

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

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

Precreation Chaos Theory

1. Strengths

A. Grammatical/syntactical

- Recognizes verse 1 as an independent clause
- Recognizes verse 2 as a circumstantial clause (not sequential) connected with verse 3
- Correctly understands the verb *hyh* (“was”)

B. Lexical

- Preserves the meaning of the phrase “the heavens and the earth” as the ordered universe
- Preserves the meaning of *tohu wa-bohu* as a state contrary to creation

C. Literary

- Maintains the structure of chapter 1 (first creative act is in verse 3; inclusio with 2:1)
- Structure is supported elsewhere in Genesis and common in Semitic languages

D. Polemical

- Parallels with pagan creation myths

BIBLICAL VIEW OF CREATION

Precreation Chaos Theory

2. Objections

A. Grammatical:

- NONE

B. Lexical:

- NONE

C. Literary:

- NONE

D. Theological

- It does not explain the origin of the chaotic material in verse 2