

The First Chapter of the world

Gen. I

I like to get back to the beginning of things and from that position let my mind and vision sweep through the ages and see the lines that embrace the whole program of God.

Then go with me back in your imagination to the time when no worlds existed. Back there with God who never began and never will end. You see from this place of vantage a sky that is going to be filled with worlds, and one especially is to be your home. This is the one our text tells about. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

This text is the first verse of Scripture and was written by Moses. This positive statement must have explanation that some of the human questioning may be satisfied.

1. Some will ask "How did Moses know what happened thousands of years before he lived?"

- There are three ways
- Tradition
 - writings
 - Inspiration

I believe that the first one, "Tradition" will give explanation enough. In early times the race was so much together that there was no need of writing for they talked the creation story over and over till it was fixed in people's minds as was or is fixed in masonry in our minds to-day - that part of masonry not written.

2 The truth came to more through few persons from Adam to Noah only one person was necessary to transmit the story through 1656 years. Methuselah lived to see both Adam and Noah and if after hearing the story for more than 900 years he could not tell it he would be a poor student. Shem connected Noah and Abraham having lived to converse with both and Isaac with Abraham and Joseph. So their things could have been easily conveyed to Moses from Amram who was contemporary with Joseph.

Writing and inspiration added to this should leave nothing doubtful in our minds as to the authenticity of this verse and chapter.

Now let us look at the text as basis for talking on the world's first chapter or the first chapter of the world.

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Let us read this verse in Hebrew.
"Bereshith bara Elohim eth hashamayim ve'et ha'aretz" In the beginning created God the heavens and the earth

"In the beginning." B.4. This act of creation all was Eternity. Time means duration measured by revolution of heavenly bodies. This would indicate that all heavenly bodies started then.

"Created" Bara in Hebrew does not mean remaking a thing or making some thing out of some thing else already existing but to cause to exist some thing which hitherto had no existence.

"Elohim" gods. Moses is saying here that it was more than one who did this "creating". Further on in the chapter God is made to say "Let us make man in our own image". But the 3rd person singular verb is used making it plain that Moses did not mean many gods but more than one being acting as one. So when we get up in N. T. and Jesus tells us that He is the

3 Son and that He goes back to heaven and sends the Spirit who is the Comforter we have no other idea comprised of more than one acting as one. Hence "Elohim" (Gods) is explained.

This God made the heaven and the earth, that is the substance out of which in the next four days he created form the things in order as described in the chapter.

Light was made first day but sun was not made till 4th day. Light means fire-electric fluid man was made last and was made in the image of God and told to subdue the earth.

now what is your idea of this God? He has a different meaning to different people. The real meaning of the word God as here given is; the eternal, independent and self-existent Being; the Being whose purposes and actions spring from himself without foreign motive or influence. He who is absolute in dominion, the most pure, simple and spiritual of all essences true, holy, kind and just. Known fully only unto himself.

This God is my Father and is with me so that I can say in me dwelleth all the fullness of God.

This God is my Brother — This God is my Comforter.

He who was but an unknown God is yet unknown to the heathen in the one whom we can know and with whom we can be filled.

He spoke to His first Creature that they subdue the earth. He made an earth

