

What Are The Odds? Genesis 1.1-2

[[Psalms 8:1-9](#) ¹ O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. ² Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. ³ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; ⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? ⁵ For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. ⁶ Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: ⁷ All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; ⁸ The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. ⁹ O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!]

[I once heard a Seminary Professor present a message such as the one I am about to present. I do not recall his name, nor all of the details he used in his message. But the truth presented through his sermon has never left me. Hence, I present this similar message to you today.]

[What are the chances that this creation developed into the detail and harmony we see and need for life to continue on earth as it is today? Evolutionists claim that it all just happened by chance. The evolutionist, progressive creationist, theistic evolutionist, gap theorist, or whatever other name you might place upon theory suggests that a primordial soup existed with just the right conditions and by chance the first building blocks for life appeared. Some of these believe that God placed the first building blocks for life into the soup and then sat back and watched the chance evolution take place.]

[So what about this chance, could it have all happened by chance.]

[In my pocket I have 10 quarters numbered one through ten. Of these quarters,]

- [They are all exactly the same to the touch.]
- [The numbers written upon them can not be felt.]
- [There are no distinctive blemishes.]
- [As much as possible they are exactly the same]

[What are the odds or chances that I can reach into my pocket and pull out the coin numbered one on the first try?]

[The odds of my pulling out each quarter in order one after the other, placing the preceding coin back into my pocket after drawing it out will help you to understand the odds of our world evolving through the processes of evolution.]

A. What Are The Odds:

1. **The Quarter Numbered 1, 1 in 10 – The Earth’s Rotation ([Gen 1.1-5](#))** [*– In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. ³ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.* - What are the odds that I could reach into my pocket and pull out the quarter that is numbered 1. Consider those things that we often take for granted but are absolutely necessary in order for this big green and blue globe to sustain life as we know it. These are used as mere examples of the unimaginable harmony required within creation to support life on earth. There depths beneath our visible creation that science is studying and revealing daily. These microscopic molecular universes reveal innumerable realities reaching beyond our ability to measure or count raising the odds or chance that everything required to produce and support life on earth beyond the ability of the human mind to grasp. For the sake of this illustration I choose but only ten of the trillions of trillions of elements required.]

[Consider the Rotation of the Earth. And as you do I reach into my pocket to pull out coin number one, a 1 in 10 chance that I will pull out the right coin the first time. What coin did I grasp this time?]

- a. **[1000 Miles per hour at the Equator]** - The circumference of the Earth at the equator is 25,000 miles. The Earth rotates in about 24 hours. Therefore, if you were to hang above the surface of the Earth at the equator without moving, you would see 25,000 miles pass by in 24 hours, at a speed of $25000/24$ or **just over 1000 miles per hour.** - http://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/ask_astro/answers/970401c.html]

b. [**The earths slowing rotation** – According to a NASA scientist.

Astronomers can measure this very precisely now that they have atomic clocks to provide a non-celestial time standard for comparison. The length of the day is increasing by 0.0015 seconds every century, of which about 0.0007 seconds per century has to do with the tidal breaking of the Moon. As a result of this, the Moon's orbit must also increase so that the Moon is slowly getting farther and farther from the Earth by a few centimeters per year or so (my estimate!). As this process continues, it is predicted that in billions of years the lunar month will increase to about 47 days from its current [27.3](#) days. But by that time, the Sun itself will have begun to evolve into a red giant, which will upset the Earth-Moon system somewhat; especially if they are both engulfed by the Sun's expanding atmosphere! -

<http://image.gsfc.nasa.gov/poetry/ask/q396.html>]

(1) [**Talk about needing more time** – In my feeble, untrained mathematical equation, I calculated that if this decreasing speed remained consistent over the estimated [4.5](#) billion years of the earth existence then [4.5](#) billion years ago a day would have lasted only [5.25 hours](#).]

c. [**Catastrophic Changes** – According to a NASA website¹ a change in the rotation axis of the Earth, or its spin rate would be catastrophic. The number of the seasons would change and their duration. If the rotation axis became parallel to the orbital plane, as for Uranus, we could have winter in the Northern hemisphere for 6 months followed by summer. The Sun would set on the entire Northern hemisphere and not rise again for 6 months. Less extreme axial tilts would produce a different pattern of seasons at each earth latitude.]

[Growing seasons and all of the natural cycles of the biosphere would be catastrophically affected, and if the change happened in a year or so, no living things, especially plants, would survive unmolested. There would not be enough time for plants to genetically alter their growing cycles. Large diebacks of plant ecosystems would occur followed by the animals that feed on the plants, and then the carnivores...etc etc.]

¹ <http://image.gsfc.nasa.gov/poetry/ask/q278.html>

2. **The Quarter Numbered 2, 1 in 100 ([Job 26.7](#))** [– **The Earth’s Axis – *He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.* - The earth sits on a tilt angle of 23 degrees 27 minutes which is approximately [23.45](#) degrees.**²]
- a. [The Earth's rotation axis is not perpendicular to the plane in which it orbits the Sun. It's offset by [23.5](#) degrees. This tilt, or obliquity, explains why we have seasons and why places above the Arctic Circle have 24-hour darkness in winter and constant sunlight in the summer. But the angle is not constant - it is currently decreasing from a maximum of **24 degrees towards a minimum of [22.5](#) degrees.** This variation goes in a 40,000-year cycle.³]
- b. [This wobble in the earth’s axis represents less than a 1% shift in the earth’s axis. It has been suggested that if the earth were to shift its axis by a mere 5% that life as we know it on earth would be greatly affected and changed.]
- c. [What are the chances that the earth would have just, by chance, sat at the [23.45](#) degree axis that now nurtures our existent upon its surface. Certainly far greater than the chance of my pulling out coin number 2 from my pocket, immediately following pulling out coin number 1 and then replacing it in my pocket.]
3. **The Quarter Numbered 3, 1 in 1,000 ([Gen 1.6-8](#))** [– **The Earth’s Atmosphere – The Earth’s Atmosphere is a thin layer of gasses that keeps our planet from freezing and protects us from harmful solar radiation.]**

[[Genesis 1:6-8](#)⁶ And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. ⁷ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.]

² www.newton.dep.anl.gov/asasci/env99/env154.htm

³ http://www.livescience.com/environment/050330_earth_tilt.html

- a. [**Our atmosphere.** Our atmosphere helps keep heat in (by absorbing some of the radiation re-radiated by the Earth), so you need a correction factor to our albedo. **Without our thin layer of air, the surface temperature of the Earth would rapidly drop, freezing the oceans solid.** This is called a "greenhouse effect", and is a very real occurrence. It's when things get out of control that you get a runaway greenhouse effect. Note also that the **temperature on the surface of Venus** should be about -20 Celsius (distance= 1.1×10^{13} centimeters, albedo=0.65; although it's closer to the Sun its albedo is higher, so it should have about the same temperature as the Earth), **but is actually in excess of 500 Celsius (over 900 Fahrenheit!)**. Should you worry about runaway greenhouse effect? Take a look at our closest neighbor. You tell me.⁴]
- b. [Our atmosphere brings into light the many elements required to for an atmosphere just like our. Our atmosphere:
- (1) [Protects us for harmful radiation form our sun and space.]
 - (2) [Provides greenhouse effects that protect us from extreme heat and cold]
 - (3) [Provide oxygen for us to breath]
- c. [These are a few of the more obvious factors surrounding our atmosphere. There is just as much chance that our atmosphere could have been caustic and harmful to life rather than supportive and nurturing to life. Clearly the chances of our atmosphere developing into the nurturing atmosphere we enjoy are far greater than my reaching into my pocket and pulling out coin number 3 immediately following coin number 2, having place coin 2 back in my pocket. A 1 in 1,000 chance.]

4. The Quarter Numbered 4, a 1 in 10,000 ([Psalm 74:17](#); [Gen 8:22](#)) [– **The Distance of the Earth away from the Sun** - The Earth is **92,955,820.5 miles** (149,597,892 kilometers).]

[Psalms 74:17](#)¹⁷ *Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter.*

[Genesis 8:22](#)²² *While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and*

⁴ <http://www.badastronomy.com/bad/misc/seasons.html>

cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

- a. [Using trigonometry, astronomers now know that the “Astronomical Unit” = **92,955,820.5 miles** (149,597,892 kilometers). This incredible degree of accuracy is possible because the speed of light is known very precisely and extremely accurate clocks are used to time the radar reflection. Radar can’t be used to determine the distance to the Sun directly because the Sun doesn’t have a solid surface to reflect the radar efficiently.⁵]
 - b. [It just so happens that scientists believe that the earth is positioned right on the inner margin of the region surrounding our sun that is capable of supporting life upon a planet the size of the earth. If the earth were to change its orbit by just a small percent of its distance from the sun, and were to move closer to the sun then the earth would no longer be an inhabitable planet.]
 - c. [What are the chances that the earth would be perfectly positioned in what our scientist have come to call the life supporting region of our solar system. Certainly far greater than the odds of my pulling coin number 4 out of my pocket immediately following coin number 3, having place coin number 3 back in my pocket. A 1 in 10,000 chance.]
5. **The Quarter Numbered 5, a 1 in 100,000 ([Psalm 148.3-6](#)) [chance of pulling it out in proper order the first time – The Moon’s Orbit – The Moon’s orbit affects the tides in the oceans and our atmosphere.]**

[[Psalms 148:3-6](#) ³ Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. ⁴ Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created. ⁶ He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.]

- a. [The average distance between the Earth and the Moon is **238,900 or about 240,000 miles.**⁶]

⁵ http://www.astro-tom.com/getting_started/earth-sun_distance.htm

⁶ <http://www.guam.net/planet/scaleemprint.htm>

- b. [One web page stated that the moon was a major contributor in the process of evolution, and claimed that without the moon evolution would have been entirely impossible.]
- c. [So Just what are the chances of the moon just taking up its orbit and position around our earth, and just the right distance to create just the right conditions to possibly produce life and clearly to help sustain life on our earth? Clearly more than the possibility of my pulling out coin number 5, immediately following placing coins number 4 back in my pocket. A 1 in 100,000 chance.]

6. The Quarter Numbered 6, a 1 in 1,000,000 ([Psalm 19.1-6](#)) [– The Temperature of the Sun]

*[[Psalms 19:1-6](#) ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. ² Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. ³ There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵ Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. ⁶ His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: **and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.**]*

- a. [The mean surface temperature of the Sun is 5506°C (9944°F). The mean core temperature of the Sun is 15,000,000°C(27,000,032°F).] [according to [www.aj.com](#)]
- b. [For the sun to be at the stage in its development and in the scientific stages of a star at just the right time for life to be generated and sustained upon this planet we call home would be a far greater miracle than the odds of my pulling coin six out of my pocket. A 1 in 1,000,000 chance.]

7. The Quarter Numbered 7, 1 in 10,000,000 [– The Earth’s Magnetic Fields – There is more scientific debate about the earth’s magnetic fields than one can read in a weeks time. It seems that everyone who writes about the magnetic fields has something else to add to the argument.]

- a. [The Earth’s magnetic fields are depleting at a measurable and predictable rate. Modern measuring instruments and atomic clocks have made it

possible to determine that these fields are depleting with such accuracy that clocks can be set accurately through the measurement of these fields.
]

b. [Hence many of the multitudes of Creation Scientist such as Henry Morris and the associated scientist with Answers in Genesis have determined that the earth would have been incapable of supporting life a mere 30,000 years ago for the magnetic storms that would have been produce by the powerful magnetic fields.]

8. **The Quarter Numbered 8, 1 in 100,000,000** [– **The core of the earth** which is molten magma spinning, turning and mixing beneath us, yet not melting away the mantle or the crust of the earth and still developing just the right environment to cause a dead planet to come to life by causing waters to flow beneath us and various elements to interact. What are the chances of the core developing in such a way as to produce or support life on earth.]

9. **The Quarter Numbered 9, 1 in 1,000,000,000 ([Job 38.8-11](#))** [– **Water to form the oceans** and it being of such a consistency so as to produce and support life on earth. There is evidence of water on Mars, identified by the obvious erosion marks on the face of the planet however the conditions of the planet do not allow for surface water nor water that can support continuing life.]

[[Job 38:8-11](#) ⁸ Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? ⁹ When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, ¹⁰ And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, ¹¹ And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?]

10. **The Quarter Numbered 10, 1 in 10,000,000,000 ([Gen 1.9-13](#))** [– **For the earth to have land masses** with all of the ingredients in place to produce and support life. For the soil to be of just the proper ph level so that it is nurturing to life rather than toxic to life. Actually, each individual ingredient that comes together to form a fertile soil should probably be accounted as a separate and individual chance, hence the chance of each element forming and then for those elements to be mixed exactly right for that which we call earth would add hundreds or even thousands of quarters to our collection dramatically increasing the impossible odds of spontaneous life by mere chance.]

[[Genesis 1:9-13](#) ⁹ And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. ¹¹ And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. ¹² And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. ¹³ And the evening and the morning were the third day.]

- 11. Unimaginable odds, a mere 20 elements** [- What if I were to merely double the number of quarters in my pocket to 20. Then the odds of actually pulling all twenty of those quarters out of my pocket in proper order would be 1 in 10^{20} , that is,]

1:100,000,000,000,000,000,000

[This is no different than the odds of having a mere twenty essential elements for the creation and support of life on earth. As we consider the cosmos, our environment, our world, our bodies, and all that is necessary for to nurture life on earth on must quickly realize that there are hundreds, thousands, maybe even millions of variables that must all be in place, all the time, in order for life to continue as we know it.]

[It seems equally obvious that for life in any form, even if we were to try and conceive of life in some other type of environment the odds of the elements necessary in some other unique environment supporting life are equally incredible. Hence, the claim that some how, just by sheer chance all that was necessary to develop and maintain life is no chance at all. It just could not have happened by chance.]

Quote - No matter how large the environment one considers, life cannot have had a random beginning. Troops of monkeys thundering away at random on typewriters could not produce the works of Shakespeare, for the practical reason that the whole observable universe is not large enough to contain the necessary monkey hordes, the necessary typewriters, and certainly not the waste paper baskets required for the deposition of wrong attempts. The same is true for living material....The likelihood of the spontaneous formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with

40,000 noughts after it....It is big enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of evolution. There was no primeval soup, neither on this planet nor on any other, and if the beginnings of life were not random, they must therefore have been the product of purposeful intelligence.⁷

B. What is the Obvious? [– In this message I have but list ten mere necessities for the support of life on earth, and these ten are the most basic and obvious needs. If we were to begin to add the other multitudes of interactions and absolute requirements to support life on earth we would multiply the odds by billions of quarters added to our collection, but we are already exceeding any reasonable limit for the mere chance of the spontaneous production and support of life on earth. We have not touched on the necessity of oxygen, carbon dioxide, the miracle of photo synthesis, the presence of the suns warming radiation at just the right levels, the evaporation of the waters to form the clouds and wash our atmosphere with rain. We could go on and on and on and yet the well educated still wish to proclaim that it all happened by mere and impossible chance.]

1. **There must be an Architect ([Gen 1.1](#); [John 1.1-5,14](#))** [– There can be no question about the obvious need for an intelligent designer and that designer must be almighty God.]

[[Genesis 1:1](#)¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.]

[[John 1:1-5](#)¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² The same was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.]

[[John 1:14](#)¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.]

2. **There must be an Artist ([Col 1.16-17](#); [2 Pet 3.9](#))** [– The idea of an artist speaks of purpose and intent through creation.]

⁷ Holye, F. and C. Wickramasinghe. 1984. *Evolution from Space*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 148.

Colossians 1:16-17 ¹⁶ *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, **and by him all things consist.***

[Almighty God the creator and sustainer of all things did not merely through the elements of life upon this planet and into this universe and then just leave it. There is clear intent reveal within the handiwork and continuance of this creation. That the designer had and has a purpose is as obvious as the absolute need for the designer Himself.]

[What is God intent in all of this creation He has developed and sustains?]

2 Peter 3:9 ⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.]*

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Feb 17, 2008