

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

GENESIS 2:4-7

Key Questions:

Since v.4-6 describe the beginning of the earth's history before man's creation, then...

1. What beginning point is being described in these verses?
2. How can these verses be reconciled with Genesis chapter one?

STRUCTURE OF GENESIS 2:4-7

I. Introductory Summary Statement (2:4)

“These are the stories of the heavens and...”

II. Circumstantial clause (2:5-6)

Pattern: *waw* disjunctive + noun + verb (*hyh*)

“Now no shrub of the field was yet in the...”

III. Main clause (2:7)

Pattern: *waw* consecutive + prefixed conjunction

“And the LORD God formed man...”

Circumstantial Clause

- A clause subordinate to the main verb
- Gives the circumstances that attend the action of the main verb
- In Hebrew, introduced by a *waw* disjunctive

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These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that Yahweh God made earth and heaven.

(Now no *siah* of the field was yet in the earth, no *'esebh* of the field had yet sprung up; for Yahweh God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to work the ground.

But a *'edh* went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the earth.)

Then Yahweh God formed *'adam* of the dust of the *'adama*; and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and *'adam* became a living being.

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Interpretations

1. Parallel (second) Account

- Parallels Gen. 1:2; describing the earth as uninhabitable and a watery chaos.
- Second creation account with man as the focus

2. Positive State

- These are positive descriptions of the earth before man's creation and FALL
- Anticipating the Fall and Curse of man
 - The *siah* of the field = thorns and thistles of the curse
 - The *'esebh* of the field = the cultivated grain fields required after the Fall
 - "No rain" anticipates the flood
 - "work of the ground" = the toil and tilling required as part of the curse
- Harmonizes the order of chapter one with chapter two