

A TIME TO LAUGH... OR CRY

In The Beginning With Adam and Eve

Genesis 1 and 2

The very first words of the Bible are: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” In these 10 brief words we are plunged with magnificent suddenness into our world of space and time. An artist creates a picture and uses acrylics or oils. An engineer constructs a building and uses concrete, steel, and plastics. Just think what this says about the power, wisdom, and glory of God! For this reason alone it is right that we worship Him.

A little over six thousand years ago God made everything out of nothing. It must have been a time for Him to laugh. The first two chapters of Genesis tell how God made the world, this spinning ball we call home. This is God’s account of how it happened. His Word is absolute truth. What we discover in these two chapters will come as a surprise to us, and we will laugh, too.

Opening Hymn

O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: *Refrain*

Opening Prayer

We thank You, Almighty God, for the wonderful world that You made for us. Thank You for making our bodies and placing our souls inside them. Forgive us for not always appreciating our world the way we should and for the times when we do not even appreciate our own creation. Forgive us all our evil thoughts and actions through Jesus' death on the cross. Help us show our love for You by being more respectful of the earth and the environment and by showing more love to those who live around us. We give You all praise and glory for everything! In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Time To Cry or Laugh?

To emphasize their belief that God played no role in the birth of their daughter, George and Tina Rollason, of York, PA, named her Atheistic Evolution Rollason. Mr. Rollason said that his daughter's name is the couple's response to other parents' use of Biblical names. "It's kind of cute once you say it a couple of times," said Mrs. Rollason. How pathetic! The little girl may some day shed many tears over her name. And what about God? "The One enthroned in heaven *laughs*; the Lord scoffs at them" (Psalm 2:4). We believers, however, can *laugh with God* as He describes the actual beginning of our world and universe.

Genesis 1:1-2 (Read) Origin of the Universe

"In the beginning" means the beginning of time. "God" (*Elohim*) means the Almighty. "Created" is the Hebrew *bara* which means to make something out of nothing. "God's Spirit" is the Holy Spirit giving form to that which was unorganized and lifeless.

1. What existed before the creation? _____
2. How many persons of the Trinity were involved in the creation (1:2;1:3;1:26; John 1:1-3)? _____

Genesis 1:3-25 (Read) Creation of the World