

# 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”

### 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: EVALUATION

### Initial Disorder Theory

#### 1. Strengths

- Recognizes verse 1 as an independent clause
- Recognizes verse 2 as a circumstantial clause connected with verse 3
- Correctly understands the verb *hyh* (“was”)
- Theological: explains creation in *ex nihilo* terms (nothing but God existed before verse 1)
- Supported by many popular commentators and Bible teachers

# BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

## Initial Disorder Theory

### 2. Objections

- Demands a completely different meaning to the phrase “*the heavens and the earth*” than anywhere else in Scripture
  - It cannot mean everything
  - Heavens are created twice (v1 & v8)
- Understands *tohu wa-bohu* as the initial stage of creation instead of a state contrary to creation (contradiction: “...God created...And the earth was uncreated...”)
- Contradicts Isaiah 45:18 by making verse 2 the product of God’s creation
- Does not fit the literary structure of chapter 1
  - Fails to recognize the distinct pattern from verse 3ff (makes verse one part of day one)
  - Creative acts are by divine command unlike verse one