

Creation does not occupy a great deal of space in the Bible but is clearly presented in ~~Gen 1 to 2~~ ^{chaps. 1 and 2 of Genesis, and in Heb 11:3} and is strongly stressed in the declarations of God's greatness in Isaiah 40-57,

and in the latter part of Job.

1. The most important aspect of the teaching of the Bible about creation is the fact that ~~it occurred~~, the world, and in fact, the entire universe, had a beginning. Moreover, God was in existence before there was any universe and it was as a result of His creative activity that all things came into being. This fact is primary to all Christian thought.

2. In Gen. 1:1 the words "heaven and earth" summarize all the various materials of the universe. The verse contains no statement as to when this occurred. It was at the beginning of the universe. The Bible does not tell us how long ago things came into being.

Gen. 1:1 has been interpreted in various ways. Some take it as a statement of the original creation of the universe, followed by details as to the later bringing into existence of this particular planet. Others take it as a summary of the whole creative activity described in chapter 1. Still others take it as a brief statement of the creation of this world in a completed condition, followed by a cataclysm inferred from verse 2, with the rest of the chapter describing a restitution rather than an original creation.

More recently many scholars insist that the verse should be considered as a circumstantial clause introducing the following ^{clause} ~~close~~ so that it would be rendered "in the beginning of God's creating of heaven and earth." It should be noted that ^{all four} ~~one~~ of these interpretations agree in finding in the verse a statement that God created the world and ^{that} ~~this is the~~ basic to our theology. Even in the ^{last mentioned} ~~later~~ interpretation ^{- an interpretation that} ~~(which is possible but not required)~~ by Hebrew syntax, ^① verse 2 would describe the situation that came into

② make possible but does not require