

# Different Interpretations of Genesis 1

<b>Concordist Interpretations:</b> [Creation occurred as a sequence of events described in Genesis 1]	<b>Non-concordist Interpretations:</b> [Creation occurred differently than as literally described in Genesis 1]
<b>Young Earth Creation (YEC) Interpretation:</b> <i>Promotes a literalistic biblical interpretation of Genesis with a six-day creation approximately 6,000 years ago.</i> Creation occurred about 6,000 years ago, during six 24-hour days, in the order described. A scientific study of the earth should confirm this. [Proponent: Ken Ham <a href="http://www.AnswersinGenesis.org">http://www.AnswersinGenesis.org</a> ] <b>[Appearance of Age Interpretation</b> is similar but believes that creation was designed to look as if it were billions of years old.]	<b>Creation Story as a Chiasm:</b> The creation story as told to the Jewish people is a Chiasm (literary work /poem) where the central focus of the chiasm points the Jewish people to the fact that their worth is not in the work they performed (as slaves in Egypt) but for simply being creations of God and that rest is a key component of their existence and that they are the culmination of Gods creation story after he created the world for them. [Proponent: The BEMA Discipleship Podcast <a href="http://www.bemadiscipleship.com/">http://www.bemadiscipleship.com/</a> ]
<b>Gap Interpretation:</b> Earth was created long ago (Gen 1:1), became “formless and empty” (Gen 1:2), and was restored about 6,000 years ago during six 24-hour days	<b>Kingdom and Temple Interpretations:</b> As the great King, God gives humans dominion as in a ‘land grant’ covenant. Alternatively, God inaugurates the cosmos as his temple. In both cases, the text is not focused on the physical universe
<b>Day-Age or Old-Earth Creation (OEC) Interpretation:</b> <i>Accepts mainstream science on the age of the universe and the earth, but not on evolution.</i> Creation occurred over billions of years. Each ‘Day’ of Genesis 1 corresponds to a long epoch. Events occurred in the order given in the text, but the stretched out over a longer time period. [Proponent: Dr. Hugh Ross: Reasons to Believe ( <a href="http://www.Reasons.org">www.Reasons.org</a> )]	<b>Proclamation Day Interpretation:</b> The days of Genesis 1 took place in God’s throne room, wherein God proclaimed each step of creation. The throne-room days are not related to days or time periods on earth  <b>Literary Framework View:</b> Genesis 1 & 2 are read as a figurative framework explaining creation in a logic, not sequential order. The six days are also to be interpreted metaphorically, not as literal 24-hour days.
<b>Evolutionary Creation (EC) (aka Theistic Evolution)</b> <i>Accepts mainstream science on the age of the Universe &amp; Earth but believes that God created humans through evolution.</i> Unknown prior to Reformation. Since the beginning of 21st century, a sizable portion of Catholics, Mainline Protestant denominations, and small but growing numbers of Evangelicals. [Proponent: Dr. Francis Collins: <a href="http://www.BioLogos.org">www.BioLogos.org</a> ]	<b>Ancient Near Eastern Cosmology Interpretation:</b> Genesis 1 matches the physical picture of the world believed in Ancient Near East religions, but presents a dramatically different theological picture, proclaiming one God as creator of all rather than many gods.

**Intelligent Design (ID)**

*A limited theory that believes in a designer without identifying the designer. Adherents of this view can be YEC, OEC, and occasionally EC or those who are non-committal on creation theories. Can believe in evolution, but has scientific-like arguments against non-miraculous evolution. Is not directly connected with the belief in a Christian God, although many adherents are Christian. It began in the late 20th century. [Proponent: Michael Behe: Discovery Institute ( [www.discovery.org/id/](http://www.discovery.org/id/) )*

Adapted from:

Comparing Interpretations of Genesis 1: <https://biologos.org/articles/comparing-interpretations-of-genesis-1>

Major Christian Approaches to Creation: <https://www.scienceandfaith.org/major-christian-approaches-to-creation>

The BEMA Discipleship Podcast <http://www.bemadiscipleship.com/>

What are the various Christian views of Creation? <https://realfaith.com/what-christians-believe/various-christian-views-creation/>

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