

BARA CREATION

(Gen.1:1) “In a beginning (bereshith) God (Elohim) created (bara / kal pf.3ps) the heavens and the earth.”

Bara “The verb expresses creation out of nothing, an idea seen clearly in passages having to do with creation on a cosmic scale: ‘In the beginning God created (bara/ kal pf.) the heavens and the earth.’ (Gen.1:1; 2:3; Isa.40:26; 42:5).” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.51)

Bara (create) is used four times in the creation story of Genesis.

Gen.1:1	Original creation
Gen.1:21	Day 5
Gen.1:27	Day 6
Gen.2:3-4	Restoration of creation

This lesson will study five aspects of the importance of understanding Bara Creation of Genesis 1:1.

1. We learned from last week’s lesson that all three members of the Godhead (Elohim) were involved in the bara creation.

God the Father	(Ps.104:2, 5; 121:2)	Maker of heaven and earth.
God the Son	(1 Cor.8:6-7; Heb.1:2)	His Son made the universe
God the Holy Spirit	(Job 33:4; Ps.104:30)	You sent the Spirit, they are created.

2. Bara creation means that there is nothing belonging to the composition of the heavens and the earth either in material or form which had an existence apart from the Godhead (Gen.1:1; 2:3-4; Isa.40:26, 28).

(Isa.42:5) “Thus says God the Lord, who created (bara) the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its offspring, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it.”

“Non-existence cannot engender existence else something could come from nothing.” (J.W. Lawrence)

(Job 26:7) “He stretched out the north over space, and hangs the earth on nothing.”

Only God can hang the earth on nothing and set its course and bring it to completion (Ex.9:27-30) [Moses to Pharaoh].

(Isa.51:13a) “That you have forgotten the Lord your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundation of the earth.”

3. Paul used this concept of bara with God’s fulfillment of the seed section of the Abrahamic Covenant.

(Rom.4:17) “As it is written, ‘A father of many nations have I made you’ in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.” (Gen.12:1-3)

“God has the ability to create out of nothing, as He demonstrated in the birth of Isaac.” (NIV Study Bible of Rom.4:17, pg.1711) Actually, Godhead created it out of the word of God and divine essence.

Last week we studied the importance of understanding the essence of the Godhead in relation to the directive will of God. This is the doctrinal principle illustrated by Paul with birth of Isaac in Romans 4.

4. David also understood the importance of the bara creation working through the directive will in his recovery from the Bathsheba affair recorded in Ps.51.

(Ps.51:10) “Create (bara) in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

(Ps.51:12) “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.”

(1 John 1:9) “**If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**” **WHY?**

(1 John 1:7) “But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the **blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**”

5. The six days of creation-restoration shows the chronological order of changing a chaotic uninhabited earth into an orderly inhabited earth (Gen.1:2-2:3).

(Isa.45:18-19a) “For thus says the Lord, who created (bara) the heavens (He is God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and **did not create it a waste place (tohu)**, but created (bara) **it to be inhabited**), ‘I am the Lord, and there is none else. I have not spoken in secret, in some dark land.’” (Gen.1:2) (tohu-waw-bohu) [Formless and void]

(Ps.115:16) “The heavens are the heavens of the **Lord**, and the earth He has given to the **sons of men.**”

“**The one** the exclusive realm of the exalted, **all-sovereign God**; **the other** the divinely appointed place for **man**, where he lives under God’s rule and care, enjoys his abundant blessing (vv.12-13) and celebrates his praise (v.18).” (NIV Study Bible of Ps.115:16, pg.910)