

The Book of Genesis

Lesson 2

Chapter 1:2 - 5

Spirit of God

Genesis 1:2 And the 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.

On the first day, the earth is formless and void. Formless simply means that it had no defining characteristic other than being a round ball covered with water. No hills, valleys, rivers or streams existed on the first day.

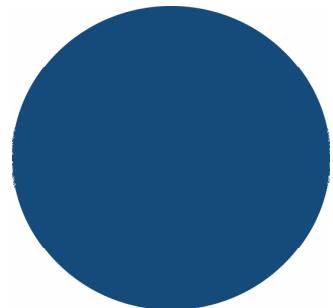


Figure 4: The Earth hung in space on the first day as a water covered ball

The earth was "void" meaning it contained no animal or vegetable life. Nothing existed in the water or the firm structure beneath the water.

The Spirit of God was actively doing His job in creation. He was "moving over the surface of the waters." Other translations use the words hovering or brooding. The Hebrew word is *m'rahaphet* and it means to flutter like an eagle who spreads her wings over her young in the nest.²⁴ The eagle is protecting her young eaglets and holding them in place in the nest. So too, the Spirit of God is the protector of the creation of the earth and He holds the earth in its place in space. God had designed the plan of creation but the Spirit of God was sustaining that creation in its place.

What is the difference between God and the Spirit of God? Elohim is the Hebrew word used for God. It occurs only in the Hebrew and no other ancient Semitic language. It is a masculine word that means "gods." It is the plural form of El which means the strong one. However, throughout the Scripture it is attached only to singular verb forms, adjectives and pronouns. In the beginning God does not explain Who He is, He simply reveals His actions to man. As His revelation to man progresses, He will unveil more of His nature and persons. On this first day He is the plural God who created the heavens, the earth and light; nevertheless, He also reveals that His Spirit is acting with Him in His act of creating. The word for Spirit could be translated "breath." It could mean that the breath of God was fluttering over the waters of the earth and therefore refers to the single act of one Person of the Godhead but that point will find difficulty when the story of man's creation is told in greater detail in Genesis Chapter 2. For now, at this place in the story, God has sent His Spirit to protect and sustain the creation of earth.

The statement, "Darkness was over the surface of the deep" indicates that no light existed in this part of the heavens. If a person could have been present to look at the earth at that time, he could have seen nothing at all because the spectrum of light that allows humans to see did not exist; all

²⁴ Deu. 32:11

was in total darkness. Light requires energy; darkness requires nothing. Darkness was part of the void or emptiness on that first day. Light can penetrate darkness, but darkness contains nothing and can never penetrate light!

Light

Genesis 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Something else was needed that day, something that the all the rest of creation would depend on to operate. God spoke it into being by saying, "Let there be light." We have translated this part of creation as "light" but it is woefully inadequate in describing the magnitude of that action of God. This Hebrew word "light" means gush and its meaning is far greater than anyone can understand and describe today. It was a rapid and plentiful stream of energy that burst forth. We should remember that visible light had not been specifically revealed on this first day; rather, God created a massive force that might be better identified today as energy.

Scientists have attempted to explain this energy and today they teach that there are at least four fundamental forces which control everything that has been created: gravitational energy, weak energy, electromagnet energy and strong energy.

GRAVITATIONAL ENERGY is the weakest of all the forces identified by experts today. It keeps humans glued to the planet; it keeps the moon in orbit around the earth, the earth in orbit around the sun, the sun in orbit around the solar system and the solar system in orbit around the Milky Way and the Milky Way Galaxy around in the universe. Its effect reaches everything from the galactic entities to the smallest molecular level of the simple cell; gravity is there affecting the operation of the atoms and more.

WEAK ENERGY is the next level of forces identified by scientists today and it may be the hardest to understand. This force is responsible for radioactive decay. In this force, neutrons can decay and become protons and create a different kind of atom. For example, Cesium becomes Barium with the change of one neutron into a proton through this weak energy. This energy is 10^{25} times the strength of the gravitational energy.²⁵ Today, scientist can determine only that this weak energy applies to extremely small distances in the subatomic scale.

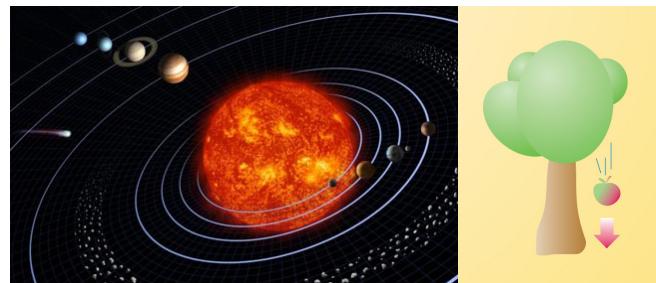


Figure 5: Gravitational Energy

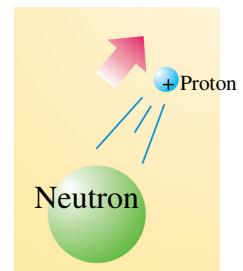


Figure 4: Weak Energy
Neutron becomes a Proton

²⁵ $10^{25} = 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$ or ten septillions.

ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY is the next strongest force in the group. It is 10^{36} power stronger than gravity. It includes all

visible light for humans and invisible electromagnetic radiations known to man as radio waves, infrared light and X-rays.

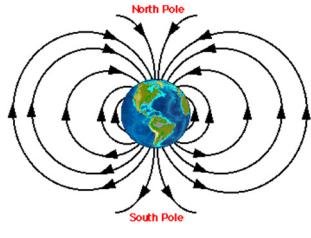


Figure 6: Earth's Electromagnetic Force

All are electromagnetic waves that consist of synchronized oscillations of electric and magnetic fields that

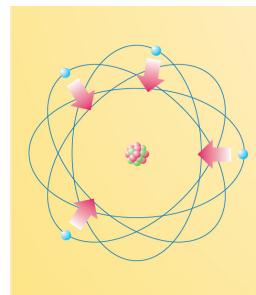


Figure 7: Electromagnetic Energy

propagate at what we call "the speed of light." These charged particles, when accelerated, form electromagnetic waves. For a simple example, the earth's electromagnetic force protects the earth from solar flares and other elements that might enter our atmosphere and destroy our planet. When such particles from space try to slip through the field at the North Pole, the collision with our electromagnetic

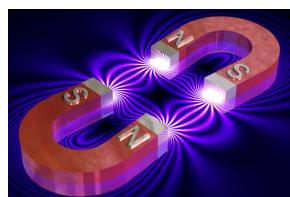


Figure 8: Positive and Negative Forces of Magnets

field causes the phenomenon called the Northern Lights. On a small scale, think about magnets in which two positive forces will repel and two opposite forces will attract. This could be the

force that causes everything to spin; all of creation spins. The stars, planets and even the tiniest atoms spin. Why? We do not know. How does it keep spinning? We can speculate but scientists really do not know.

We live on earth surrounded by the electromagnetic spectrum. Only one small slither of that spectrum is visible light. See the chart to see the small spectrum of visible light.

STRONG ENERGY is the strongest of all the forces but scientists say that it applies only in the sub-nucleic scale. In an atom the positive protons would naturally repel from each other but this strong energy overpowers the action and holds the protons together. Although this energy is 10^{38} power stronger than gravity, scientists say it operates only at the tiny nuclear level.

The Electromagnetic Spectrum

Chart by LASP/University of Colorado, Boulder

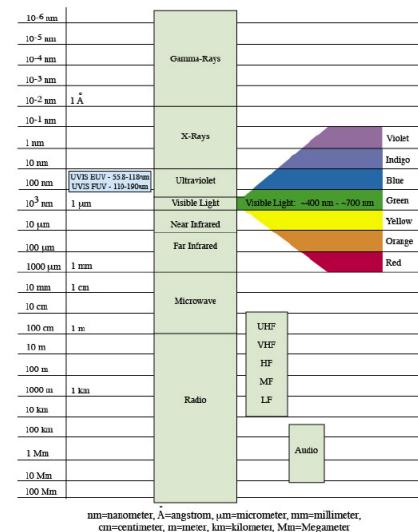


Figure 9: Spectrum of Light

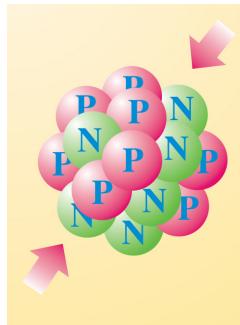


Figure 5: Strong Energy - Positive protons hold together

As much as we would like to say that we understand all of God's creation, we do not. The concepts of these four energy forces may or may not be correct. As research continues, it is likely that we will one day discover that these forces are tied together and all of

creation is held in place by this single gush of energy created on this first day. Everything uses energy to move, spin, hold together and fly apart. Energy is in use in everything from moons, stars, suns, concrete, steel, wood, plastic, flesh, water, gases and more. All that is created on the following five days will depend on the presence of this gush of God's energy; without it, nothing will work correctly. One factor is constant in all that we have discovered about this gush of energy, from the grandest force of the gravitational pull to the effect at the sub-nucleic scale, charged particles are constantly reacting to each other.

Light and Darkness

Genesis 1:4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

God saw the goodness of the gush when He "separated the light from the darkness." He separated the gush of charged particles that He created and would forever use it to penetrate the emptiness of darkness. One is alive and powerful; the other is nothing at all.

This light illuminates all of heaven, specifically God's dwelling place. That which is spiritual is energized by this light the same way all of physical creation will follow on the following five days.

Night and Day

Genesis 1:5 And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

As God separates the light from the darkness, He establishes for all time a concept that cannot be altered; when the light is shining on His creation, that time will be called day; when the light is absent from His creation, that time will be called night. Notice also that the passage says, .. and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day." This means that the period from evening until morning is called night and the period when the light shine on God's creation is called day. Most Hebrew scholars translate the word *ereb* as either evening or night and the word *boqer* as morning or day. However, verse five might be better translated for clarity as .. and there was darkness and there was light, day one."

With the creation of the heavens, earth and the energy of light, the first day of creation is concluded.