

# Examining the Cosmos

## Session 3

### Conditions on the Early Earth

#### Reference Document 3.

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## Conditions on the Early Earth<sup>i</sup>

### Genesis 1:2

*“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”*

**“Now the earth . . .” – Verse 2 describes the condition of the earth before God prepared it to sustain and benefit the human race.**

The text shifts the focus of the creation account from the universe to describe God’s creative acts on Earth to prepare the land for human life (because humans are the focus of his plan of redemption).

○ Related Scripture:

**Isaiah 45:18** “For this is what the LORD says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but *formed it to be inhabited*—he says: ‘I am the LORD, and there is no other.’”

**“Now the earth was *formless and empty* . . .” – Early Earth was literally “without useful space” and “without useful purpose.” “ . . . *darkness was over the surface of the deep* . . .” – Early Earth was dark and covered with water.**

○ Related Scriptures:

**Job 38:9** [Where were you . . .] “when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick *darkness*?”

**Psalm 24:1-2** “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and *established it upon the waters*.”

**Psalm 104:5-6** “He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. You *covered it with the deep* as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.”

**... the Spirit of God was *hovering* over the waters ...” – God the Holy Spirit was nurturing early Earth in order to prepare it to sustain life.**

○ Related Scripture:

**Deut. 32:10-11** “In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and *hovers* over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.”

**Earth is “ancient.”**

○ Related Scriptures:

**Proverbs 8:22** “The LORD brought me [wisdom] forth as the first of his works, *before his deeds of old.*”

**Habbakuk 3:6** “He stood, and shook the earth; he looked, and made the nations tremble. The *ancient mountains* crumbled and the *age-old hills* collapsed. His ways are eternal.”

**2 Peter 3:5** “But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.”

**God compares His eternal being and His covenants to the endurance of creation.**

○ Related Scriptures:

**Psalm 72:5-7** “[God] will *endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon*, through all generations. He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. 1 In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.”

**Psalm 89:35-37** “Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness—and I will not lie to David—that his line will continue forever and his throne *endure before me like the sun*; it will be *established forever like the moon*, the faithful witness in the sky.”

**Psalm 119:89-91** “Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; *you*

*established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.”*

**Psalm 125:1-2** “Those who trust in the LORD are *like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.”*

**Dan. 12:3** “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, *like the stars for ever and ever.”*

○ **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Earth is old.
2. The surface of early Earth was covered with water.
3. Early Earth was shrouded in darkness.
4. Early Earth was empty of life.
5. Early Earth was unsuitable for life.
6. Life appeared early in Earth’s history.
7. Life appeared under hostile conditions.
8. Life appeared suddenly.
9. Early life showed features of design.
10. The purpose of the design in the universe is to sustain and benefit human life on Earth.

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<sup>i i</sup> As excerpted from the “OVERVIEW OF REASONS TO BELIEVE’S TESTABLE CREATION MODEL, (Using Genesis 1 as an Outline.)” Compiled by: Hugh Ross, Fazale Rana, David Rogstad, Kenneth Samples. Assembled by Krista Kay Bontrager