

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

“Genesis 1:1-3”

Exegetical/Interpretive Issues

1. Sense of *b^ere'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”)

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

“Genesis 1:1-3”

Exegetical/Interpretive Issues

5. Meaning of *tohu wa-bohu*

- A state of material prior to its creation; material to which an orderly arrangement, a cosmos, a creating has not yet taken place
- It denotes the contrary of creation and not merely an inferior stage of creation (Is. 45:18)
- This precreative state is not necessarily the result of judgment
- Other usage: Isaiah 34:11; Jeremiah 4:23-26

REVERSAL OF CREATION TO CHAOS IN JEREMIAH 4: 23-26

EARTH	<u>tōhû wā-bōhû</u>
HEAVENS	NO LIGHT
MOUNTAINS	REMOVED
MAN	NO MAN
BIRDS	FLED
FRUITFUL LAND	A WILDERNESS
CITIES	DISMANTLED