

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE CREATION OF TIME

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Christians are sometimes bemused by some of the questions asked by others. Such questions as, "Did God have a beginning?", "When did God begin to exist?", and such like. The authors suggest such questions are nonsensical.

Man is used to thinking in terms of time. One of the primary units of time is the *year*—a year being the length of time for the earth to complete one revolution of the sun. Bennett¹ has pointed out that time could be measured in miles travelled by the earth in orbiting the sun. If this were done, then a 40 year old man would be about 2.3×10^{10} miles old!

A year is subdivided into *days*—a day being the length of time that it takes for the earth to rotate once upon its axis. As is well known there are 365 days in a year (and 366 in a leap-year). Man finds it clearer to think in smaller numbers and so finds it more convenient to think of a 40 year old man rather than a 14,610 day old man.

The time periods of the year and the day are not arbitrary—they are divinely appointed as stated in Genesis 1:14:

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, *and for days and years.* (Emphasis added)

Furthermore, for convenience, man divided the day into 24 hours, and the hour into 60 minutes, and the minute into 60 seconds. The note under *Hour* in *Cruden's Analytical Concordance* is worth noting:

The day was not divided into hours by the ancient Hebrews. Only the natural divisions of morning, noon, and evening were noted. After the Exile there was a somewhat clearer division which, it is supposed was learned from the Babylonians. The length of the hour was dependent usually upon the season, as people commonly reckoned it as the twelfth part of the natural day, from sunrise to sunset, and this would differ according to the season.²

As soon as God created matter, time must also

have been created, because many of the properties of matter can only be explained in terms of time; e.g., the movement of electrons in their atomic orbitals, the vibrations and movements of atoms and molecules in the solid, liquid and gaseous phases. It is interesting to note, for instance, that the second is now defined³ as the duration of 9,192,631,770 periods of the time it takes for the transition between two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the cesium-133 atom. Hence a day (which is 86,400 seconds) can be defined as 794,243,384,928,000 periods using the cesium-133 atomic clock.

The first act of creation was that of the heavens and the earth. Implicit in the statement of Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" is the fact that "In the beginning" God created time. It is therefore nonsense to talk about "the time before the Creation" because there was not any. Time did not exist before the Creation. Similarly the earth, sun, moon, planets and stars did not exist before the Creation.

God, however, existed before the Creation. He is not bound by time as is man. The beginning is the time zero at which He began to create—hence the verses found in the Bible beginning, "In the beginning . . ."⁴

In view of the above arguments, the authors believe that it is nonsense to ask such questions as "When did God begin to exist?" and "Did God have a beginning?", when the questioner is referring to the existence of God in terms of time before the Creation. The Bible states clearly:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; *and without him was not any thing made that was made.*⁵ (Emphasis added)

And that includes time!

References

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¹Bennett, M. D. 1972. The principles of prophecy. Volume II. ACTS, Gravesend, U. K., p. 146.

²Cruden, Alexander. Cruden's complete concordance to the Old and New Testaments. Littleworth Press, London, U.K. 1963. p. 314.

³Socrates, G. 1969. S. I. Units, *Journal of Chemical Education*, 46:710-712.

⁴Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1.

⁵John 1:1-3, Authorised Version.