**The thought of a ruined condition of the earth succeeding its original creation is required by the typical view [that is, the earth’s creation, ruin, and subsequent restoration forms a type of (foreshadows) man’s creation, ruin, and subsequent restoration.** ~~ *F. W. Grant*

**Without Form and Void  
*Tohu Wavohu*  
By Arlen Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

*“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

*And the earth was* [*hãyethã* ‘became’] *without form and void* [‘But the earth became *tohu wavohu’*]; *and darkness was* [*hãyethã* ‘became’] *upon the face of the deep…”* ([Genesis 1:1-2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2a&t=NKJV)).

The words *tohu wavohu* [t–hû wãv–hû] are translated “without form and void” in the KJV English text (“formless and void,” NASB; “formless and empty,” NIV; “waste and void,” ASV. Strong's H922 is *tohu bohu*.) These two Hebrew words are used together only two other places throughout all of the Old Testament — in [Isaiah 34:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.11&t=NKJV) and [Jeremiah 4:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+4.23&t=NKJV). And both of these passages present a ruin of that *previously* seen existing in an *orderly* state.

In [Isaiah 34:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.11&t=NKJV), Edom ([Isaiah 34:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.6&t=NKJV)) was destined to become *tohu wavohu* (translated “confusion” and “emptiness” [KJV], “desolation” and “emptiness” [NASB]).

And in there is a comparison of that which had *previously* occurred relative to the *earth* in [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV) to that which was *about* to occur relative to the land of *Israel*.

The land of *Israel* was about to become *tohu wavohu*. That is, as seen in [Jeremiah 4:23-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+4.23-28&t=NKJV), God was about to do the *same thing* to the land of *Israel* (*cf.* [Genesis 1:14-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.14-22&t=NKJV)) that He had *previously* done to the *earth* in [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV). And the reason for *both* of these actions — that which God had done to the *earth*, and that which He was about to do to the land of *Israel* — was the *same*. Sin had *entered* (sin on the part of *Satan* in the former, and sin on the part of the *Jewish* people in the latter).

And, in complete keeping with this type understanding of the use of *tohu wavohu* in [Isaiah 34:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.11&t=NKJV) and [Jeremiah 4:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+4.23&t=NKJV), [Isaiah 45:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+45.18&t=NKJV) (where the Hebrew word *tohu* is used, translated “in vain”) clearly states that God *did not* create the earth (in [Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV)) in the manner described in [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV). [Isaiah 45:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+45.18&t=NKJV) states that God “created it [the earth] not in vain [not ‘*tohu*,’ not ‘without form,’].”

Thus, if [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV) is to be understood in the light of *related* Scripture bearing on the subject (which it *must* be [*cf.* [Psalm 12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+12.6&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 8:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+8.20&t=NKJV); [28:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+28.10&t=NKJV); [1 Corinthians 2:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.13&t=NKJV)]), there can *be only one* possible interpretation — the *ruin* of a *prior existing creation* (from [Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV)), because of sin. The earth from verse one “became” *tohu wavohu*.

The *ruin* seen in *both* [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV) and [Jeremiah 4:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+4.23&t=NKJV), for a purpose, is with a view to *eventual* restoration. And the restoration seen in the *continuing* text of [Genesis 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2&t=NKJV) ([Genesis 1:2 -25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2+-25&t=NKJV)) and in the *overall* passage of [Jeremiah 4:23ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+4.23ff&t=NKJV) ([Genesis 1:27b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.27b&t=NKJV)), as well as in *related* Scripture (*e.g*., [Isaiah 35:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+35.1ff&t=NKJV)), is *also for a purpose*.

Then, the *whole* of subsequent Scripture is *perfectly* in line with this type understanding of the opening section of Scripture. The *whole* of subsequent Scripture is built on a septenary structure, with the foundation *established* and *set* in an *unchangeable* fashion at the *beginning*, in [Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV).

That is to say:

The heavens and the earth were *created*, there was a *ruin* of the *material* creation (because of sin), God took six days to *restore* the *ruined* creation, and He *rested* the seventh day.

Man was *created* on the sixth day, man *fell* into a state of *ruin* (because of sin), God is *presently* taking six days (6,000 years) to *restore* man, and God will *rest* the seventh day (the *seventh 1,000-year period* [*cf.* [2 Peter 1:15-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.15-18&t=NKJV); [3:3-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.3-8&t=NKJV)]).

And the *latter* restoration, patterned after the *former* restoration, is what the *whole* of Scripture is about. The whole of Scripture is about the *same thing initially introduced* and *established in an unchangeable fashion in the opening thirty-four verses of Genesis* ([Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV)).

The *whole* of Scripture is about the *creation of man*, *his ruin*, *his restoration* over a six-day period (over a 6,000-year period), *followed* by a seventh day of *rest* (a seventh 1,000-year period — the Sabbath rest *awaiting* the people of God [[Hebrews 4:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.9&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Hebrews 4:3-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.3-4&t=NKJV)], the *Messianic Era*).

As previously stated, man would have been *expected* to understand this opening section of Scripture after the preceding fashion at the time it was written. And subsequent Scripture simply *verifies* the correctness of the way man would have been *expected* to understand this opening section at that time, apart from other revelation.

(Note one thing about the restoration in [Genesis 1:2-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-25&t=NKJV) [2b] which *should* be understood. This restoration could *only have been* a *complete* restoration. No trace of “the world that then was” [the world *preceding* the ruin seen in [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV)], or the *subsequent* ruined earth [in [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV)], can be seen “in the heavens and the earth, which are *now*.”

A *complete* restoration would have removed *all* traces of anything having to do with “the world that then was” or with that world during that time when it lay in a ruined state. That is to say, geology today *cannot* show evidence of any *type* pre-existing creation or a *ruin* of that pre-existing creation, for a *complete* restoration — the *only* type restoration possible through the Divine work seen in Genesis chapter one — would have removed *all* traces of a pre-existing creation and ruin.

In this respect, *all* that exists in the present secular world of history and science — *e.g.*, the complete fossil record, the dinosaurs, topographical formations such as the Grand Canyon, etc. — would *all* have to be placed *this side* of the restoration seen in [Genesis 1:2-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-25&t=NKJV) [2b] , within time covered by “the heavens and the earth, which are *now*.”

That which occurred *during* and resulted *from* the Noachian Flood, 1,656 years following the restoration of the earth [[Genesis 6-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+6-8&t=NKJV)], along with later topographical changes on the earth during the days of Peleg [born 100 years after the Flood ([Genesis 10:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.25&t=NKJV))], must *be looked to* for an explanation of numerous things of the preceding nature, *not* to a world lying in ruins in [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV), or to a world existing *prior* to that time.)

Viewing the whole of Scripture, the *correct* interpretation of the opening verses of Genesis can be clearly and unquestionably presented and understood through:

1) The *manner* in which the Hebrew words from [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV), *tohu wavohu*, are used elsewhere in Scripture (interpreting Scripture in the light of Scripture [[Isaiah 34:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.11&t=NKJV); [45:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+45.18&t=NKJV); [Jeremiah 4:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+4.23&t=NKJV)]).

2) And the *typical* nature of Old Testament history ([I Corinthians 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Corinthians+10.6&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Corinthians+10.11&t=NKJV)), which has been set forth in a very evident Divinely established septenary arrangement.

And these opening verses, providing the Divinely established basis for that which follows, must be understood accordingly.

The Bible is a book of redemption; and *only* a correct view of the *opening* verses of Genesis can reflect positively, at the very *outset*, on God’s redemptive message as a whole — the *restoration* of a ruined creation, performed in its entirety through Divine intervention, for a *revealed* purpose.

An *incorrect* view can, on the other hand, only have *negative* ramifications. Creation *alone*, apart from a ruin and restoration of the creation, *fails* to convey the *complete* message at the outset of the Word; and Restoration *alone* (viewing the opening verse as other than an absolute beginning), *apart* from a record of the preceding creation and ruin, likewise *fails* to convey the *complete* message at this opening point in Scripture.

It is as F. W. Grant stated years ago relative to the existing parallel between the creation and ruin of the earth and the subsequent creation and ruin of man:

“The thought of a ruined condition of the earth succeeding its original creation is required by the typical view [that is, the earth’s creation, ruin, and subsequent restoration forms a type of (foreshadows) man’s creation, ruin, and subsequent restoration].”

Accordingly, the opening verses of Genesis *cannot* deal strictly with Creation; *nor can* these verses deal strictly with Restoration. *Either* view would be out of line with the whole of Scripture, beginning with the central theme of Scripture, the message of redemption.

The *only* interpretative view which will *fit* — at all points — within the Divinely established septenary arrangement of Scripture (which has it basis in these opening verses) is:

Creation (an absolute beginning, and a perfect creation [[Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV)]).

A *Ruin* of the Creation ([Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV)).

A *Restoration* of the *Ruined* Creation ([Genesis 1:2-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-25&t=NKJV) [2b]).

*Rest* (in the type - six twenty-four-hour days of *restorative* work, *followed* by a twenty-four-hour day of *rest*; in the antitype - six 1,000-year days of *restorative* work, *followed* by a 1,000-year day of *rest* [[Genesis 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.3&t=NKJV)]).

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Also see in this website [Seven Days](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#Seven%20Days) and [The Chemistry of the Blood](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-three.php#The%20Chemistry%20of%20the%20Blood).