

Notes and Quotes

Based on the chronological reading schedule followed in THE DAILY BIBLE compiled by F. LaGard Smith and published by Harvest House Publishers.

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Gen. 1:1-2:4

Daily Bible reading requires personal discipline. It can come from no other place. Preachers, elders and other Christians can set the example, help you get started and encourage you to keep it up. But it will only happen when you make the choice and follow through. That's personal discipline. It will yield great benefits, as you come in contact with rich insight about who God is and what you can do to move closer to Him. *Notes & Quotes* may help you. But it will be up to you.

This week's *Notes & Quotes* is concerned with the creation account in Genesis 1 & 2.

The book of Genesis is foundational to the rest of the Bible. Thus, a good place to begin in Bible reading. It speaks to us of God, His creative work, the origin of man, and the sin that intruded through the disobedience of man. The rest of the Bible would be incomprehensible if we didn't have Genesis.

There are 31 verses in Genesis one, and the name "God" is found 32 times. He is the Supreme Cause of all the activity and good results reported in Genesis one. He is the Power behind all of this that came into existence. His perfect thoughts became commands and it all happened. "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God," (Heb. 3:4).

God "called those things which do not exist as though they did," (Rom. 4:17). When men make something, they use existing materials, assemble them together and through trial and error eventually have a

product or device to offer.

That's MANufacturing.

Only God can create and this passage reports, He called into existence that which had no previous existence (Heb. 11:3). "He spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast," (Psa. 33:9).



God brought man into existence, and man is different in that he bears the image of the Creator (Gen. 1:26,27). Man is not described in the same category as vegetation, plants or animals. God built into us capacities and longevity not present in plants and animals. We have moral consciousness, the ability to listen and learn and think abstractly. We can understand right from wrong, enjoy beauty and feel emotion. The wonderful capacity God gave humans to relate to each other is not seen in the garden or the zoo. We can form marriages and families and friendships and local churches; we are able to work together, help each other and enter into fellowship with our Creator, through Jesus Christ. We have been fearfully and wonderfully made (Psa. 139; see also Psa. 8, and Lk. 12:28).

Quoting Albert Barnes:

As our Creator we may come to Him, and look to Him for His protection and care. He made us. He had a design in our creation. He so endowed us that we might live forever, and so that we might honor and enjoy Him.

The same God who created life and set growth into motion calls you through the gospel to be His child. Because of Jesus Christ, you can obey the gospel and grow and thrive as a child of God.