

# “In the Beginning” (Creation)

## Episode E4: CREATION, FALL, & ATONEMENT

### Creation, Fall, & Atonement

#### ➤ Questions about the Creation

1. *Who exactly Created the Earth?*
2. *How Long did it take to Create the Earth?*
3. *How was the Earth created?*
4. *For what purpose was the Earth created?*
5. *How many accounts do we have of the Creation?*
6. *How many different Creations were there?*

#### ➤ Questions in Order of Importance:

1. For What Purpose?
  2. Who?
  3. How?
  4. How Long?
  5. How Many Creations?
  6. How many Accounts?
- We will answer from Least Important to Most Important: (The scriptures answer #1 & #2, but are vague on the others)

\*Preface our Discussion with D&C 101:32-34!

### First let's get as clear as we can....:

#### \*How Many Accounts Do We Have of the Creation?

##### 4 Accessible Accounts:

1. Genesis 1-2 (“God created...”)
2. Moses 2-3 (“And I God said...”)
3. Abraham 4-5 (The Gods said...”)
4. Temple (Must have a recommend)
5. On the 24 Plates Moroni had; (see Ether 1:3)

#### \*How many different Creations were there?

- \***Spirit** (Spirit was Created) – [Abraham Account]
- \***Spiritual** (Physically Created – Not Mortal)  
[Genesis & Moses Account] – See Moses 3:5

\***Mortal** (After the Fall)

\***Quotes** by Joseph Fielding Smith, Bruce R. McConkie

➤ **How Long?** (Creative Periods)

**3 Theories:**

- 24 hour period
- 1,000 years
- unspecified period of time

➤ **HOW?**

1. **Moses 1:30-33** – By the Word of my Power (**Christ**)
2. We are not 100% clear on the details...D&C 101:32-33
3. **Gen 1:1** – **Created** = **HEB: Bara** = Prepare, form, organize from existing matter [Abr 4:2 – ‘Formed’]. All parts were there...just not formed/organized

➤ **WHO?**

1. **Scan Gen 1** – “**God**” How many times does the word God appear? (28) – (see JS Quote...”**The Head God!**”)
2. **Moses 2:1** – “**Christ!**” (Mosiah 3:8; 4:2; D&C 14:9)
3. **Abraham Account** = “**The Gods**” ( See Joseph Fielding Smith Quote DOS 1:74-77 – “**Adam & Others**”)

➤ **FOR WHAT PURPOSE?**

1. **Big Obvious Ones:**
  - **Moses 1:39** – **Alma 34:32-34** – **Abraham 3:24-26**
2. **Dr. Anderson’s Favorite Scripture Chain (one of them):**  
**Isaiah 45:18** – **1 Nephi 17:36** – **D&C 88:17-20** –  
**D&C 128:17-18** – **D&C 2:3** – **D&C 49:16** – **Isaiah 45:18**

➤ **WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE 7 CREATIVE PERIODS?**

Account Comparison:

**Day 1: Heaven/Earth – 8 Verses**

[Gen 1:1-8; Moses 2:1-8; Abraham 4:1-8]

**Day 2: Land/Water Separated – 3 Verses**

[Gen 1:6-8; Moses 2:6-8; Abraham 4:6-8]

**Day 3: Plants – 5 Verses**

[Gen 1:9-13; Moses 2:9-13; Abraham 4:9-13]

**Day 4: Day & Night (Sun, Moon, Stars) – 6 verses**

[Gen 1:14-19; Moses 2:14-19; Abraham 4:14-19]

**Day 5: Animals – 4 Verses**

[Gen 1:20-23; Moses 2:20-23; Abraham 4:20-23]

**Day 6: Man – 8 Verses**

[Gen 1:14-31; Moses 2:24-31; Abraham 4:24-31]

**Day 7: Rest (?) Or did He??? – 25 Verses!**

[Gen 2:1-25; Moses 3:1-25; Abraham 5:1-21]

Harmony of Creation Accounts: Pearl of Great Price Institute Manual

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/the-pearl-of-great-price-student-manual-2018/a-harmony-of-the-creation-accounts?lang=eng>

➤ **WHAT HAPPENED ON THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY? [Anything else besides REST?]**...YES!****

**\*Finished & Completed His Work, Created Man, etc.**

\*Mist came up...Formed Man...Breathed Life into Man & he became a Living Soul...planted a Garden of Eden...put Man in the Garden...formed every beast, fowl, every living creature & breathed life into them and had Adam name them...CREATED WOMAN (final and best creation of all)!

**\*Spencer W. Kimball Quote on Gen 1:26-27:** Not a separate man, but a *complete man* which is Husband & Wife (See below)

➤ **CREATION A TYPE FOR THE 7 SEALS:**

**\*See D&C 77:12** – Just like in Creation, He sanctified and completed His work on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day...then Rested...  
Similarly during the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, He will complete His Work before resting for the day (1,000 years = Millennium)!!!

**The FALL OF ADAM & EVE: (Agency was KEY)**

**“Satan sought to destroy the Agency of man?”** (Moses 4:3)

**How Many Times does the term “Free Agency” appear in Scripture?** (o)

**\*Quote by Elder Packer: “Moral Agency”...May 1992 (pg. 25)**

**4 Rules of Agency:**

- 1. Laws define Good & Evil** (2 Nephi 2:11-13)
- 2. Alternate Choice to what is defined as good** (2 Nephi 2:11,16)
- 3. Knowledge of Choices & Consequences** (2 Nephi 2:15-16; Hel 14:30-31)
- 4. Complete Freedom to choose between choices** (2 Nephi 2:26-27)

**Moses 4:4:** Father of lies, deceive, blind, lead captive – No God, No Laws, No Sin, No punishment, whatever you want is right, everyone’s doing it, no one will know, just this once, I’m not hurting anyone else, it’s my body...etc.

**\*If the Garden of Eden was a Paradise...why did Adam choose to leave it?**

**Before the Fall**

No Death

No Sin (No Spiritual Death)

No Children

Innocent (Don’t know good & evil)

No Opposition

**After the Fall**

Death

Spiritual Death

Children

Knowledge

Joy & Sorrow

\***Quote by Joseph Fielding Smith Quote** (see below) –“The Fall is a blessing!”

\***Quote by George Q. Morris** (see below) –“The Fall is a blessing!”

\***Pres. Benson** (see below) – Don’t understand the need for Jesus and the Atonement without proper understanding of the Fall

\***1 Nephi 10:6 & (Mosiah 3:19)**

## **QUOTES:**

### **Joseph Smith Quote...”The Head God!”**

“Berosheit baurau Eloheim ait aushamayeen vehau aurait, rendered by King James’ translators, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*” I want to analyze the word Berosheit. Rosh, the head; Sheit, a grammatical termination; the Baith was not originally put there when the inspired man wrote it, but it has since been added by an old Jew. Baurau signifies to bring forth; Elohim is from the work Elohi, God, in the singular number; and by adding the word heim, it renders it Gods. It read first, “*In the beginning, the head of the Gods brought for the Gods,*” or, as others have translated it, “*The head of the Gods called the Gods together.*”...The head God organized the heavens and the earth. I defy all the world to refute me. “*In the beginning the heads of the Gods organized the heavens and the earth.*”

(**Joseph Smith**, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 371-2).

“In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it”

(**Joseph Smith**, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 349).

“Now, the word create came from the word *baurau* which does not mean to create out of nothing; it means to organize; the same as a man would organize materials and build a ship. Hence, we infer that God had materials to organize the world out of chaos—chaotic matter, which is element, and in which dwells all the glory. Element had an existence from the time he had. The pure principles of element are principles which can never be destroyed; they may be organized and re-organized, but not destroyed. They had no beginning, and can have no end” (**Joseph Smith**, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 350-52).

### **Joseph Fielding Smith Quote... “Adam & Others assisted...”**

“It was Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who, under the direction of his Father, came down and organized matter and made this planet. ...

“... It is true that Adam helped to form this earth. He labored with our Savior Jesus Christ. I have a strong view or conviction that there were others also who assisted them. Perhaps Noah and Enoch; and why not Joseph Smith, and those who were appointed to be rulers before the earth was formed? ...

(Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:74-77)

### **All things were created spiritually before they were created physically**

#### **Joseph Fielding Smith Quote... “Spiritual Creation...”**

“... The account of creation in Genesis was not a spirit creation, but it was in a particular sense, a spiritual creation. ...

“... The account in Genesis one and two, is the account of the physical creation of the earth and all upon it, but the creation was not subject to mortal law until after the fall. It was, therefore, a spiritual creation and so remained until the fall when it became temporal, or mortal”

(Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:74-77).

“There is no account of the creation of man or other forms of life when they were created as spirits. There is just the simple statement that they were so created before the physical creation. The statements in [Moses 3:5](#) and [Genesis 2:5](#) are interpolations thrown into the account of the physical creation, explaining that all things were first created in the spirit existence in heaven before they were placed upon this earth”

(Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:75-76).

#### **Bruce R. McConkie Quote: “Spiritual Creation”**

“This earth was created first spiritually. It was a spirit earth. Nothing then lived on its face, nor was it designed that anything should. Then came the physical creation, the paradisiacal creation, the creation of the earth in the Edenic day and before the fall of man. ...

“Man and all forms of life existed as spirit beings and entities before the foundations of this earth were laid. There were spirit men and spirit beasts, spirit fowls and spirit fishes, spirit plants and spirit trees. Every creeping thing, every herb and shrub, every amoeba and tadpole, every elephant and dinosaur—all things—existed as spirits, as spirit beings, before they were placed naturally upon the earth”

(Bruce R. McConkie, *The Millennial Messiah*, 642-43).

### **Joseph Fielding Smith Quote... “Spiritual Body...”**

“Adam had a spiritual body until mortality came upon him through the violation of the law under which he was living, but he also had a physical body of flesh and bones.

“... Now what is a spiritual body? It is one that is quickened by spirit and not by blood. ...

“... When Adam was in the Garden of Eden, he was not subject to death. There was no blood in his body and he could have remained there forever. This is true of all the other creations” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:76–77).

### **President Spencer W. Kimball Quote: “Complete Man; husband & wife”**

“It is written:

“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. [The story of the rib, of course, is figurative.]

“And I, God, blessed them [Man here is always in the plural. It was plural from the beginning.] and said unto them: Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over [it].’ (Moses 2:27–28.)

“And the scripture says,

“And I, God, said unto mine Only Begotten, which was with me from the beginning: Let us make man [not a separate man, but a complete man, which is husband and wife] in our image, after our likeness; and it was so.’ (Moses 2:26.) What a beautiful partnership! Adam and Eve were married for eternity by the Lord. ...

“Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam [Mr. and Mrs. Adam, I suppose, or Brother and Sister Adam], in the day when they were created.’ (Gen. 5:1–2.)

“This is a partnership. Then when they had created them in the image of God, to them was given the eternal command, ‘Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it’ (Gen. 1:28), and as they completed this magnificent creation, they looked it over and pronounced it ‘good, very good’—something that isn’t to be improved upon by our modern intellectuals; the male to till the ground, support the family, to give proper leadership; the woman to cooperate, to bear the children, and to rear and teach them. It was ‘good, very good.’

“And that’s the way the Lord organized it. This wasn’t an experiment. He knew what he was doing”

(Spencer W. Kimball, “The Blessings and Responsibilities of Womanhood,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1976, 71).

**\*Quote by Joseph Fielding Smith – “The Fall a blessing!”**

What did Adam do? The very thing the Lord wanted him to do; and I hate to hear anybody call it a sin, for it wasn't a sin. Did Adam sin when he partook of the forbidden fruit? I say to you, no, he did not! Now, let me refer to what was written in the book of Moses in regard to the command God gave to Adam. [[Moses 3:16-17.](#)]

“Now this is the way I interpret that: 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.

“I see a great difference between transgressing the law and committing a sin” (Joseph Fielding Smith, “Fall—Atonement—Resurrection—Sacrament,” in *Charge to Religious Educators*, 124).

**\*Quote by George Q. Morris – “The Fall is a blessing!”**

“If we cannot be good, except as we resist and overcome evil, then evil must be present to be resisted.

“So this earth life is set up according to true principles, and these conditions that followed the transgression [of Adam] were not, in the usual sense, penalties that were inflicted upon us. All these ... that seem to be sad inflictions of punishment, sorrow, and trouble are in the end not that. They are blessings. We have attained a knowledge of good and evil, the power to prize the sweet, to become agents unto ourselves, the power to obtain redemption and eternal life. These things had their origin in this transgression. The Lord has set the earth up so we have to labor if we are going to live, which preserves us from the curse of idleness and indolence; and though the Lord condemns us to death—mortal death—it is one of the greatest blessings that comes to us here because it is the doorway to immortality, and we can never attain immortality without dying.

“So these are all real blessings. We come to the earth with all these conditions arranged as they are so that we have to struggle constantly against evil, struggle to preserve our lives, struggle for everything of true value—that is the thing for us to understand—this is the course of life that is most desirable, and for our good. We have no need to find fault with these conditions. The Lord has ordained them all for our welfare and happiness”

(George Q. Morris, in Conference Report, Apr. 1958, 39).



**Pres. Ezra Taft Benson... “Understand the Fall...Need for Atonement”**

“The Book of Mormon Saints knew that the plan of redemption must start with the account of the fall of Adam. In the words of Moroni, "By Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man came Jesus Christ, . . . and because of Jesus Christ came the redemption of man" (Mormon 9:12).

Just as a man does not really desire food until he is hungry, so he does not desire the salvation of Christ until he knows why he needs Christ.

**No one adequately and properly knows why he needs Christ until he understands and accepts the doctrine of the Fall and its effect upon all mankind.** And no other book in the world explains this vital doctrine nearly as well as the Book of Mormon.

Brethren and sisters, we all need to take a careful inventory of our performance and also the performance of those over whom we preside to be sure that we are teaching the "great plan of the Eternal God" ..What does redemption from the Fall mean to us? In the words of Alma, do we "sing the song of redeeming love"? (Alma 5:26).

(President Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, May 1987, 85)



# **Links to the Scriptures:**

## **Old Testament:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/1?lang=eng>

## **New Testament:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt?lang=eng>

## **Book of Mormon:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm?lang=eng>

## **Doctrine & Covenants:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>

## **Pearl of Great Price:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp?lang=eng>

## **Harmony of Creation Accounts: Pearl of Great Price Institute Manual**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/the-pearl-of-great-price-student-manual-2018/a-harmony-of-the-creation-accounts?lang=eng>