

A New Translation of Genesis 1:2 to 1:8¹

This topic posits that Genesis 1:2 through 1:8 describes an orderly progression of creation from before the beginning through the creation of the universe. The description has three phases as follows:

- The condition of Existence before the beginning (Genesis 1:2)
- The manifestation of God the Creator (Genesis 1:3 through 1:5)
- The creation of the universe (Genesis 1:6 through 1:8)

This paper also posits that to understand Genesis 1:2 through 1:8 in its original and true meaning, one must recognize that Absolute Being exists and was well known to the author(s) of Genesis 1.

One more thought: In all languages, certain words have several meanings. One meaning of a word may be mundane, whereas another meaning of the same word may have more cosmic overtones. Most current translations of Genesis 1, it seems, use the mundane meanings even of words that have a cosmic sense. The mundane sense of these words, no doubt, has value. But it seems reasonable that in a topic such as the creation of the universe, the most cosmic meaning of each word must reflect the intent of the author(s).

Translation of Genesis 1:2 to 1:8

The new translation of Genesis 1:2 to 1:8 is as follows:

Description of Existence before the beginning

1:2 And all of Existence was then solely unmanifest Absolute Being;
even the face of Absolute Being (was) Absolute Being;
however, the Spirit of God the Creator was latent within Absolute Being.

God the Creator becomes manifest

1:3 And God the Creator, the Light, came into existence simultaneously with His
words: "Light Exist!"

1:4 And God the Creator perceived that He, the Light, was Absolute Being;
and (yet) God the Creator, the Light, became distinct from Absolute Being, the Darkness.²

1:5 And God the Creator proclaimed Himself, the Light, to be temporality, and He proclaimed
Absolute Being, the Darkness, to be atemporality.
And thus time passed, and at that time all was Unity (Oneness).

God the Creator brings forth the Creation

1:6 And God the Creator said let there be the expanse of Heaven in the midst of
Absolute Being;
and let the expanse of Heaven (the abode of God the Creator) separate and be the space
between the Creation and Absolute Being.

¹ The author of this essay is, by no means, a Hebrew scholar. None-the-less, in 1994, he was inspired to write a new translation of a few verses of the Hebrew Torah. He hopes that this new translation sheds light on the true meaning of these verses and hopes that his translation will act as a basis for further refinement of this translation.

² while remaining of one Being with It.

1:7 And God the Creator made the expanse of Heaven and (in doing so) brought fourth manifest Creation from unmanifest Absolute Being. And it was so.

1:8 And God the Creator declared the expanse of Heaven (to be) His abode.
And thus time passed, and now there was an exact copy of Unity (the Creation).

Word by Word Translation of Genesis 1:2 to 1:8

Description of Existence before the beginning

1:2

Strong	776	1961	8414	922
TWOT	167	491	2494a	205a
current word translation	and the earth	was then	without form and void	
new word translation	and all of Existence	was then	nothing whatever: Nothingness; Absolute Being; Absolute God	
new sentence translation	And all of Existence was then solely unmanifest Absolute Being;			
comments				

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>2822</u> 769a	<u>5921</u> 1624p	<u>6440</u> 1782a	<u>8415</u> 2495a	
current word translation	and darkness	over	surface of	Deep	
new word translation	and Absolute Being	“Most High”	face of	Absolute Being	
new sentence translation	even the face of Absolute Being (was) Absolute Being;				
comments	All that existed was Absolute Being (Absolute God).				

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>7307</u> 2131a	<u>430</u> 93c	<u>7363</u> 2149	<u>5921</u> 1624p	<u>6440</u> 1782a	<u>4325</u> 1188
current word translation	and the Spirit of	God	moved gently (hovered)	over	surface of	the waters
new word translation	and the Spirit (essence, breath) of	God the Creator	hovered	“Most High”	face of	Absolute Being
new sentence translation	however, the Spirit of God the Creator was latent within Absolute Being.					
comments	The word “deep” is made synonymous with the word “waters” by the parallel construction of the two phrases.					

God the Creator becomes manifest

1:3

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>559</u> 118	<u>430</u> 93c	<u>1961</u> 491	<u>216</u> 52a	<u>1961</u> 491	<u>216</u> 52a
current word translation	And said	God	let be	light	and was	light
new word translation	And commanded	God the Creator	Exist	“Light” (God the Creator)	and existed	“Light” (God the Creator)
new sentence translation	And God the Creator, the Light, came into existence simultaneously with His words: “Light Exist!”					
comments	God the Creator became manifest from Absolute Being. He Who exists became manifest from Existence. The thought “Light Exist” and the manifestation of God the Creator are one act. It is the nature of God the Creator to become manifest from Absolute Being. (See, for example, Gunkel in Anderson, p. 48)					

1:4

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>7200</u> 2095	<u>430</u> 93c	<u>216</u> 52a	<u>--</u> 976	<u>2892</u> 793a
current word translation	And saw	God	light	That	good
new word translation	And perceived (knew, realized)	God the Creator	“Light” (God the Creator)	That	the Good (Goodness, Absolute Being)
new sentence translation	And God the Creator perceived that He, the Light, was Absolute Being;				
comments	God the Creator and Absolute Being (the Absolute God) are one.				

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>914</u> 203	<u>430</u> 93c	<u>996</u> 239a	<u>216</u> 52a	<u>996</u> 239a	<u>2822</u> 769a
current word translation	and separated	God	between	the light	and between	the darkness
new word translation	and separated	God the Creator	between	“Light” (God the Creator)	and between	“Darkness” (Absolute Being)
new sentence translation	And (yet) God the Creator, the Light, became distinct from Absolute Being, the Darkness.					
comments	(while remaining of one Being with It)					

God the Creator becomes manifest (continued)

1:5

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>7121</u> 2063	<u>430</u> 93c	<u>216</u> 52a	<u>3117</u> 852	<u>2822</u> 769a	<u>7121</u> 2063	<u>3915</u> 1111
current word translation	And called	God	the light	day	and the darkness	He called	night
new word translation	And proclaimed	God the Creator	“Light” (God the Creator)	time itself (temporality)	“Darkness” Absolute Being)	He proclaimed	out side of time (atemporality)
new sentence translation	And God the Creator proclaimed Himself, the Light, to be temporality, and He proclaimed Absolute Being, the Darkness, to be atemporality.						
comments	Time begins with the manifestation of God the Creator. Absolute Being is outside of time.						

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>1961</u> 491	<u>6153</u> 1689a	<u>1961</u> 491	<u>1242</u> 274c	<u>3117</u> 852	<u>259</u> 61
current word translation	and was	evening	and was	morning	Day	first
new word translation	and was	“time marker”	and was	“time marker”	point in time	Unity (Oneness)
new sentence translation	And thus time passed, and at that time all was Unity (Oneness).					
comments						

God the Creator brings forth Creation

1:6

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>559</u> 118	<u>430</u> 93c	<u>1961</u> 491	<u>7549</u> 2217a	<u>8432</u> 2498	<u>4325</u> 1188
current word translation	And said	God	let be	expanse	in the midst	the waters
new word translation	And commanded	God the Creator	let be	expanse of Heaven (the abode of God the Creator)	in the midst	Absolute Being
new sentence translation	And God the Creator said let there be the expanse of Heaven in the midst of Absolute Being;					
comments						

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>1961</u> 491	<u>914</u> 203	<u>996</u> 239a	<u>4325</u> 1188	<u>4325</u> 1188
current word translation	and let be	separating	between	Waters	from the waters
new word translation	and let (the expanse) be	separating	between	Absolute Being (Absolute God)	from Absolute Being (Absolute God)
new sentence translation	and let the expanse of Heaven (the abode of God the Creator) separate and be the space between the Creation and Absolute Being.				
comments	The word “waters” here is the same as that used in 1:2. The first “waters” corresponds to “the waters under” and the second “waters” corresponds to “the waters above” in 1:7 (see below).				

God the Creator brings forth Creation (continued)

1:7

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>6213</u> 1708, 1709	<u>430</u> 93c	<u>7549</u> 2217a	<u>914</u> 203	<u>996</u> 239a
current word translation	And made	God	the expanse	and He separated	between
new word translation	And made	God the Creator	the expanse of Heaven	set apart	
new sentence translation	And God the Creator made the expanse of Heaven and (in doing so) brought fourth				
comments	Regarding the word “made:” It would seem that Creation was “created” in 1:7. But the word here is “made.” The act of creation occurs in 1:5. Therefore, the word “made” is used here. All that was needed already existed after 1:5. (bara = create; asa = make. God make/create: see Ps 86:9, 95:5; 96:5)				

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>4325</u> 1188	<u>834</u> 184	<u>8478</u> 2504	<u>7549</u> 2217a	<u>996</u> 239a
current word translation	the waters	that	from under	to the expanse	between
new word translation	manifest Creation			From	
new sentence translation	manifest Creation from				
comments	manifest Creation (which remained Absolute Being)				

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>4325</u> 1188	<u>834</u> 184	<u>5921</u> 1624p	<u>7549</u> 2217a	<u>1961</u> 491	<u>3651</u> 964a,b
current word translation	the waters	that	from above	to the expanse	and was	so
new word translation	unmanifest Absolute Being (from above = “Most High”)				and was	so
new sentence translation	unmanifest Absolute Being. And it was so.					
comments	Verse 1:7 is an expansion and explanation of the idea presented in 1:6. (“And it was so:” Believe it not, that is the way it was!)					

God the Creator brings forth Creation (continued)

1:8

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>7121</u> 2063	<u>430</u> 93c	<u>7549</u> 2217a	<u>8064</u> 2407a
current word translation	And called	God	the expanse	sky (Heavens)
new word translation	And declared	God the Creator	the expanse of Heaven (the abode of God the Creator)	the abode of God the Creator
new sentence translation	And God the Creator declared the expanse of Heaven (to be) His abode.			
comments	The expanse of Heaven, the abode of God the Creator, “lies between” Absolute Being and the Creation. That is, God the Creator is the link between Absolute Being and the Creation.			

<u>Strong</u> TWOT	<u>1961</u> 491	<u>6153</u> 1689a	<u>1961</u> 491	<u>1242</u> 274c	<u>3117</u> 852	<u>8145</u> 2421b
current word translation	and was	evening	and was	morning	Day	second
new word translation	and was	“time marker”	and was	“time marker”	point in time	duplicate or exact copy
new sentence translation	And thus time passed, and now there was an exact copy of Unity (the Creation).					
comments	Creation, whereas it is <i>manifest</i> Absolute Being, remains <i>unmanifest</i> Absolute Being.					

Word List for a New Translation of Genesis 1:2 to 1:8

Word	Strong TWOT	Number of occurrences in 1:2	Number of occurrences in 1:3 -- 1:5	Number of occurrences in 1:6 -- 1:8	New Translation
the earth	<u>776</u> 167	1	0	0	all of Existence
was; let be	<u>1961</u> 491	1	4	5	was; let be; let exist
without form and void	<u>8414</u> 2494a <u>922</u> 205a	1	0	0	Absolute Being (absolutely nothing; Nothingness; Absolute God)
darkness	<u>2822</u> 769a	1	2	0	Absolute Being
over; above	<u>5921</u> 1624p	2	0	1	Most High
surface of	<u>6440</u> 1782a	2	0	0	surface of
deep	<u>8415</u> 2495c	1	0	0	Absolute Being
Spirit	<u>7307</u> 2131a	1	0	0	spirit; essence; breath
God	<u>430</u> 93c	1	4	3	God the Creator
hovering	<u>7363</u> 2149	1	0	0	hovering (latent within)
waters	<u>4325</u> 1188	1	0	5	Absolute Being
and said	<u>559</u> 118	0	1	1	commanded; said
light	<u>216</u> 52a	0	5	0	God the Creator; the "Light"
saw	<u>7200</u> 2095	0	1	0	saw; perceived; knew
that	<u>---</u> 976	0	1	0	that
good	<u>2892</u> 793a	0	1	0	Absolute Being (the Good; Goodness)
separated; separating	<u>914</u> 203	0	1	2	separated; separating

Word List (continued)

Word	Strong TWOT	Number of occurrences in 1:2	Number of occurrences in 1:3 -- 1:5	Number of occurrences in 1:6 -- 1:8	New Translation
between	<u>996</u> 239a	0	2	3	between
called	<u>7121</u> 2063	0	2	1	proclaimed; called
day	<u>3117</u> 852	0	2	1	time itself; temporality; point in time
night	<u>3915</u> 1111	0	1	0	atemporality (in contrast to temporality)
evening	<u>6153</u> 1689a	0	1	1	a "time marker"
morning	<u>1242</u> 274c	0	1	1	a "time marker"
first	<u>259</u> 61	0	1	0	Unity (Oneness)
expanse	<u>7549</u> 2217a	0	0	5	expanse of the Heavens; abode of God the Creator
midst	<u>8432</u> 2498	0	0	1	midst (connotation of the coexistence of two things)
made	<u>6213</u> 1708,170 9	0	0	1	made
which; that	<u>834</u> 184	0	0	2	which; that
under	<u>8478</u> 2504	0	0	1	"the waters under" equals Creation; manifest Being
so; true	<u>3651</u> 964a,b	0	0	1	so; true
sky; Heavens	<u>8064</u> 2407	0	0	1	expanse of Heavens; abode of God the Creator
second	<u>8145</u> 2421b	0	0	1	duplicate; exact copy

Some Conclusions

First, Absolute Being (Absolute God) existed “before” God the Creator.³ Absolute Being is not created by God the Creator. Rather, God the Creator becomes manifest from Absolute Being.

Second, time begins with the manifestation of God the Creator. The passage of time is indicated by the phrase “and there was evening and there was morning.” No such passage is found after the description of Existence before the beginning, which is given in Genesis 1:2

Third, Existence after the manifestation of God the Creator and after the creation of the universe has three aspects: Absolute Being (Absolute God), God the Creator, and Creation. These are the three aspects of one Being, the Being we call God.

³ However, recall that God the Creator is, at the least, latent within Absolute Being even when Absolute Being is alone.