The Beginning of Creation
Genesis 1:2

Main Thought  Creation begins with CHAOS (an unformed, empty, and dark earth covered in water) with the hope of COSMOS (the hovering Spirit of God).

INTRODUCTION

• If v. 1 is a SUMMARY statement previewing all six days of creation (Waltke), then v. 2 describes the unformed “lump of clay” out of which God the “potter” will create His creation (Isa. 29:16; 64:8).
• The author of Genesis has no desire to explain the existence of God, the chaos (formless, empty, dark), nor the serpent.
• The chaos of earth (2) and the serpents presence in Eden may be explained by Satan’s expulsion from heaven to earth (Ezek. 28:17; Luke 10:18).

The Chaos – the lump of clay


• FORMLESS and EMPTY (HEB=tahv va-bohv) is not the end state that God desired. He fashioned it (6 days) to be inhabited (Isa. 45:18). Only then could He call it good (4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25; 31 – man alone being very good).
• Jeremiah used this exact phrase to describe God’s judgment upon sinful earth symbolically reversing creation (NIV note – uncreation) – no light, mountains, people, birds, fruit (Jer. 4:23-26).

DARKNESS

• DARKNESS represents evil and death. It is not conducive to life. It is used in the 9th plague of Egypt (Ex. 10:21); of the wicked (1 Sam. 2:9); of enemies (Psa. 35:6); the day of judgment (Isa. 13:10); Calamity (Isa. 45:7).
• This darkness covered the DEEP, or water. The entire earth was covered in water waiting to be separated from the land (6).
• Darkness and Deep (2) are opposites of Light and Land (10).

The Cosmos – the Spirit of God

• The presence of the Spirit of God brings HOPE in the midst of chaos and anticipates the creation that follows (Psa. 104:30).
• The Holy Spirit (HEB=ruah—breath, wind) is the agent of GENERATION (man [2:7; 2 Tim. 3:16] and animals [30]) and REGENERATION in our salvation (Tit. 3:5).
• The Spirit of God “hovers” over the chaos like an eagle protecting her young (Deut. 32:11; Isa. 31:5). He will give you strength (Isa. 40:28-31).