

Faith

Under

**Issues for today's
church**

Fire



Who is God? (man, gods, YHVH- the Lord)

Cause/ presence of evil – why do bad things happen?

**Where does authority finally lie?
(who decides it's right/wrong/relative)**

Conflict of modern science and the Bible



Human sexuality – he-she- it- both (science and culture)

Crime and punishment (what to do about sin)

Same sex relationships- just the way things are today?

Family conflict – they all lived happily ever after!



**Slavery and freedom -
(how people treat people – who is free?)**

**Nationalism & globalisation
(when men get big ideas about themselves)**

The Jews/Israel - the church-the land and the Middle east

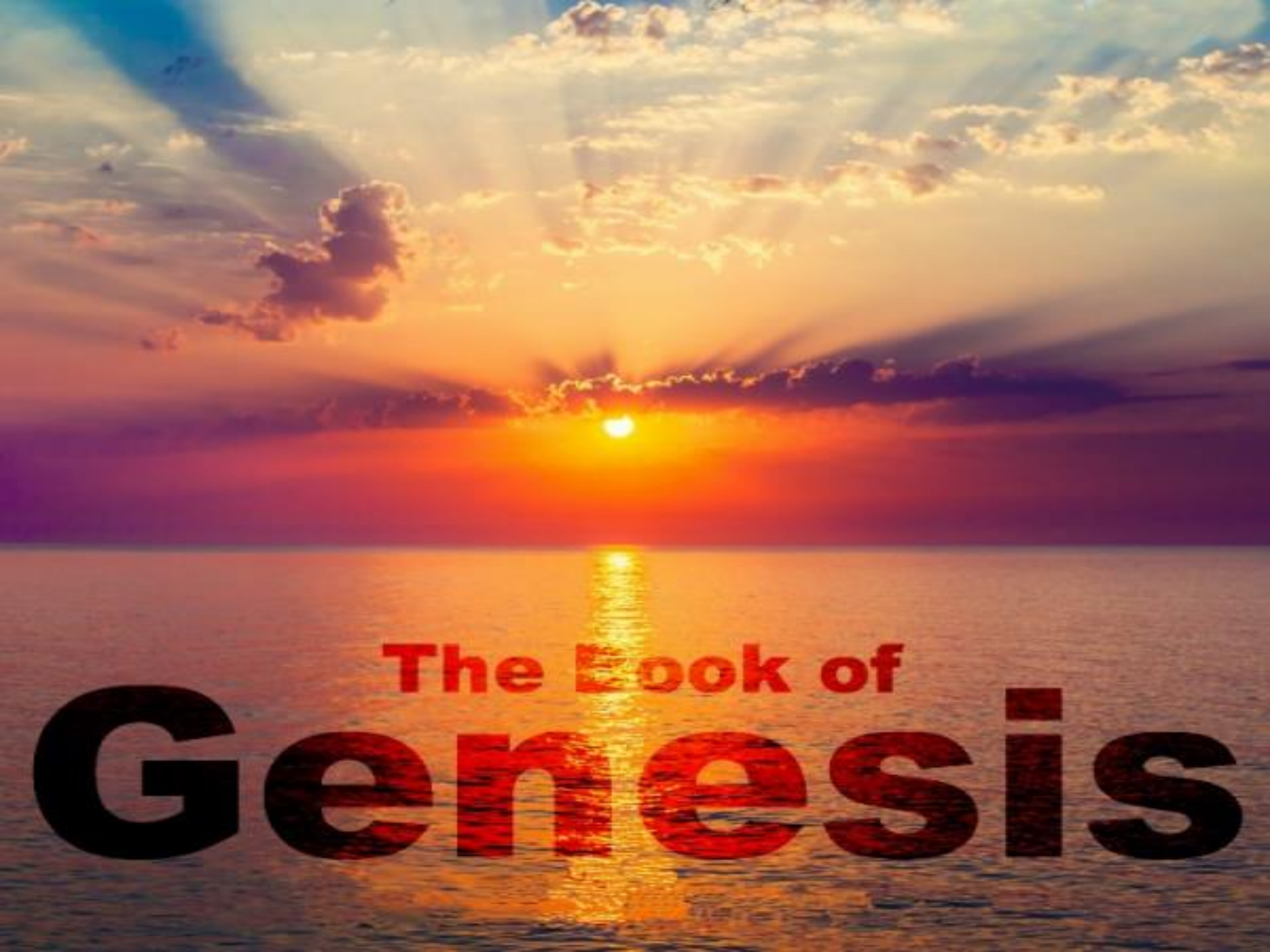
The end of the world - how to prepare.



The End Of The World

**Which bible
book been
most
attacked over
these issues ?**





The Book of

Genesis

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

We are thrown in at the deep end!



Beginning ?

It hasn't always existed

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.



His existence is assumed- the Israelite's experience

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Created



How? --- (He said!)

When? --- (not a restart! after some primeval disaster.)

Why?

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.



Key Issues

Conflicts!!!!

Out of nothing (Hebrew word)
or big bang?

Recent or long time ago?

The

BIG

one

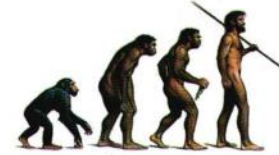
Where did Moses get this idea from?

revelation or imagination?

Christian attempts to join Genesis 1 to evolutionary theory



Evolution of life on Earth



4,500 million years of evolution

The Gap theory (between vs 1 & 2)
(problem – cause of death?)

The Illustrative story (Myth - a sort of parable)
(problem- where does fable end and fact begin?
the Bible tells you when a parable is coming!

Why try?

Avoid embarrassment- fear ?

Try to be relevant ? (ditch what world doesn't like)

Small god ?

**Genesis is NOT written as science
but from our perspective
Eg. What do we call this ?**



Genesis is NOT written as science

It sets the scene for rest of our human history

But where it touches history, geography, geology, physics and biology – **if** it is God's word **then** it has something authoritative to say



Day 1 – energy source –(himself) things are turning

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day

Genesis 1:1-5



Day 2 - somewhere to breath (a lot of water “up there” – see later)

And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day.

Genesis 1:6-8



Day 3 – somewhere to stand, food to eat AND oxygen to breathe (complex plants!)

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day. Gen 1:9 - 13



Day 4 big clocks – secondary energy source

And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

Genesis 1:14-19



Day 5 – life at sea, life in the air

Reproductive patterns : Mission plan

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

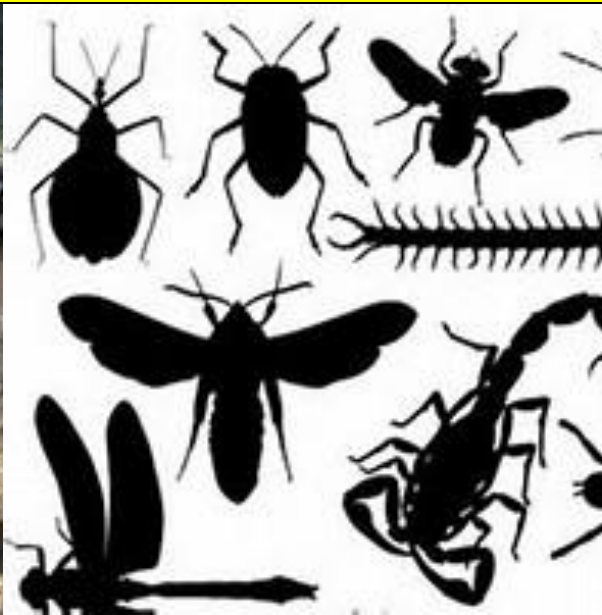
Genesis 1:20-23



Day 6 – life on land

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:24-25

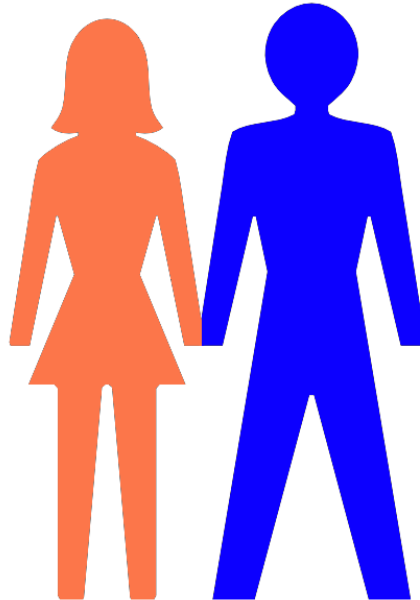


Day 6 – the crown of creation 2 human beings in God's image (see Ch.2 for detail)

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27



Day 6 – mission plan - a caretaker job to do

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:28



Day 6 – food for all vegetarians

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.

Genesis 1:29-31



Day 7 - take a break ! chapter divisions !!!

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

Genesis 2:1-4



Why did God take so long?



Pattern for us (Exodus 20:11)



Prophetic

A Gospel picture – Hebrews 4



Prophetic

A Sign for the New World (1st day of new week)



**This how it was meant to be !
“Very good !” This was as good as it gets
We haven’t improved it!**

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Romans 1:18



The most important thing about those first days



A promise of greater things in Jesus