GENESIS

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Q1: "Going back to the very beginning, how are we to understand the relationship between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2? Is it sequential, as in v. 1 happened and then v. 2 happened? Or is it more explanatory, with v. 2 starting to detail how v. 1 came about?"

Genesis 1:1-2 (ESV)

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Q2: "Both Peter and Jude mention that the fallen sons of God were chained in a place of gloomy darkness, awaiting judgment on the last day. What/where is this place? Why didn't Satan get imprisoned there as well? What is destined for this location?"

"For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell [Gr. *Tartarus*] and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment." (2 Peter 2:4)

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared."
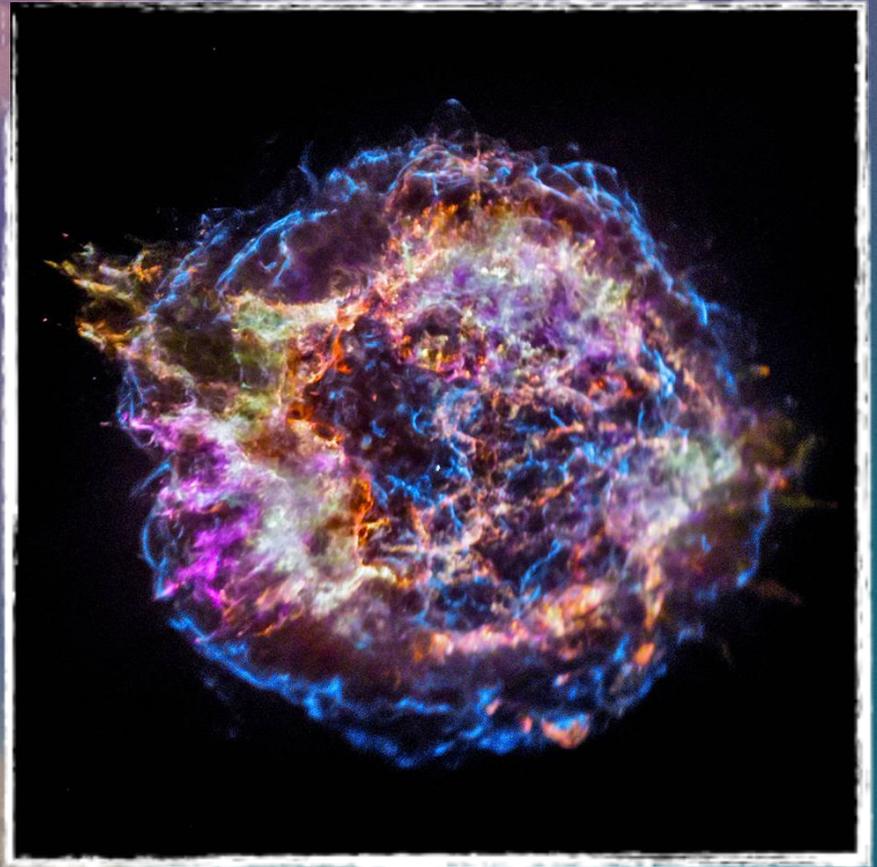(1 Peter 3:18-20)

"And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. He opened the shaft of the Abyss, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth…"
(Revelation 9:1-3)

Q3: "You sort of answered this in your message at the time, but do you believe Noah's Flood was a regional event or a worldwide catastrophe?"

Q4: "After the Flood, God's limits human life spans to 120 years. At the time you teased a theory about how God may have accomplished this that involved a supernova. I'd be interested in hear that abandoned bunny trail."

"Then the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.'" (Genesis 6:3)
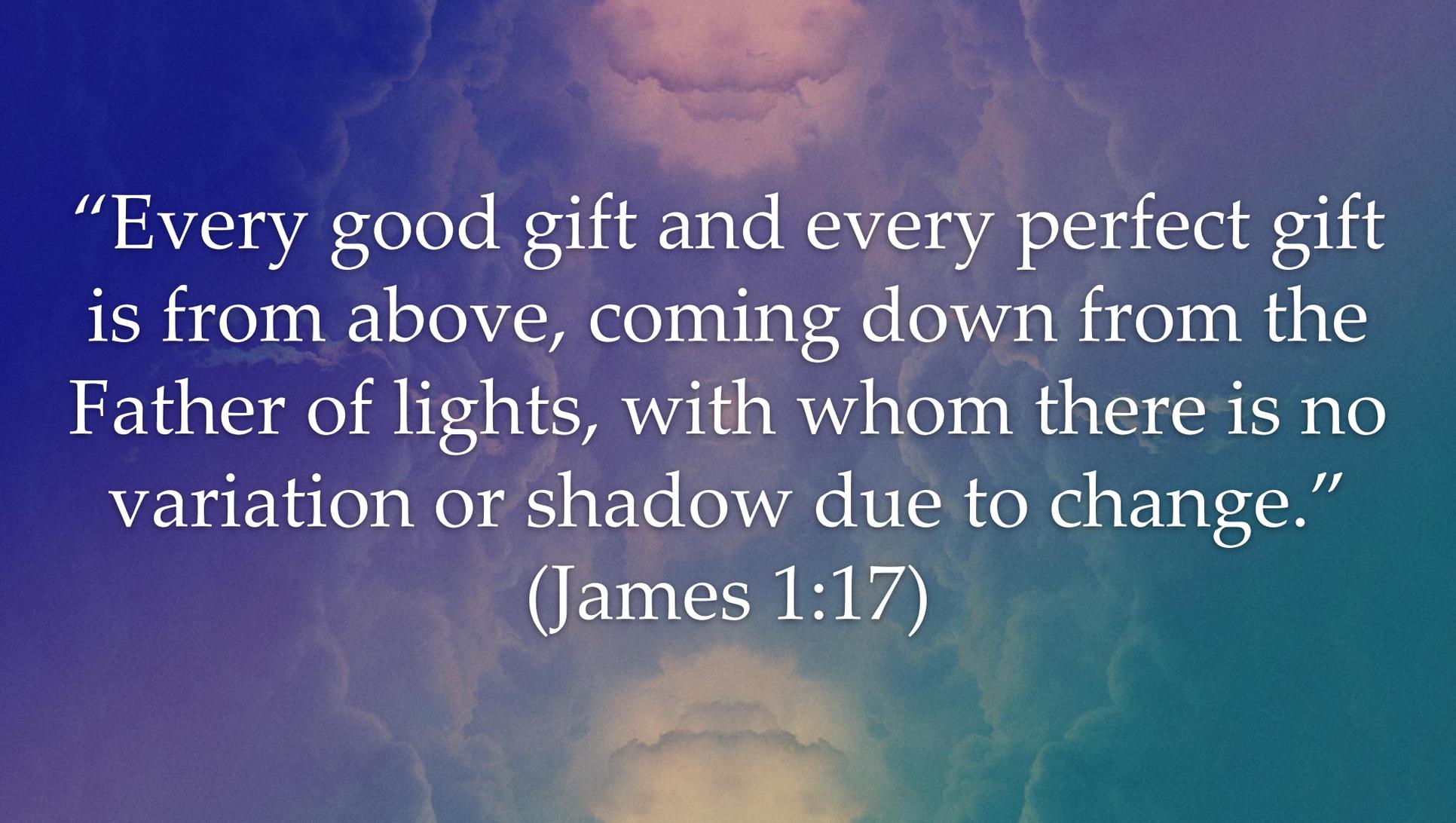
Q5: "Is there any parallel between the Flood's 40 days of rain, Israel's 40 years in wandering in the desert, and Jesus' 40 days being tempted in the wilderness?

Q6: "What do you think of the theory that God granted humanity permission to eat meat in Genesis 9 in part as a survival allowance knowing that the Flood would trigger an ice age and that plant-based nutrition would be more scarce?"

Q7: "Follow up: If eating meat is part of God's concession to the brokenness of creation, should we perhaps pursue a non-meat diet today?"

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:11)

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17)

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits… and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer." (1 Timothy 4:1, 3-5)

Q8: "I have often heard that in Luke 14:28-30 Jesus advocates budgeting as an important part of God-honoring money management. Yet in light of Genesis, is Jesus also taking a dig at Nimrod and the builders of the Tower of Babel?"

"For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'" (Luke 14:28-30)

Q9: "Why are the people of Israel considered the chosen people and God's holy nation when they don't accept Jesus as God's Son and Messiah?"

Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)

1 Now the LORD said to Abram… 2 …"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

"Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God." (Romans 3:1-2)

"They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen." (Romans 9:4-5)

Genesis 49:10 (NLT)

10The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor.

"But what is God's reply to him? 'I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.' So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace." (Romans 11:4-5)

"So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!" (Romans 11:11-12)

"Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob'; 'and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.'" (Romans 11:24-27)