In The Beginning, Creation Happened, Time Began

The first five words of the bible begin this story. "In the beginning, God created" is a brief recap of an earlier creation event of the heavens and the earth by God prior to Gen. 1:1. This is mentioned to help man understand his place within the context of time within eternity. The verb "created" is singular and means "to fashion anew." Literally, creation is being fashioned anew from a previous version that was new. John, a New Testament apostle, describes this era that predated creation (John 1:1).

"Now – The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep" (Gen. 1:2). The italicized word '*was*' is not found in the original Hebrew or Aramaic, and was added by scholars to help us understand the message. It would also be helpful if scholars added another italicized word at the beginning of this verse to read, "*Now* – the earth was without form, and void"… for it speaks of a new moment in creation history.

Darkness is everywhere on the earth. The Hebrew word for darkness means: chaos and disorder. The literal meaning is: "there was disorder." The earth was without form, void, chaotic and disorderly, and this is the condition of the earth in which the first man was formed.

The Holy Spirit is commissioned to hover over the earth to restrain darkness (chaos, evil; Gen. 1:2), and the Holy Spirit is still hovering over the earth – and, also, hovers over us. When we profess faith in Christ, then the Holy Spirit comes to dwell on us until the new birth happens wherein He dwells "in" us. When we walk according to grace, the sanctifying work of the indwelling Holy Spirit is accomplished in us and through us by truth. When we walk in the Spirit, the Spirit enables us (through His power) to do the Lord's will on earth, to avoid sin, and to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

"Then God said" and thus, the Genesis story of creation begins in Genesis 1:3 which culminates with "this is the history of creation" in Genesis 2:4. These initial 35 verses constitute *the restoration of creation,* and then – *the history of man* upon the earth begins in Gen. 2:7. Please note: there are <u>*two*</u> time periods in creation history as recorded in the scriptures and they appear to operate under different time parameters. There are six days of creation, the days of old, but these are different than the years of man since Adam, known as the years of many generations. As Moses said:

"*Remember the days of old,*
***consider the years of the many generations*"** (Deut. 32:7).

We don't need to wrestle with the infallibility of scripture regarding the six days as literal or not. These are six literal days, but the time parameters appear to be different. The "days of old" are not included in the "years of many generations." Why? Because these times appear to be measured differently! One thing is clear: after man is formed, time is recorded as the "years" of many generations. Time was established by God to help man comprehend His story (history).

The creation narrative ended after six days and God rested on the seventh day. If God did not do any work after these six days, then how was Adam formed five verses later? And who parted the Red Sea? The invisible, immaterial creation was made (in existence by God's thoughts), and then the material creation was formed. A new time era in creation is recorded in Genesis 2:4 that included the first introduction of plants (v.5), water (v.6) and man (v.7). Is God doing this and is this not considered work? Indeed it is! God rested from His work of creation on the seventh day, He blessed it and sanctified it, and *then* He began the regenesis project to begin again and create anew whereby "all things are becoming new again" starting on the eighth day.

The numeric spiritual meaning of eight is: newness.

Satan and sin are already upon the earth (Gen. 1:2) having been cast to earth by the Lord (see above). Darkness may be likened a sea of chaos, evil and sin covering the entire planet (and Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes this sin away). Everything that is hereafter created upon earth is created and formed within this sea of darkness and sin. Man is formed of this primal dust of earth that is surrounded in darkness and contaminated by sin. Then Eve is deceived by a subtle and cunning lie from Satan, and then tempted (led astray) by her desires (Gen. 3:6). However, Eve does not enter into sin until she believes the lie and eats of the fruit. Through one man (Eve), man entered into sin, and then she offered the fruit to Adam, he ate and then sin entered the family of mankind. The scriptures do not record their repentance from disobedience; had they done so, an entirely different story would have resulted.

The narrative you chose to live according to in this world is similar to three types of people: 1) Adam and Eve (who entered into and lived according to sin), 2) Satan (the father of lies and destroyer of nations), or 3) the Lord Jesus (according to righteousness and holiness).

We have much to learn from this truth: either we can live like Jesus or Lucifer. When we ate glory fruit upon the tree of knowledge of good and evil, our original image became shattered; however, this image is restored through faith in Jesus and the indwelling Spirit.

Thus, it's all about – choice!
You get out of it – what you put into it.
What you believe – you become!
What you believe creates the world you live in.