

Summary

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Genesis 1:1-1:31

First of all, investigations of this sort have been greatly enhanced by the availability of AI to find and summarize technical data. There is an extremely wide range of scientific topics involved in these investigations, so AI can make it much more manageable. This is an excellent time to dig deeper into these investigations and we encourage anyone to make these investigations on their own.

The scientific investigations in these areas are continuing and no doubt will continue. So, the data used for the scientific timelines may be refined over time. We would not expect large changes in the timelines, but science is unpredictable at times. Changes in scientific timelines may in turn require some re-evaluation concerning the appropriate dates for the physical events in Genesis 1. We plan to periodically update these materials to accommodate any new scientific findings that affect the Genesis 1 physical event dates, and include any appropriate discussions about those updates.

Investigations into the past of the Earth and our Universe not only provide answers for curiosity's sake. These investigations have many practical uses as well, including the following.

- Economic enablers for resources and technology
- Geopolitical instruments for prestige, security, autonomy
- Policy foundations for climate and risk management
- Civilizational insurance for existential risk mitigation like the possibility of meteors
- Innovation engines for spillover technologies

Curiosity is real—but it is only one layer. At a strategic level, deep-history science is about forecasting, control, resilience, and long-term advantages. So, further investigations in these areas should hopefully continue to provide multiple benefits.

The 14 passages from Genesis 1 that are used to correlate with findings from historical science are shown in the table below. The Scientific Event column provides a short phrase to describe the event that correlates with the given passage. You can review the referenced Big Bible chapters for greater details about the correlation between the given passages and the scientific events.

Before Yôm 1 through Yôm 5

1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.		
<i>The Big Bang</i>	13.8 bya	EVENT #1
1:2a Now the earth was formless and empty,		
<i>Initial accretion of dust and gas particles to form planetesimals and then the earth</i>	4.56 to 4.54 bya	EVENT #2
1.2b darkness was over the surface of the deep,		
<i>Dark clouds cover a water covered planet</i>	4.4 to 4.3 bya	EVENT #3
1:3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.		
<i>Cloud cover turns from opaque to translucent</i>	4.3 to 4.0 bya	EVENT #4
1:6 – 8a And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.”		
<i>Water cycle created</i>	4.0 to 3.8 bya	EVENT #5
1:9 – 1:10a And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.”		
<i>Land appears out of oceans</i>	3.8 to 2.5 bya	EVENT #6
1:11 – 12a Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.		
<i>Photosynthetic organisms appear on land</i>	480 mya	EVENT #7
1:14 – 18a And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness.		
<i>Completion of oxygenation</i>	450 mya	EVENT #8
1.20a And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures ... So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it...		
<i>Large fishes appear in the oceans</i>	420 to 360 mya	EVENT #9
1.20b and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”		
<i>Birds appear in the skies</i>	150 to 120 mya	EVENT #10

Yôm 6

1:24a And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock		
	66 mya	EVENT #11
1:24b the creatures that move along the ground,		
	60 mya	EVENT #12
1:24c and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so.		
	37 mya	EVENT #13
1:26 - 30 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.		
<i>Creation of Homo Sapiens</i>	120 to 70 kya	EVENT #14

Ga - billions of years ago

Ma - millions of years ago

ka - thousands of years ago

Bible Verse	Bible Passage Text	Scientific Event	Approximate Timeframe	Correlation Strength
Genesis 1:1	In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.	The Big Bang	13.8 bya	Strong
Genesis 1:2a	And the earth was without form and void	Accretion of dust and gas particles to form planetesimals and then the earth	4.54 bya	Strong
Genesis 1:2b	and darkness was upon the face of the deep	Dark clouds cover a water covered planet	~ 4.4 bya	Strong
Genesis 1:3	And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.	Cloud cover turns from opaque to translucent	~ 4.4 bya	Reasonable, based on hypothesis of collision with Theia modifying early earth atmosphere
Genesis 1:6-8a	And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament:	Water cycle created	4 bya	Strong

	and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven.			
Genesis 1:9-10	And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.	Land appears out of oceans	3.2 bya	Strong
Genesis 1:11-12	And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good	Photosynthetic organisms appear on land	2.7 bya	Reasonable if we interpret the Hebrew <i>deshe</i> (grass), <i>eseb</i> (herb), and/or <i>zera</i> (seed) to include other photosynthetic organisms like algae. Timeframe estimate is based on appearance of algae.

Genesis 1:14-15	And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.	Great oxygenation event	2.4 bya	Strong
Genesis 1:20a	And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life	Cambrian explosion - abundant sea creatures	542 to 488 mya	Strong
Genesis 1:20b	and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven	Creation of Birds	150-165 mya	Strong
Genesis 1:24a	And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle	Appearance of soulish mammals that can be domesticated	2-60 mya	Strong
Genesis 1:24b	and creeping thing	Appearance of rodents and small mammals	~ 66 mya	Strong

Genesis 1:24c	and beast of the earth after his kind	Appearance of soulish wild carnivorous animals	~ 60 mya	Strong
Genesis 1:26-27	And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.	Appearance of homo-sapien sapien	70 kya	Strong

bya - billions of years ago

mya - millions of years ago

kya - thousands of years ago

Out of the 14 events listed here, 12 of the correlations are strong and the other 2 are reasonable given certain assumptions.

One of the most significant features of this summary is how the approximate timeframes follow the time sequence that science has determined, from the beginning of the universe to the beginning of the earth, and then the other events following sequentially. In other words, the sequence of the order of events given in Genesis 1 follows the order as determined by historical science. This is one of the strongest pieces of evidence that the Creator of the universe inspired the words written in Genesis 1.