

Antonius' Bible Notes Compendium:
A Study of the Scriptures

Antonius Torode

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The original maintainer of this work is: Antonius Torode.

The current maintainer of this work is: Antonius Torode.

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Preface


This project is a personal undertaking to rewrite and annotate the Holy Bible for study, reflection, and understanding. The primary text used throughout is the *New King James Version (NKJV)*, though other translations may occasionally be referenced where clarity, variation, or historical interest requires. Each book of the Bible is treated as a separate chapter, and each begins with a brief summary outlining its themes or narrative structure.


The scripture is presented verse by verse using a custom format that allows for inline references and annotations. These annotations include (but are not limited to) historical background, translation notes, literary and cultural context, scientific references, theological or reflective questions, and general comments. Each of these various types are also color-coded for ease of reference/reading. They are marked inline with a custom symbol (e.g., ^{*}) and collected directly below the verse for easy association.


This is an ongoing and evolving project. At the time of writing this preface, it is highly incomplete and is being developed incrementally. As updates, corrections, and expansions are made, the version number of the document will be incremented accordingly. This allows for tracking progress and identifying updated material across future iterations. This work is intended for personal study and is freely shareable for non-commercial purposes.


Note Types and Symbols


The following is a list of annotation types used throughout this work. Each note is marked with a specific icon and color to indicate its category and purpose:

History - : Provides historical or cultural background relevant to the verse or passage, such as ancient customs, geopolitical context, or historical events.

Translation - : Offers insight into the original language, alternative translations, or meanings of words and phrases from the Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek texts.

Context - : Highlights the literary, narrative, or cultural context of a passage, aiding in its interpretation and situational relevance.

Science - : Connects the passage to scientific ideas, natural phenomena, or the relationship between scriptural content and modern science.

Question - : Poses theological, philosophical, or reflective questions raised by the verse, encouraging deeper thought and study.

Sermon - : A note or reference from a sermon.

Note - : A general-purpose note for observations, clarifications, or commentary that doesn't fall into one of the above categories.

Various Subtle Formatting Meanings

There are various subtle formatting techniques which have specific meanings, These are outlined below:

- As done in the NKJV, scriptural words which are *italicized* are 'added', but are not meant to change any meaning - only to provide better understanding with our modern English language. Within the commentary and notes, *italics* are instead used as they typically are in standard English writings - for emphasis or proper reference formatting.
- Scripture numbers are in **bold** for ease of finding.
- Words that Jesus' spoke are "quoted and in red."

Genesis

Summary:

Chapter 1: The History of Creation

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.^a

a - 📖: “In the beginning” implies that there was a beginning. “The heavens” could refer to the entire cosmos or even space itself. “The earth” could refer to the entirety of matter within the universe or simply bring the focus to earth (while not explicitly excluding anything outside of earth).

²The earth was^a without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters^b.

a - 📖: The word for “was” (Strong’s H1961[1]) can be translated as *became* or *come to pass*.

a - 📖: If translated as *became*, this could imply that earth was something before. This suggests that there could have been a passage of time before creation and the following events. It could either then mean that there was a possible history of Earth before the following creation events, or it could simply be that after the creation mentioned in Genesis 1:1, earth was in this state. This idea supports a pre-existing physical earth before the creation described in the following scriptures. This is consistent with modern scientific understanding of the age of the earth.

b - 📖: “Hovering” establishes an Earth-based perspective, with the narrative describing creation from Earth’s surface, focusing on transforming chaos to order.

³Then God said, “Let there be light^a”; and there was light.

a - 📖: Diffuse sunlight through a thick early atmosphere could create a day-night cycle before celestial bodies are visible.

⁴And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening^a and the morning^b were the first day.^c

a - 📖: The word for “evening” (Strong’s H6153[1]) is also translated *sunset*.

b - 📖: The word for “morning” (Strong’s H1242[1]) means sunrise or the end of night (start of the day).

b - 📖: The “evening and the morning” are established as the time measurement for a *day*. This is a foundational basis for time keeping throughout the Bible that is important to remain consistent on. The time period for a day begins at *sunset*, and ends the following *sunset* (encompassing an evening and a morning).

⁶Then God said, “Let there be a firmament^a in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.”

a - 📖: The word for “firmament” (Strong’s H7549[1]) can sometimes be interpreted as a solid (This is one scripture that is used to suggest the earth has a solid dome around it), but more appropriately means an expanse, the heavens or the sky.

a - 📖: This corresponds to a stable atmosphere forming, separating surface waters from vapor and creating an atmosphere for the earth.

⁷Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament^a from the waters which *were* above the firmament^b; and it was so.

a - 📖: These would be the water on the ground - seas, puddles, ponds, rivers, etc.

b - 📖: This would be the water in the sky - clouds, vapor, etc.

⁸And God called the firmament Heaven^a, so the evening and the morning were the second day.

a - 📖: There are multiple different words commonly translated to “heaven”. In this context (Strong’s H8064[1]), the word simply means the sky.

⁹Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear”; and it was so. ¹⁰And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was* good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whos seed *is* in itself, on the earth”; and it was so.

- 🏹: Early vegetation (e.g., algae) could grow easily with diffuse light from day 1, before the sun’s visibility. Given perpetual cloud coverage, plants could also still flourish if enough diffuse light made it through the cloud coverage. Even a thick hazy atmosphere which would obstruct the view of stars and the sun could still allow enough photons through for photosynthesis to occur (Many plants in rain forests thrive in these conditions while shaded by other trees).

h - 🌀: Plants before the sun’s visibility (day 4) fits a sequence from earth’s perspective with a potential hazy atmosphere not yet revealing celestial bodies.

¹²And the earth brought forth grass^a, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind^b, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whos seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.

a - 🏹: If the atmosphere was thick hazy (at this point) such that light could not easily get through, the plants would naturally clear this, by filtering the air, allowing a natural progression from this to the next day’s events of the atmosphere clearing.

b - 🏹: The phrase “according to its kind” is of great importance. This states that fruit will always create seeds *according to its kind*, and not of another kind. This has always been observed to be true, and even in cases of cross-breeding - the fruit yields seed according to its kind, and not of other kinds.

¹³So the evening and the morning were the third day. ¹⁴Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament^a of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons^b, and for days and years;

a - 🏹: As the atmosphere clears, the stars, sunlight, and moonlight become visible through the atmosphere, which creates the lights in the sky.

b - 🗓️: The “signs and seasons” establishes a time-keeping system for the Biblical Holy Days.

¹⁵and let them be for lights in the firmaments of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. ¹⁶Then God made two great lights^a: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He *made* the stars also^b.

a - 🏹: This is the same thought/day as Genesis 1:14, where the stars become visible through the atmosphere. From the perspective of earth, as the atmosphere clear, the sun and moon become visible and appears as though they are new creations.

b - 🏹: If we consider the sequence of events here in correlation to modern day understanding (which would of course be very limited compared to God), this sequence of earth being created in six days suggests that either the entire universe was created in this sequence to demonstrate Gods power and capabilities, or that the rest of the creation (outside of earth) was already created (which perfectly correlates to the *gap theory* mentioned in Genesis 1:2). This would also align with modern theories of the age of the universe and other timelines.

b - 🌀: If the *gap theory* is not close to accurate, why would God have taken six days to create earth, when he was able to create the rest of the universe (“the stars also”) in less than a day? This could either be explained by the above note, or by God outlining the importance of earth by timing these events in this way. But as mentioned in previous creation events, things would be more consistent if this latter thought was not the case.

¹⁷God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was* good. ¹⁹So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

References

- [1] “KJV W/ STRONGS BIBLE.” <https://godrules.net/library/kjvstrongs/kjvstrongs.htm>