

**Study Guide for use with DVD or VHS  
with Helps for the Teacher**

**Are the  
Genesis Creation Days  
24 Hours or  
Long Periods of Time?**

**Program 1**

**Dr. John Ankerberg with guests:  
Dr. Hugh Ross  
& Dr. Walter Kaiser**

Ankerberg Theological Research Institute  
P. O. Box 8977  
Chattanooga, TN 37414  
[www.johnankerberg.org](http://www.johnankerberg.org) 423/892-7722

## Key Points & Contents

<b>Outline and Commentary on Key Points in Lesson 1 .....</b>	<b>5</b>
I. Philosophically, what are the three basic answers to the question: “Where did everything come from?” .....	5
II. Do the Bible and Science both say the universe had a start? .....	5
III. What is the importance of the universe having a beginning? If the universe had a start, it must have had a Starter. ....	5
IV. What does the word literal mean when Christians speak of literally interpreting Genesis 1 and 2, or any part of the Bible? .....	6
V. How many ways did Moses use the word “day” in Genesis 1, 2, and in Psalm 90? .....	6
VI. If the biblical text and the biblical author defines “day” with “elasticity,” then how can we arrive at a conclusion about how much time should be attributed to our interpretation of the word “day?” .....	6
VII. Who said that the Bible teaches God created the universe, the earth, the plants, the animals, and Adam and Eve, about 6,000 years ago. Is that wrong? .....	7
VIII. Do we have different contexts between Genesis 1 and 2 that indicate we should not interpret day, yom, to mean a long period of time? .....	7
IX. In Genesis 2:4, why did the NIV use the word “when” and not “day” in the phrase “When the Lord God made the heavens and the earth?” .....	7
X. When numbers (ordinals or cardinals) are used in a series (1, 2, 3...) with the word day (yom) in the Old Testament, some claim it always refers to 24-hour days, and there are no exceptions to this; therefore, Genesis 1 must be referring to 24-hour days. Is this true? .....	7
XI. What do the words “morning” and “evening” mean? Don’t they indicate a literal 24-hour day in Genesis 1 and 2? .....	7
XII. When you compare the seventh day, the Sabbath, with the other days in the creation week, what is different? .....	8
<b>Preface .....</b>	<b>9</b>

## Program 1—Lesson 1

<b>Transcript of Program</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Part 1</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Does the Bible teach that God created everything approximately 6,000 years ago in six literal 24-hour days, or something else? .....	13
Does the Bible teach an absolute beginning of the universe brought about by God? .....	14
What does “literal” mean when Christians talk about a literal interpretation of Genesis? .....	15
<b>Part 2</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Did Moses himself use yom (day) three different ways in Genesis 1 and 2? ..	16
When yom is used with an ordinal, does it always refer to a 24-hour period of time? .....	18
Did God’s Sabbath rest end on the seventh day or is it still continuing according to Genesis 2? .....	20
<b>Study Questions</b> .....	<b>22</b>
Part 1 .....	22
Part 2 .....	23
<b>Key Hebrew Words in this Lesson</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<i>Bara</i> (Strong’s Number 1254) .....	24
<i>yom</i> (Strong’s Number 3117) .....	24
<i>reshiyth</i> (Strong’s Number 7225) .....	24
<i>elohiym</i> (Strong’s Number 430) .....	24
<i>shamayim</i> (Strong’s Number 8064) .....	24
<i>erets</i> (Strong’s Number 776) .....	25
<i>echad</i> (Strong’s Number 259) .....	25

<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Appendix 1A—The “big bang” In His Own Words .....	26
Appendix 1B—Creation Myths .....	27
Appendix 1C—General Relativity .....	28
Appendix 1D—Mapping the Skies .....	29
Appendix 1E—Literal Interpretation of the Bible .....	31
Appendix 1F—Who Came Up with 6,000 Years as the Age of the Earth? .....	32
Appendix 1G: How Dogmatic Should We Be About the Length of “Days”? ....	34
 <b>Recommended Reading .....</b>	 <b>36</b>
 <b>List of Leaders Open to the “Old Earth” Position .....</b>	 <b>37</b>

© 2005 Ankerberg Theological Research Institute  
P. O. Box 8977  
Chattanooga, TN, 37414

**Please note that the material in this study guide is protected under U.S. copyright laws.** This material cannot be copied without express, written permission from the Ankerberg Theological Research Institute. All rights are reserved.

## Lesson 1—Outline and Commentary on Key Points

### I. Philosophically, what are the three basic answers to the question: “Where did everything come from?”\*

- A. Everything came from **nothing**.
- B. Everything came from the **impersonal**—*from mass, energy, or motion*.
- C. Everything came from the **personal**—*from God*.

(Please see the **Preface** for further development of this point.)

### II. Do the Bible and Science both say *the universe had a start*?

A. **Science says:** All matter, energy, space and time came into existence 13.7 billion years ago, brought about by a transcendent causal agent. Scientists call this “The Big Bang.”

B. **The Bible says:** The entire universe [indicated by the words “heaven and earth”] was brought into existence by God “in the beginning”—“*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1).

### III. What is the importance of the universe having a beginning? *If the universe had a start, it must have had a Starter.*

A. **Scientists** attribute the beginning cause to a “**transcendent causal agent**”—*that is, an agent who was not a part of (or in) space and time, but above or out of time*.

B. **The Bible says**, “in the beginning” God created (Gen. 1:1). Hebrews 11:3 says, “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

The Bible also claims God existed before the universe and was actively involved in causing certain effects before its existence.

- Colossians 1:16, 17—For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were **created by him** and for him. He is **before all things**, and in him all things hold together.
- Proverbs 8:22-31—The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed **from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began**. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, **before he made the earth**

---

\*From Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1972).

## Program 1—Lesson 1

*To me, the concept of God is a logical outcome of the study of the immense universe that lies around us... the evidence is all too pervasive for me to think otherwise.—Thomas C. Emmel, Ph.D. Stanford University, Professor of Zoology, University of Florida, Gainesville.<sup>1</sup>*

**For the Teacher/Leader:** If you choose to divide this study, Part 1 covers Program 1 up to the break. (The transcript is printed here for your convenience.) Additional helpful information has been provided in the footnotes and the appendices.

**Introductory Question:** What preconceived ideas do you “bring to the table” in any discussion about creation? Where and how did you form those ideas?

### Transcript of Program

#### Part 1

**Dr. John Ankerberg:** Welcome. We've got a great program for you today; two spectacular guests. I'm really glad you've joined us.

Today our topic is: ***“The Biblical Account of Creation: What Information Has God Given Us About How and When He Created?”*** That's something you want to know, right?

My guests are Dr. Walter Kaiser, President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts. He's also Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages and received his Ph.D. from Brandeis University. He's the author of more than thirty books—and we've got a few of them on the screen right now for you—*Toward an Old Testament Theology; An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics; Hard Sayings of the Bible*, and many others.

Also we've got Dr. Hugh Ross. He's an astrophysicist and astronomer. He received his Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Toronto, and did post-doctoral research at Caltech on “quasars.” And he has also authored many

---

<sup>1</sup> Henry Margenau and Ray Varghese, eds., *Cosmos, Bios, Theos: Scientists Reflect on Science, God and The Origin of the Universe, Life and Homo Sapiens* (LaSalle, IL: Open Court, 1995), p. 171.

## Key Hebrew Words in this Lesson

### ◆ **Bara (Strong's Number 1254)**

*Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Definitions [BDB]:*<sup>1</sup>

**1)** to create, shape, form—**a.** (*Qal*) to shape, fashion, create (always with God as subject): 1. of heaven and earth; 2. of individual man; 3. of new conditions and circumstances; 4. of transformations; **b.** (*Niphal*) to be created: 1. of heaven and earth; 2. of birth; 3. of something new; 4. of miracles; **c.** (*Piel*) to cut down;

**2)** to be fat: (*Hiphil*) to make yourselves fat

### ◆ **yom (Strong's Number 3117)**

BDB Definition:

**1)** day, time, year: **a.** day (as opposed to night); **b.** day (24 hour period)—1. as defined by evening and morning in Genesis 1; 2. as a division of time: a working day, a day's journey; **c.** days, lifetime (plural); **d.** time, period (general); **e.** year; **f.** temporal references—1. today; 2. yesterday; 3. tomorrow

### ◆ **reshiyth (Strong's Number 7225)**

BDB Definition:

**1)** first, beginning, best, chief: **a.** beginning; **b.** first; **c.** chief; **d.** choice part

### ◆ **elohiym (Strong's Number 430)**

BDB Definition:

**1)** (plural)—**a.** rulers, judges; **b.** divine ones; **c.** angels; **d.** gods

**2)** (plural intensive—singular meaning)—**a.** god, goddess; **b.** godlike one; **c.** works or special possessions of God; **d.** the (true) God; **e.** God

### ◆ **shamayim (Strong's Number 8064)**

BDB Definition:

**1)** heaven, heavens, sky: **a.** visible heavens, sky: 1. as abode of the stars; 2. as the visible universe, the sky, atmosphere, etc; **b.** Heaven (as the abode of God)

---

<sup>1</sup> *Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions*, Electronic Edition STEP Files Copyright © 1999, Findex.com, Inc. All rights reserved.