disciples think that Jesus was telling Judas to buy the things needed for the feast?

Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but **that they might eat the Passover.**”(John 18:28)

On Good Friday, when Jesus was taken to Pilate. The Jews had not yet eaten the Passover, so, the Last Supper of Covenant Thursday could not have been a Passover meal.

Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover.” (Exo 12:9-11)

The Passover meal had to be eaten **in haste while they stood, during the Last Supper Jesus and the disciples were reclining. Also it was not lawful to cook it in water, but to eat it roasted, while in the Last Supper Jesus dipped the bread in the plate, implying a meal cooked with water, which was forbidden.**

Saint Peter, Seal of the Martyrs, the 17<sup>th</sup> Pope of Alexandria, writing 17 centuries earlier, tells us that our Lord celebrated the Passover of the Jews only before he started His public ministry<sup>1</sup>:

But after His public ministry He did not eat of the lamb, but Himself suffered as the true Lamb in the Paschal feast, as John, the divine and evangelist, teaches us in the Gospel written by him, where he thus speaks: “Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment-hall,

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<sup>1</sup>Fragments from the writings of St. Peter Archbishop of Alexandria ANF Volume VI pp 282-283

lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the passover.” And after a few things more. “When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment-seat, in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the third hour,” as the correct books render it, and the copy itself that was written by the hand of the evangelist, which, by the divine grace, has been preserved in the most holy church of Ephesus, and is there adored by the faithful. And again the same evangelist says: “The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath-day (for that Sabbath-day was an high day), besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.” On that day, therefore, on which the Jews were about to eat the Passover in the evening, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was crucified, being made the victim to those who were about to partake by faith of the mystery concerning Him, according to what is written by the blessed Paul: “For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;” and not as some who, carried along by ignorance, confidently affirm that after He had eaten the Passover, He was betrayed; which we neither learn from the holy evangelists, nor has any of the blessed apostles handed it down to us. At the time, therefore, in which our Lord and God Jesus Christ suffered for us, according to the flesh, He did not eat of the legal Passover; but, as I have said, He Himself, as the true Lamb, was sacrificed for us in the feast of the typical Passover, on the day of the preparation, the fourteenth of the first lunar month. The typical Passover, therefore, then ceased, the true Passover being present: “For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us,” as has been before said, and as that chosen vessel, the apostle Paul, teaches.

Here is what Saint Hippolytus wrote even earlier:

But he has fallen into error by not perceiving that at the time when Christ suffered He did not eat the Passover of the law. For He was the Passover that had been of old proclaimed, and that was fulfilled on that determinate day.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Saint Hippolytus: *Against All Heresies* ANF Vol V p 240