

### #3: "The Creation"

Monte F. Shelley, 24 Jan 2010

#### Personal Study Resources

- The Scriptures: CD-ROM edition 1.1 (LDS Distribution Center)
- [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) (multiple translations)

Timeline of Early Old Testament Events*
Creation; Adam & Eve (3760/4000); Cain, Abel, Seth; Enoch (3138/3313); Noah (2704/2944); Ham, Japheth, Shem (his descendents were Semites or Semitic people. Semitic languages include Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, Canaanite, Phoenician, ...)
Tower of Babel (2243); Jaredites traveled to Promised Land
Melchizedek (Shem?): Abram/Abraham (1812/1992), Isaac, Jacob (Israel)
Joseph (born, sold into Egypt, appeared before Pharaoh)
Jacob (Israel) and family went to Egypt.
Joseph died; (End of Genesis)
Moses (1392/1567), in Egypt 40 years (Acts 7:23, 25)
Moses in Midian 40 years (Acts 7:30); married a daughter of Jethro, a descendant of Abraham; received Melchizedek priesthood from Jethro (D&C 84:6); burning bush (mission call, Ex 3), vision of creation+ (Moses 1–
Moses delivered people from Egypt, in wilderness 40 years

\*approximate dates (Jewish/CES OT manual)

#### 1. Abraham and Moses had Melchizedek Priesthood

The Holy Priesthood which [Moses] received under the hand of his father-in-law, Jethro; ...<sup>14</sup> Which Abraham received the priesthood from Melchizedek, ...<sup>19</sup> And this greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God. ...<sup>21</sup> Without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, ... no man can see the face of God ... and live. (D&C 84:6–22)

#### 2. Abraham's Vision (Urim and Thummim) (Abr 3:11–12, 15)

I, Abraham, talked with the Lord, face to face, as one man talketh with another; ... He put his hand upon mine eyes, and I saw those things which his hands had made, ... and I could not see the end thereof. ... The Lord said ...: Abraham, I show these things unto thee before ye go into Egypt, that ye may declare all these words.

And worlds without number have I created; (Moses 1:33–35)



This WISE infrared snapshot of a region in the constellation Carina near the Milky Way shows about 3,000 stars and covers an area three times larger than the full moon.



Andromeda galaxy with hundreds of billions of stars. It is thought to look much like our Milky Way Galaxy which is 100,000 light years in diameter.

The number of stars in the known universe is greater than the number of grains of sand on all the beaches of the planet Earth. ... Each grain contains about the same number of atoms as there are stars in the known universe. (John Lamb, [speeches.byu.edu](http://speeches.byu.edu))

#### 3. Spirits and Stars, Christ and Kolob

If two things exist, and there be one above the other, there shall be greater things above them; therefore Kolob is the greatest of all the [stars] that thou hast seen, because it is nearest unto me. ... As, also, if there be two spirits, and one shall be more intelligent, ... there shall be another more intelligent than they; I am the Lord thy God, I am more intelligent than they all. (3:16, 18–19)

I saw the stars ... there were many great ones ...; <sup>3</sup> And the Lord said ...: These are the governing ones; and the name of the great one is Kolob, because it is near unto me ...: I have set this one to govern all those which belong to the same order as that upon which thou standest. ... One revolution was a day unto the Lord, ... it being one thousand years according to [earth] time. (3:2–4)

Abraham [saw] the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones; ... and [the Lord] said: These I will make my rulers; ... There stood one among them that was like unto God (3:22–25)

#### 4. Truth and Wisdom

**Truth:** "Truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come" (D&C 93:24). Moses 2–3 (Gen 1–2) is NOT a technical description of the details of creation designed to reveal truth to scientists. That will come later.

"I say unto you, in that day when the Lord shall come, he shall reveal all things—... things of the earth, by which it was made, and the purpose and the end thereof—... things that are in the earth, and upon the earth, and in heaven" (D&C 101:32–34).

**Wisdom:** Joseph said he "needed wisdom from God ... for how to act I did not know" (JS-H 1:12). Solomon was given "a wise and understanding heart" so that he might judge righteously (1 Kgs 3:12). Purpose of the Bible creation story was to teach wisdom (how to act) to Moses and later generations for he is commanded "to write the words which [the Lord] speak" (Moses 2:1).

**Wisdom is the path to truth.** "Thus saith the Lord: ... every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am; ... He that keepeth [my] commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things." (D&C 93:1, 28)

## 5. What to worship and how

And John ... [said:] I saw his glory, that he was in the beginning, before the world was; ...<sup>10</sup> The worlds were made by him; men were made by him; all things were made by him. ...<sup>19</sup> I give unto you these sayings that you may ... know how to worship, and know what you worship, that you may come unto the Father in my name, and in due time receive of his fullness (D&C 93:6–20)

Worship implies making, keeping, and renewing covenants. Ancient covenants contain the following parts:

A= Author; B= Blessings; C= Curses; D= Duties

E= Enter; R= Remember, Renew and keep covenants

Who (A), why (because A, to BC), and how (DER) we worship.

## 6. Endowment (Covenant Blessings)

**James E. Talmage:** The Temple Endowment ... includes a recital of the most prominent events of the creative period, the condition of our first parents in the Garden of Eden, their disobedience and consequent expulsion from that blissful abode, their condition in the lone and dreary world when doomed to live by labor and sweat, the plan of redemption ..., the period of the great apostasy, the restoration of the Gospel with all its ancient powers and privileges, the absolute and indispensable condition of personal purity and devotion to the right in present life, and a strict compliance with Gospel requirements.

Timeline of Book of Moses (Genesis)	
2	God creates heaven, earth, animals, man and woman
3	Created man and woman; Garden of Eden; <b>Law of Obedience</b> (worship); Marriage ( <b>Law of Chastity</b> )
4	Satan tempts Eve; Fall of Adam and Eve; <b>Garments</b> of skin; Cast out; Cherubim guard tree of life
5	Adam and Eve have children; <b>Law of sacrifice</b> ; redeemer, repent, baptism, Holy Ghost (6:51–68, <b>law of Gospel</b> ); <b>priesthood</b> (6:67); Apostasy (Cain loves / worships / covenants with Satan; Lamech); Adam and others preached the gospel (7:1)
6	Enoch (6:25) called to preach repentance; endowed with power (6:34), anoint and wash eyes to see (6:35), preached repentance and baptism
7	Enoch prompted to go up mount; beheld heavens open, he was clothed with glory; talked face to face; saw future Wars around them; Enoch established Zion ( <b>law of consecration</b> ); protected Enoch saw all inhabitants of earth; love God & neighbor (7:33); Satan's chains, Christ's mission; Enoch & people walk with God; Zion is fled
8	Methuselah, Noah; destruction of wicked decreed Abrahamic covenant and law of circumcision (Gen. 17, 22)

How much of Genesis did Moses *see*? How much did he *abridge*?

## 7. Joseph's Hebrew Study

1833	Joseph finished Joseph Smith Translation of Bible (JST)
1836	Jan–Mar. School of the prophets studied Hebrew. Jan 19. The Lord opens our minds in a marvelous manner, to understand His word in the original language. (HC 2:376–377) Feb 4. Attended school. ... May the Lord help us to obtain this language, that we may read the Scriptures in the language in which they were given. (HC 2:391) Feb 16. My soul delights in reading the word of the Lord in the original, and I am determined to pursue the study of the languages, until I shall become master of them. (HC 2:396)
1837	1837–1842 Book of Abraham completed

## 8. "In the Beginning" (Moses 2:1; Gen 1:1)

And ... the Lord spake unto Moses, saying: Behold, I reveal unto you concerning this heaven, and this earth; write the words which I speak. I am the Beginning and the End, the Almighty God; by mine Only Begotten I created these things; yea, in the beginning I created the heaven, and the earth ...<sup>2</sup> And the earth was without form, and void; (Moses 2:1–2)

There stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell; ...<sup>1</sup> Then the Lord said: Let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they, that is the Gods, organized and formed the heavens and the earth.<sup>2</sup> And the earth, after it was formed, was empty and desolate, because they had not formed anything but the earth. (Abr. 3:24; 4:1–2)

## 9. The Scriptures:CD-ROM edition 1.1 (LDS Dist. Center)

In the beginning God <sup>c</sup> created the heaven and the earth. (Gen 1:1)

<sup>c</sup> HEB shaped, fashioned, created; always divine activity

<b>bèrè'shîth</b> In the beginning <b>barā'</b> created HEB shaped, fashioned, created; always divine activity <b>'ēlōhîm</b> God
<b>אלהים</b> 'ēlōhîm ; h430 <b>From</b> plural of 'ēlōah {h433} <b>Mean</b> gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative <b>KJV</b> angels, X exceeding, God (gods) (-dess, -ly), X (very) great, judges, X mighty

**Joseph:** I once asked a learned Jew, 'If the Hebrew language compels us to render all words ending in *heim* in the plural, why not render the first *Eloheim* plural?' He replied, 'That is the rule with few exceptions; but in this case it would ruin the Bible.' ... The word *Eloheim* ought to be in the plural all the way through—Gods. (1844; HC 6:475–476)

## 10. First Day

I, God, said: Let there be light, and there was light ... and that light was good. And I, God, divided the light from the darkness. And I, God, called the light Day; and the darkness, I called Night; ... and the evening and the morning were the first day. (2:3–5)

## 11. Six Days of Creation

1. Heaven, earth, light/dark 	4. Sun, moon, stars (appear) 
2. Waters below/above <u>expanse</u> 	5. Sea and air creatures 
3. Sea/dry land; plants 	6. Land animals; Adam & Eve 

*Heavens* (or sky), *grass* (vegetation), *beasts* (wild), *cattle* (live animals raised for food, milk, skin, wool)

## 12. Sixth Day: Let us make man

<sup>26</sup> And I, God, said unto mine Only Begotten, which was with me from the beginning: Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and it was so.

The Gods took counsel among themselves and said: Let us go down and form man in our image, after our likeness (Abr 4:26)

Old Jewish tradition “in *Genesis Rabbah* 8:10 “Adam’s likeness to God is so exact that Adam must be put to sleep so that the angels might worship the right person.” (JMB 113)

And I, God, said: Let them have dominion over the fishes ... fowl ... cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

**Nibley:** “dominion” comes from the Latin *dominus* (“lord”), “specifically ‘the lord of the household.’ In his capacity of generous host ... [responsible as] master for the comfort and well-being of his dependents and guests.” “Man’s dominion is a call to service, not a license to exterminate.” (JMB 114)

<sup>27</sup> And I, God, created man in mine own image, in the image of mine Only Begotten created I him; male and female created I them.

So the Gods went down to organize man in their own image, in the image of the Gods to form they him, male and female to form they them. (Abr 4:27)

God [elohim] created man in his own image, in the image of God [elohim] created he him; male and female created he them. (Gen 1:27)

<sup>28</sup> And I, God, blessed them, and said unto them: Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

<sup>c</sup> HEB fill; see same word in v. 22.

SOED *Subdue* 3. To bring (land) under cultivation 1535. → settlement and agriculture (Moses 3:5, 15)

<sup>29</sup> And I, God, said unto man: Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed ... and every tree in the which shall be the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

<sup>a</sup> HEB: food. SOED *meat* 1. Food in general

<sup>31</sup> And I, God, saw everything that I had made, and, behold, all things which I had made were very good; and the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

## 13. Seventh Day (Moses 3; Gen 2)

<sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day I, God, ended my work, and all things which I had made; and I rested on the seventh day from all my work, and all things which I had made were finished, and I, God, saw that they were good; <sup>3</sup> And I, God, blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.

<sup>b</sup> HEB stopped, ceased; from the verb *shavat*; the noun *shabbat* (Engl. Sabbath) means a stopping or cessation.

The Old Testament has two words for “labor” or “work”. This one means skilled labor, work that is performed by a craftsman or an artisan. The other refers to unskilled labor. (Victor P. Hamilton, *The Book of Genesis*, 142)

*Sanctify:* HEB set apart, devote, consecrate (BDB); to make, pronounce or observe as clean (Str).

SOED *sanctify* [L. to make holy] 1. To set apart, consecrate; 2. To make holy (set apart for religious use, free from sin or evil)

## 14. Hebrew

No vowels, right to left	.htrht dn nvhht dtrc dg gnnngbhtn
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the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground (Gen 2:7)

1000 BC	500 BC (DSS)	1524 (KJV)	1937
יְהוָה	יהוה	יהוה	יהוה
YHVH	YHVH	yēhōvāh	yēhvāh

IHVH (Latin), JHWH (German, French), JHVH/YHWH (English)

**Hebrew Names** for people and places also had meanings.

Puritan names: Faith, Charity, Joy, Hate-evil, Learn-wisdom.  
Indian Names: Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Dances with wolves.

**Elohim** (*God, gods* is from 'el=strength, mighty); Michael (who is like God), Ezekiel (God will strengthen).

**YHVH** (*Jehovah, Yahweh*): 1. Proper name of God of Israel, 2. (many recent scholars) *The one bringing into being, life-giver; giver of existence, creator; he who brings to pass, performer of promises.* (traditional) *the one who is, the existing, ever-living.*

the LORD God	yēhvāh 'ēlōhīm
the Lord GOD	'ādhōnāy yēhvih

## 15. Moral Creation Story (Moses 3; Gen 2)

<sup>7</sup> And I, the Lord God, formed man [ 'ādhām ] from the dust of the ground [ 'ādhāmāh ], and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul, the first flesh upon the earth, the first man also; nevertheless, all things were before created; but spiritually were they created and made according to my word.

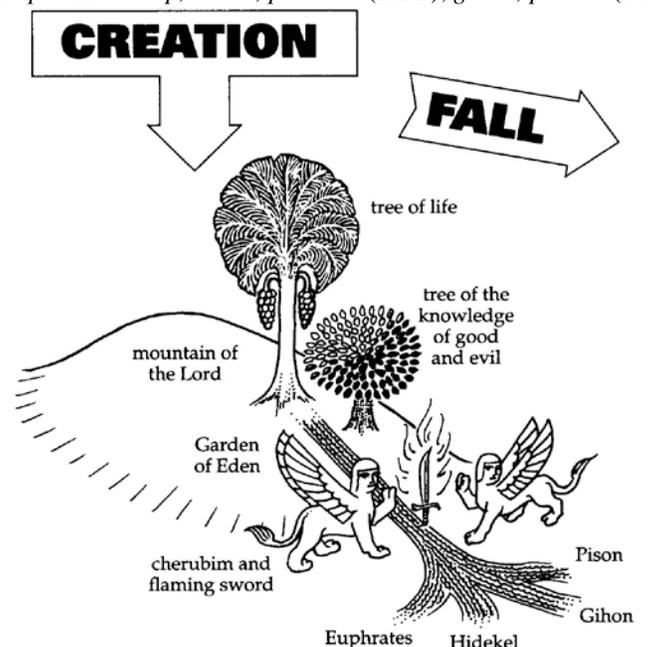
## 16. Garden of Eden

<sup>8</sup> And I, the Lord God, planted a garden eastward in Eden, <sup>9</sup> ... And I ... planted the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and also the tree of knowledge of good and evil. <sup>10</sup> And I ... caused a river to go out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. <sup>15</sup> And I, the Lord God, took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden, to dress it, and to keep it.

*Eden:* Heb. luxuriantly fertile area, a fruitful land (Bountiful?)

*Dress:* Heb. work, serve, till (BDB),

*Keep:* Heb. keep, watch, preserve (BDB); guard, protect (Str)



## 17. Commandment and Agency

<sup>16</sup> And I, the Lord God, commanded the man, saying: Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, <sup>17</sup> But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, nevertheless, thou mayest choose for thyself, for it is given unto thee; but, remember that I forbid it, for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The Lord said unto Enoch: ... in the Garden of Eden, gave I unto man his agency; (Moses 7:32)

Free= aware of choices → of every tree ... thou mayest eat  
Agency= power to act or carry out choice → body

- “Free agency” is not found in the scriptures
- “That every man my act ... according to the **moral agency** which I have given unto him.” (D&C 101:78)

Moral= choose between good and evil → commandment, law

**Joseph Fielding Smith:** This is the way I interpret [Moses 3:16–17]: The Lord said to Adam, here is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you want to stay here, then you cannot eat of that fruit. If you want to stay here, then I forbid you to eat it. But you may act for yourself, and you may eat of it if you want to. And if you eat it, you will die. (PGP-I, Moses 3:16).

## 18. An help meet for man

<sup>18</sup> And I, the Lord God, said unto mine Only Begotten, that it was not good that the man should be alone; wherefore, I will make <sup>b</sup> an help [*‘ezer*=helper] meet [*kenegdo*] for him.

<sup>b</sup> IE a helper suited to, worthy of, or corresponding to him.

Hebrew *‘ezer kēneghdō* literally ‘a helper corresponding to him,’ one that is ‘equal to and adequate for him’ (BDB 617).

OED *meet*: 1. Made to fit, 2. equal to, on the same level, 3. Suitable, fit, proper

<sup>19</sup> And out of the ground I, the Lord God, formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and commanded that they should come unto Adam, to see what he would call them. ... <sup>20</sup> And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but as for Adam, there was not found an help meet for him.

<sup>21</sup> And I, the Lord God, caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and he slept, and I took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in the stead thereof; <sup>22</sup> And the rib which I, the Lord God, had taken from man, made I a woman, and brought her unto the man.

**George Albert Smith:** “In showing this relationship, by a symbolic representation, God didn’t say that woman was to be taken from a bone in the man’s head that she should rule over him, nor from a bone in his foot that she should be trampled under his feet, but from a bone in his side to symbolize that she was to stand by his side, to be his companion, his equal, and his help meet in all their lives together.” (*Ensign*, Feb 1972, 48)

<sup>23</sup> And Adam said: This I know now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman [*‘ishah*], because she was taken out of man [*‘ishi*]. <sup>24</sup> Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.

*Bone ... flesh* also means that two people belong to each other. Hamilton sees that as a statement of relationship and a pledge of covenantal loyalty similar to ‘in weakness [i.e., flesh] and in strength [i.e., bone].’ (JMB 183)

*Cleave*: Heb. *cling, adhere*

**Spencer W. Kimball:** She, the woman, occupies the first place. She is preeminent, even above the parents who are so dear to all of us. Even the children must take their proper but significant place. I have seen some women who give their children that spot, that preeminence, in their affection and crowd out the father. That is a serious mistake. (*Ensign*, Mar. 1976, 72.)

## Quotes

**Harold B. Lee:** I was somewhat sorrowed recently to hear someone, a sister who comes from a Church family, ask, “What about the pre-Adamic people?” Here was someone who I thought was fully grounded in the faith.

I asked, “What about the pre-Adamic people?”

She replied, “Well, aren’t there evidences that people preceded the Adamic period of the earth?”

I said, “Have you forgotten the scripture that says, ‘And I, the Lord God, formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul, the first flesh upon the earth, the first man also’? (Moses 3:7.)” I asked, “Do you believe that?”

She wondered about the Creation because she had read the theories of the scientists, and the question that she was really asking was: How do you reconcile science with religion? The answer must be, If science is not true, you cannot reconcile truth with error.

Missionaries going out into the field often ask how we reconcile the teachings of the scriptures with the teachings of the scientists in accordance with the temple ordinances. In reply I occasionally refer to the revelation given to the Prophet Joseph Smith in Kirtland in 1833, concerning the great event that is to take place at the commencement of the millennial reign when the Lord shall come; the Lord said: “Yea, verily I say unto you, in that day when the Lord shall come, he shall reveal all things—things which have passed, and hidden things which no man knew, things of the earth, by which it was made, and the purpose and the end thereof—things most precious, things that are above, and things that are beneath, things that are in the earth, and upon the earth, and in heaven” (D&C 101:32-34). Then I say, “If you and I are there when the Lord reveals all this, then I’ll answer your questions—how the earth was made, how man came to be placed upon the earth. Until that time all we have is the support and security that we have in the scriptures, and we must accept the rest by faith.” (*The Teachings of Harold B. Lee*, 346.)

**Joseph:** God Himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret. If the veil were rent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit, and who upholds all worlds and all things by His power, was to make Himself visible,—I say, if you were to see Him today, you would see Him like a man in form—like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man; for Adam was created in the very fashion, image and likeness of God, and received instruction from, and walked, talked and conversed with Him, as one man talks and communes with another. ...

“Having a knowledge of God, we begin to know how to approach Him, and how to ask so as to receive an answer. When we understand the character of God, and know how to come to Him, He begins to unfold the heavens to us, and to tell us all about it. When we are ready to come to Him, He is ready to come to us.” (HC 6:305, 308)

**Joseph:** I might have rendered a plainer translation to this [Mal. 4:5–6], but it is sufficiently plain to suit my purpose as it stands. (D&C 128:18; 1842)