

# I. Chaos After the Original Creation



# II. Chaos at the Beginning of Creation



# III. Chaos Before the Original Creation



# BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

## Genesis 1:1-3

### Restitution Theory

- Genesis 1:1: an account of the original perfect creation
- Genesis 1:2: the chaotic state of the world after God's judgement due to Satan's sin
- Genesis 1:3ff: an account of the recreation out of the chaotic state

### **Translation:**

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; and the earth *became* formless and void...”

**Often called the “Gap Theory”**

# BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

## “Genesis 1:1-3”

### Initial Chaos Theory

- Genesis 1:1: A statement of God’s *ex nihilo* creation of the raw materials of the universe (i.e. time, space, matter, energy)
- Genesis 1:2: A description of the newly created earth in its yet unformed state (i.e. describes what God created in v1; initial stage of creation)
- Genesis 1:3ff: the account of the continuing creative work of God—shaping and ordering the unformed material

### **Translation:**

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And (now as to) the earth (it) was formless and void...”

# BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

## Genesis 1:1-3

### Precreation Chaos Theory

- Genesis 1:1:
  - (1) a summary statement of chapter one (a formal introduction or title)
  - (2) a dependent clause connected with verse three stating the beginning of God's creative work
- Genesis 1:2: a description of the chaotic state of the earth before God begins to create
- Genesis 1:3ff: the account of God creating order from the preexisting chaos of verse two

### **Translation:**

- (1) "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And (Now) the earth was formless and void..."
- (2) *When God began to create* the heavens and the earth (the earth was formless and void...) God said ..."

# BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

## “Genesis 1:1-3”

### Exegetical/Interpretive Issues

- Correct sense of *b<sup>e</sup>re'sit*
- Meaning of *bara'*
- Meaning of *hashshamayim we-ha'ares*
- Use of the *waw* in v2
- Correct sense of the verb *hyh* in v2
- Meaning of *tohu wa-bohu* in v2
- The significance of “darkness” and “water”

# BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

## “Genesis 1:1-3”

### Exegetical/Interpretive Issues

1. Sense of *b<sup>e</sup>re'sit*
  - Absolute not construct: “In the beginning”
  - v1 is an independent clause
2. Meaning of *bara*
  - Emphasis on the newness of an object; used only of God's activity
  - *Ex nihilo* is not inherent in the word itself
3. Meaning of *hashshamayim we-ha'ares*
  - “merism” meaning the ordered universe, the complete *cosmos*
4. Construction of verse 2
  - *waw* disjunctive introduces a circumstantial clause (not sequential)
  - *hyh* is stative (“was”) not active (“became”)