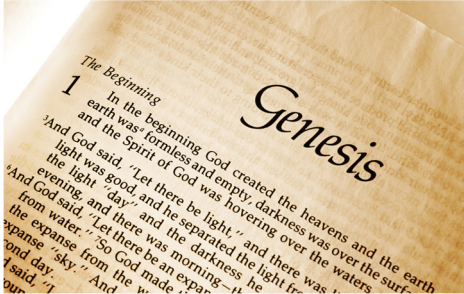




Contradictions (Part V): What Profound Secret Does Creation Reveal?

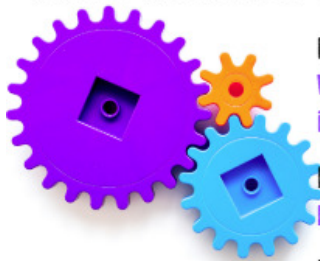
Genesis 2:4: (NASB) *This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.*



Genesis is the first book of the Bible and its foundation. It lays out for us the origin of the intricacies of our world as well as the origins of the human race. Morality is introduced, and this book takes us through the first few thousand years of the human experience. Genesis, particularly the creation account, is profoundly important to our understanding of God and our place in His universe. Critics of the Bible seem to love this creation account. They are quick to point out that in its very first chapter the book presents itself as not only wildly contradictory, but clearly unscientific as well. Their conclusions are that it is simply a collection of tales and imaginations. Are they right? Does the creation account support fanciful stories to give the ignorant something to hold on to or is it actually based in fact?

recap
recap

Contradiction Principles From Our Last Two Episodes:



Deduce when flashback is being used as a literary device.
When things seem out of order, it might be going back to fill in more details.

Purpose - God uses various tools to accomplish His plan.
He can even use confusion and darkness as tools.

Distinguish between temporary emotion and eternal purpose.
Our temporary experiences look bleak, but there is a big picture of God's ultimate compassion and mercy.

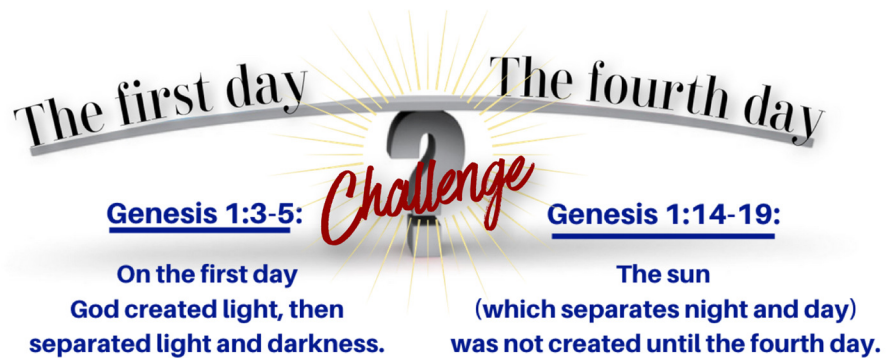
Always seek the larger context beyond any single account.
Remember various perspectives enhance true understanding.
This is especially helpful in studying the gospels with various witnesses to events.

CONTRADICTION -
or needing a
clear explanation?



Did God create
the sun
before or after
the vegetation on earth?

Here is the challenge: on which day did God create the sun?



The sun was created on the first day, before the vegetation:

Genesis 1:3-4: (NASB) ³Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

The sun was created on the fourth day, after the vegetation:

Genesis 1:14: (NASB) Then God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.

We have roughly a 2,000 page book and already in the first two pages it does not make sense. No wonder people give up! Did God create light twice?

Contradiction Principle:



DO NOT read what **IS NOT** there.
DO read what **IS** there.



Explanation: The Genesis creative account is only focused on planet Earth. The heavens referenced in Genesis 1:14 are the atmosphere that surrounds our planet. This account is given for the purpose of humanity comprehending our beginnings and the superior power that creates life.

We therefore look at this account as the story of creation being shown to a human being who is observing it from an earthly perspective.

Genesis 1:1-2: (NASB) ¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

With no light penetrating through the chaotic veil around the planet, God set nature in motion on earth.





God's creation had to be in strict scientific order. Are we sure the Scriptures support this?

The thing so many (especially critics) easily forget is *God is the Creator of science. His rules for the universe are what drive it in all of its vast and magnificent harmony.* If we can accept this as fact, it becomes so much easier to grasp and appreciate the scriptural account of creation. Creation is not counter to science; it follows the rules God made for science.

What do we do when the book we have placed all our faith in gives cause for doubt on the very first page? The skeptics want us to be doubtful.

With God's power and influence setting nature in motion, we now see light being unleashed to do its natural work of establishing an environment to stimulate growth:

Genesis 1:3-5: (NASB) ³*Then God said, Let there be light and there was light.* ⁴*God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.* ⁵*God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*

1 On the First Creative Day, *Let there be light* was NOT the creation of the sun - it was the introduction of *the power of the sun* into the formation of the environment of the earth. In other words, "Let the planet's surface see light." An example would be opening a shade in a dark room. The light outside exists already but cannot be seen with the shade down.

God was showing the process of creation in a rather primitive way to Moses (it is generally believed that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible) in a way he could write it down and communicate it in an understandable way. Earth was created as a water-based planet and needed light in order to move forward.

The sun was already in existence. When Genesis says *God created the heavens*, it is not talking about the universe. It is referring to the atmosphere around the earth. Genesis does not talk about the creation of the universe.

2 On the Second Creative Day, the atmosphere (*expanse/firmament*) was then established. Now the appropriate combination of elements could feed growth. Once the atmosphere was in place, it continued to be refined in accordance with God's rules of nature.

Genesis talks about the *firmament* or *expanse* which God called *heaven*. When we say *God created the heavens and the earth*, *heavens* means the atmosphere that surrounds the earth. This could have been created long before man was created. Remember, Genesis is told from the perspective of man on the earth.

We do not disagree when science dates the earth as being millions of years old. The Bible does not indicate when the actual planet was created. It could have been sitting void and empty for millions of years until God decided to create man and start preparing the planet for his arrival.



Note: The ending of a creative day signifies the objective of that day was powerfully set in motion, not that there would be no more growth or change to that which was created. The ending of a creative day does not mean the creating function of that day ends; rather, cycles were set in motion in that time frame.



On the Third Creative Day, God set in motion the appearance of dry land. The sun begins to do its work. With the power of the sun being shielded, but nevertheless a life-giving force, and with an atmosphere conducive for growth, vegetation began to flourish.

Here is the challenge: on which day did God create the sun?



The Fourth Creative Day:

Genesis 1:14-19: (NASB) ¹⁴Then God said, *Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;*

God is NOT here creating the sun, the moon and the stars - *He is introducing them* into the atmosphere/expanse/firmament as visible.

¹⁵and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth; and it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. ¹⁷God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. ¹⁹There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

This *sounds* like God is first creating these lights - the sun, moon and the stars in the expanse. But this is not what it is saying.

In Genesis 1:3 when God said *let there be light*, He was revealing the light that was already there - probably in a hazy, foggy way so plant life could begin to flourish. In other words, let the light be noticed on earth.

In Genesis 1:14-19 when God says, *let there be lights* (same Hebrew word only plural), this likely means in a more distinguishable way. Perhaps now the sun, moon and stars could be visible enough to be able to use them as tools for measuring times and seasons. This was not about their creation, but about them becoming visible for man's use.

The reason for this fourth day - *Then God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.*

Here, from the standpoint of a human being, we see the continual development of the atmosphere and the sun, moon and stars being able to be seen as natural tools to measure time and seasons.





God set in motion these things specifically for us so we could be organized and count on Him by counting on nature and these cycles.

The atmosphere is clearing itself up so from the surface of the earth man can see the heavens, the sky. It is kind of like vacuuming out the atmosphere for clarity.

Critics point out the Genesis account is not scientifically correct. We answer that by recognizing it has been tailored for the perception of man looking at the sky. Answer these questions:



**THE CREATIVE DAYS
WERE NOT EACH
24 HOURS LONG**

- 🕒 What time is sunrise today?
- 🕒 What time is sunset today?
- 🕒 Have you ever tried counting the stars you see in the sky?

None of these common questions are scientifically correct, and yet we know what we mean. The sun does not rise or set - the sun is stable - the earth moves around the sun! The stars are not in the sky; they are beyond the sky. We see things from where we are. The sun does not rise in the east. The earth rotates, and it appears that the sun rises in the east.

Did you know the sky is not actually blue?



The sky is not really blue, the sun isn't really yellow, Vox Video

- *The sky is not blue; it's mostly transparent air which is, at best, the color of whatever light it scatters. Sure, it does scatter blue light more than red light. In fact, the higher the frequency of light the more it gets scattered by the atmosphere. So ultraviolet scatters more than blue, which scatters more than green, more than yellow, more than red, more than infrared. But still, only a tiny bit of light scatters while most of it goes straight through, which is how the sun can light up the ground, why we can see the moon and stars through the atmosphere, etc. The sun itself actually emits a wide range of frequencies of light, and our human eyes perceive this particular combination as white or neutral in color. The vast majority of the sky appears blueish because sunlight that was trying to go somewhere else got scattered by the air and instead ended up in your eye. Bummer. It still has a wide range of frequencies in it, with slightly more blue than in white light, roughly the same amount of green and less red.*

Science understands the sky is not blue but does not care that we see it as blue, because this is how we perceive it. Genesis 1 is written from the perspective of how we see it.



Did God create the sun BEFORE or AFTER the vegetation on earth?



Long before. Genesis does not even hint at when the sun was created. Its presence is a given in the whole process relating to the earth.



All of this puts biblical creation into a much clearer perspective. God's science and power are awesome.

With the clarity of what the first chapter of Genesis actually taught, how will we match it with the second chapter?

Many have looked at these two chapters side-by-side and concluded they simply cannot be talking about the same thing. At first glance, it is really easy to see their point. Genesis 2 seems confused and protracted, as it utterly throws off the timing of man's creation from Genesis 1.

How do we as Christians handle the glaring contradictions between the first two chapters of the Bible?

**CONTRADICTION -
or needing a
clear explanation?**



**Was Adam created
before or after
trees, birds, animals
and Eve?**

Genesis 1

**Trees, plants, birds and animals were all created before Adam.
Adam created before Eve:**

Genesis 1:11,13: (NASB) ¹¹Then God said, Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them and it was so... ¹³There was evening and there was morning, **a third day.**



Genesis 1:20,22-23: (NASB) ²⁰Then God said, Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens... ²²God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. ²³There was evening and there was morning, **a fifth day.**

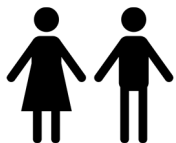
The sixth day begins:

Genesis 1:24: (NASB) Then God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind and it was so.



The sixth day ends:

Genesis 1:27,31: (NASB) ²⁷God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (**seemingly at the same time?**) ...³¹God saw all that He had made and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, **the sixth day.**



**Was Adam created before or after trees, birds, animals and Eve?
Were Adam and Eve created at the same time?**

Genesis 1:27: **God creates male and female at the same time.**

Genesis 2

Here the man comes first and woman sometime after:

Genesis 2:5,7-9: (NASB) ⁵Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground... ⁷Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. ⁸The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.



⁹Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food.

Genesis 2:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸Then the LORD God said, It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him. ¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

Genesis 1 Trees, birds and animals were all created first, then Adam and Eve.

Genesis 2 Man created first. Trees, birds, animals and Eve came after.

The order appears dramatically different. Is the biblical record in error?

Contradiction Principle:



When two related accounts seem incomprehensively contradictory, **FIND THE CONNECTIONS, DETAILS AND DIFFERENCES** that reveal the harmony



Initial Answer: The first two chapters of Genesis are in complete harmony. They simply show us vastly different aspects of the creation process.

This is NOT merely a “flashback” answer. There is much to learn about the power and character of God in these two chapters.

On the surface, this seems to be a problem that requires rewriting some things. How is it answered?

As with other supposed and difficult Bible contradictions, this issue requires digging deeply beyond where most any critic would care to go. The beauty of it is that if we really pay attention and we see God as he really is, the answer becomes not only obvious, it is stunning in its beauty as well! How do we take this conundrum apart, examine the pieces and put it back together?

EVERY mention of God in Genesis 1 shows us **Elohiym** - Deity, the Supreme God. Why? We see the God of sheer power driving the creative process.

Examples:

Genesis 1:1: (KJV) In the beginning **God <430>** created the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:27: (KJV) So **God <430>** created man in his own image, in the image of **God <430>** created he him; male and female created he them.

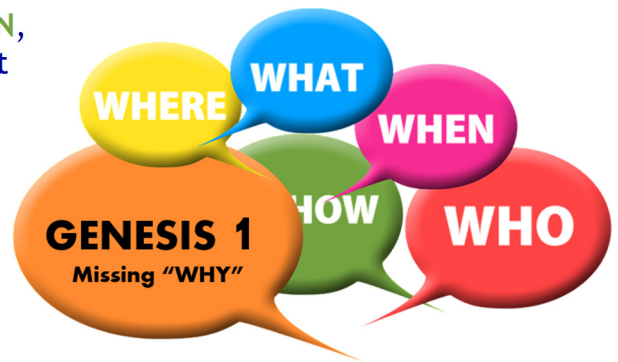
God: Strong's #430, **Elohiym**; plural of #433 meaning the Deity, specifically used of the supreme God

Genesis 1
GOD (Elohim) } Our God of **power**



Genesis 1 tells us the **WHO**, **WHAT**, **WHEN**, **WHERE** and **HOW** of creation. It does not tell us **WHY**.

Genesis 2 introduces God in a whole new way. Throughout the second chapter (from verse 4 on) whenever we see God mentioned, it is with *two words*, not just one.



Genesis 2 actually starts with verse 4, our theme text. Genesis 2:1-3 continues with Chapter 1's grand overall creation record, finishing up with the seventh day. Chapter divisions in the Bible are arbitrary. They were inserted by a Roman Cardinal named Stephen Langton in the 13th century. He took the Latin version of the Bible, called the Latin Vulgate, and broke it into manageable long paragraphs. This was quickly adopted in scholarly communities within the Jewish and Christian systems. In 1382 before the printing press, the Wycliffe English Bible (translated from the Latin Vulgate, not the original Hebrew or Greek) was the first Bible to use these chapter divisions. While most chapter breaks make sense, this one in Genesis is especially infamous as being poorly placed. Interesting fact: individual text numbers did not get adopted until the 16th century.

We now have the God of relationship AND sheer power being expressed.

Examples:

Genesis 2:4: (KJV) *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) made the earth and the heavens,*

Genesis 2:22: (KJV) *And the rib, which the **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

Lord: Strongs #3068, *Yehovah*; the self-Existent or Eternal, Jewish national name of God, Jehovah, the Lord.

Genesis 2
LORD (Jehovah) + **GOD** (Elohim) } Our God of **relationship** AND **power**

We are introduced to God in a new way. Genesis 1 allowed us to see His power through the creative process. Genesis 2 shows us His heart - the relationship part - and the **WHY** of the creative process.

With this marked difference in mind, we can now examine the questionable parts of Genesis 2.



Here are the verses that should end the first chapter, showing the completion of God's magnificent work:

Genesis 2:1-3: (NASB) ¹Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. ²By the seventh day **God <430>** (Elohiym) completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then **God <430>** (Elohiym) blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which **God <430>** (Elohiym) had created and made.

Now we are presented with a new viewpoint. So far, it is been heaven and earth made by the mighty God. Now we will see WHY the LORD God made earth and heaven:

Genesis 2:4: (NASB) *This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) made earth and heaven.*

Heavens and earth just switched to earth and heaven in the same sentence!

Genesis 1 shows us ultimate power and a plan, but we do not know the **WHY** behind it. It gives us a one-dimensional view of God.

EXAMPLE

Think about one of our elementary school teachers and how we knew them as a child. We see them in our mind as "our teacher." It generally does not occur to us they were also a mom or dad, son or daughter, an athlete, a poet or a soldier. We did not know anything else about them. Our view of them was one-dimensional, like God in Genesis 1. If we were to meet them once we became an adult, we would view them differently, more comprehensively as a person. This is like how we see God in Genesis 2 because there is so much more to God than we first thought. Why does heavens and earth switch to earth and heaven? Because Genesis 2 now will explain the **WHY**.



Genesis 2

Does not describe creation in chronological order.
Instead, it describes **man's relationship to the earth**
and **what God created for his benefit**.

Earth takes precedent as the home of man who is the centerpiece of this whole creative process:

Genesis 2:5-6: (NASB) ⁵Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. ⁶But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

The attention goes to plant life and the connection of man as the centerpiece of its cultivation. God would eventually send rain, and man would eventually cultivate. "You will be part of the productivity that will eventually feed you. You have dominion - this planet is yours. It needs mankind."

Next, the account shows the connection between God and man:

Genesis 2:7-9: (NASB) ⁷Then **the LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.



No other earthly creation was so personally created and energized the way Adam was. Man is the pinnacle of God's creation! No other being is given this personal, hands-on treatment from the Creator. Every other form of life was a cycle of nature set in motion. Here there was a special touch provided to start that spark of life. We are Adam's posterity. This is all for us.

It is breathtaking to see the importance of humanity in God's creation. What does it all mean?

This is a classic lesson in reviewing evidence from an appropriate viewpoint. If we are committed to truth we will look for it without an agenda. To see the logic of God's creation, and then to easily laugh off the deeper meaning we are uncovering shows a lack of integrity.

God does not stop with the personal connection. Man is THE REASON - the WHY - for this entire creative effort:

⁸The **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God again connects man and plant life, this time in the pristine garden showing God's love for man. He gave him the beautiful customized garden, not just raw vegetation to work with from scratch.



A CQ App listener asks: **Genesis 1:16: (NASB) God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night... But the moon is not a light; it reflects one great light. Is Genesis wrong?**

Genesis presents creation from the perspective of man. When man looks up to the heavens, he sees a light by day (the sun) and a light by night (the moon). The science of how you are seeing the light is not the point; this is man's perspective - it looks like two lights in the sky, just like it looks like the sun rises when it actually does not.

The Jewish calendar is built upon the cycles of the moon. It is a timekeeper.



The lavish gift of the Garden and the gift of dominion required both obedience and maintenance:

Genesis 2:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵Then the **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. ¹⁶The **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) commanded the man, saying, From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.



Another contradiction? No.

For in the day that you eat from it you will surely die - but Adam lived 930 years (Genesis 5:5). Day here means a period of time. The original Hebrew in this verse says, *Dying thou shalt die*, meaning the cycle of death began. Access to the Tree of Life would have kept man immune to sickness and death. Also consider how a day with the Lord is like a thousand years (2 Peter 3:8-9). Therefore, Adam living less than 1,000 years did die in "a day!"

We have seen God's attention to details; now we see personal attention in His instructions to man. No other part of His creation was created in His image with the ability to comprehend above just having basic instincts. We have the ability to think and choose.

God's purpose for man's role is expanded to the animals:

Genesis 2:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸Then the **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) said, It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him. ¹⁹Out of the ground the **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

The connection between man and the animals shows Adam is clearly above them, having dominion over them, as he designates their names.

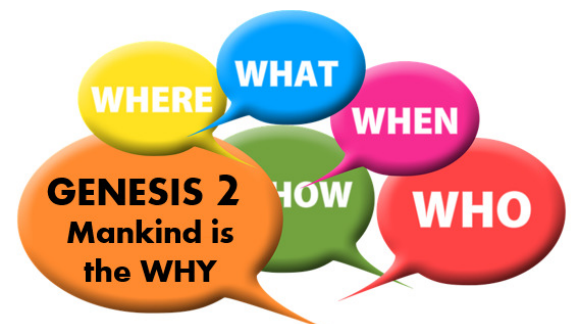
Genesis 2 does not show us the chronological order of creation. It is showing us the **WHY** of creation. God brought the already created animals to Adam. They were formed for man. It is as if God was saying, "Man is the pinnacle of my earthly creation. I am bringing the other breathing creatures before him to establish their relationship. They will be subservient to the man. I have not only given you the plants of the ground and trees to eat from, but I am giving you animals as companions." Man is at the center of Genesis 2 as the **WHY** of the creative days.

Still something was still missing:

Genesis 2:22: (NASB) The **LORD <3068>** (Jehovah) **God <430>** (Elohiym) fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man and brought her to the man.

Genesis 1 shows us to first know God as the Almighty. Know **WHAT** He can do.

Genesis 2 shows us to then know Him as your LORD and God, to have a relationship with Him. This is God's **WHY**.





Now we can more clearly see God's reasoning and His requirements for high standards:

Exodus 20:1-5: (NASB) ¹Then **God <430>** (Elohiym) spoke all these words, saying, ²I am the **LORD <3068>** your (Jehovah) **God <430>**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³You shall have no other **gods <430>** (Elohiym) before Me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the **LORD <3068>** your (Jehovah) **God <430>**, am a jealous **God <410>** (El), visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me.

I am a jealous God - we can presume He spent millions of years preparing earth for Adam and his family. He wants our loyalty, because it is what is best for us.



Not only are the first two chapters of Genesis in harmony with each other, they need each other to tell the story of the greatness of God. Genesis 1 shows us His unfathomable power, chronologically stating the creative days. Genesis 2 shows us His tenderhearted love for humanity and how Adam was introduced to the rest of creation. He made the world for us!

*So, what profound secret does creation reveal?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Julie) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on September 16, 2019:

Ep. #1091: Contradictions (Part VI):

Do the Accounts of Jesus' Life Contradict Themselves?

If you would convince a man that he does wrong, do right. But do not care to convince him. Men will believe what they see. Let them see. — Henry David Thoreau

