

Creation Account: Matter and Chaos

The relationship of the origin of matter and why we find chaos in Genesis 1:2 are the issues concerned below. There are three positions that are held by evangelical conservatives. The differences are distinct, yet in the end, we must take Genesis 1:1 at face value on faith (He.11:3).

Re-Creation (or Gap) Approach	The Initial Chaos Approach	Pre-Creation Chaos Approach
<p>CONCEPT: Genesis 1:1 describes the original creation of the earth, prior to the fall of Satan (Is.14:12-15; Ek.28:12-19).</p> <p>AS A RESULT: Because of Satan's fall the earth lost its original state of beauty and bliss and is found in a state of chaos in Genesis 1:2; Is.14:12.</p> <p>STRENGTH or VALUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps to explain the teaching of Satan's fall • Allows for a considerable time period or age of the earth 	<p>CONCEPT: Genesis 1:1 is an independent introductory statement. Genesis 1:2 describes the state of the original creation as unformed and unfilled. So the universe is like an untouched block of granite before the sculpture begins to fashion it. Genesis 1:3 and following describes God's working and fashioning of the mass, transforming it from chaos to cosmos.</p> <p>The creation is not in an evil state resulting from some catastrophic fall. It is simply in its initial unformed state like a lump of clay in a potter's hands.</p> <p>STRENGTH or VALUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears to be the natural reading of the text as one story or event • Tends to see the earth as relatively young (10,000 years or less) 	<p>CONCEPT: Genesis 1:1 is understood either as a dependent clause ("When God began to create...") or as an independent introductory clause ("In the beginning God created...").</p> <p>The creation account summarized in Genesis 1:1 begins in Genesis 1:2. This 'creation' is not <i>ex nihilo</i> (out of nothing). It is created out of the stuff existing in Genesis 1:2. (Where the 'stuff' comes from is not explained in the text). It is not the intention of the text to prove creation. It is a faith issue based on the facts stated.</p> <p>The chaotic state found in Genesis 1:2 is before Genesis 1:1 at an unspecified time.</p> <p>The absolute origin of matter is not the subject of Genesis chapter 1. It is the relative beginnings of the world and civilization as we know it today. Days 1-3 explain formlessness changed to form. Days 4-6 explain emptiness changed to habitation. The first 3 days remedy the chaos described in Genesis 1:2. Days 4-6 remedy the void or emptiness of verse 2.</p> <p>RESULT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis 1 should not be used to explain the chaos or the origin of matter.

• Original creation of the earth (**matter**) out of nothing.



• **Chaos** is the result of the fall of Satan

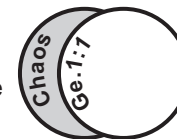
• Re-creation of the earth as we know it today in 6 days

• **Chaos** is simply the description of how it began.



• Original creation of the earth (**matter**) out of nothing in 6 days.

• **Chaos** exists before without explanation. The text does not try to explain why chaos exists, just the fact that it does.



• **Matter** exists in Ge.1:2 without explaining its origin. The text is more concerned with explaining the relative beginnings of the world as we know it today.