

**The Abode of God before creation of heaven and earth**

---

**Mike E. Okemi**

Department of International Studies and Diplomacy  
Benson Idahosa University,  
Benin City, Nigeria

**Abiodun M. Jimoh**

Department of International Studies and Diplomacy  
Benson Idahosa University  
Benin City Nigeria

**Thaddeus T. Ityonzughul**

Department of International Studies and Diplomacy  
Benson Idahosa University,  
Benin City, Nigeria

**Abstract**

*This work is an inquiry into the creation story as contained in the Bible where it is recorded that in the beginning, God created the heavens and earth. It seeks to answer the question that has been posed over time. That is, where was God and where did he live before he created the heaven and earth. Also asked is, If God created the heavens, how many are they? The paper disagrees with the view that God does not reside in heaven and that the end or ultimate goal of man should not be to go to heaven and be with God because God does not live in heaven. It further disagrees with the Big Bang theory used to explain the origin of the universe and biological theory that man originated from apes. It agrees with chapters of the Bible which says heaven is the throne of God and there he resides and the earth his foot stool. It is of the view that heaven is not just the place of residence of God but a place where he has his throne and from there, he presides over the universe while sitting on the throne. And because he is so big such that even the heaven cannot contain him,, his legs rests on the earth which serves as his footstool. In presiding over the universe, he judges and pronounce his judgment from his throne.*

**Keywords:** God, Heaven, Creation, Earth, Universe.

**Introduction**

Different theories or explanations have been used to trace the origin of the universe. One of such is the Big Bang Theory which states that the universe began as just a single point, expanded and stretched to grow as large as it is right now. This is said to have occurred over about 14billion years ago. The question that arises from this is, who created the universe that began to expand? The big Bang theory is based on two assumptions of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity and cosmological principle. However, some



literature claim it was proposed by Georges Lemaitre.<sup>1</sup> In their bid to explain the origin of man, biologists came out with the theory of evolutionary trend which states that man evolved from apes. However, they have been unable to explain why the evolution has discontinued. But followers of different religion, for example, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Traditional African Religion etc. believe that the universe was created by God who himself was not created but self-existence being having the qualities of Omnipotent (all powerful), Omnipresent (everywhere) and Omniscience (all knowledgeable).

The essential feature of the Big-bang model, a widely held theory of the evolution of the universe, is the emergence of the universe from a state of extremely high temperature and density, an explosion, so-called big bang that occurred 13.8 billion years ago. Although this type of universe was proposed by Russian mathematician Aleksandr Friedmann and Belgian astronomer Georges Lemaitre in the 1920s, the modern version was developed by Russian-born American physicist George Gamow and colleagues in the 1940s.

The big-bang model is based on two assumptions. The first is that Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity correctly describes the gravitational interaction of all matter. The second assumption, called the cosmological principle, states that an observer's view of the universe depends neither on the direction in which he looks nor on his location. This principle applies only to the large-scale properties of the universe, but it does imply that the universe has no edge, so that the big-bang origin occurred not at a particular point in space but rather throughout space at the same time. These two assumptions make it possible to calculate the history of the cosmos after a certain epoch called the Planck time. Scientists have yet to determine what prevailed before Planck time. After Albert Einstein published his theory of gravity, researchers realized that it predicted that the universe should be expanding, a finding confirmed by observations.

This video is an episode in Brian Greene's Daily Equation series. According to the big-bang model, the universe expanded rapidly from a highly compressed primordial state, which resulted in a significant decrease in density and temperature. Soon afterward, the dominance of matter over antimatter (as observed today) may have been established by processes that also predict proton decay. During this stage many types of elementary particles may have been present. After a few seconds, the universe cooled enough to allow the formation of certain nuclei. The theory predicts that definite amounts of hydrogen, helium, and lithium were produced. Their abundances they claim, agree with what is observed today. About one million years later the universe was sufficiently cool for atoms to form. The radiation that also filled the universe was then free to travel through space. This remnant of the early universe is the cosmic microwave background radiation—the “three degree” (actually 2.728 K) background radiation—discovered in 1965 by American physicists Arno A. Penzias and Robert W. Wilson.

The universe expanded from a highly compressed state, releasing enormous amounts of energy, which soon coalesced into grains of matter. In addition to

---

<sup>1</sup> www.britanica.com

accounting for the presence of ordinary matter and radiation, the model predicts that the present universe should also be filled with neutrinos, fundamental particles with no mass or electric charge. They claim possibility exists that other relics from the early universe may eventually be discovered. This is the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe which this paper does not accept. It is of the view that God created the heaven and earth in a process of six days.

### Review of Literature

Benny Hinn in his book, "Welcome Holy Spirit" notes that the spirit of the Lord called the Holy Spirit is a wind and fire and when poured out on man, gives him the ability to speak in tongues because it is a heavenly tornado which is not meant to destroy but to build. This he notes, is similar to what it did when in Genesis chapter one it is said that the wind blew over the face of the earth that was void. This imply that it also has creative powers and when it blows, the power of resurrection flows out of the innermost being like a river. According to him, the title "spirit of the living God" is used in association with the work of the Holy Spirit in making Gods words live and his children living epistles. Also, the Holy Spirit is like a wind which when it blows, guides and provides exceedingly beyond all we could ask or think. The Holy Spirit also transforms from being a sinner to a saint by drawing people's attention to God and then convict him of sin and of righteousness and judgment.<sup>2</sup>

According to the Bible, in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and by the sixth day, he had created all that existed on the earth including man. He rested on the seventh day after which he created a garden called Garden of Eden in which he placed the man and his wife, Eve. The Bible also records how Adam and his wife rebelled against him which caused him to chase them outofthe garden. Thereafter, his creature rebelled against him such that there was so much wickedness on earth that he could not imagine and every imagination of the hearth of man became evil causing God to repent of creating man. This led God to destroy his creatures with the flood while only Noah and his family and that was with him in an ark remained intact. Lucifer who had rebelled was also cast-out of heaven with fallen angels to the earth.<sup>3</sup>

John Hagee and Don Stewart are of the view that there are three heavens. The first heaven is that which we see with our natural eyes including the air we breathe and space that immediately surround the earth. The second is where Satan has his throne and dwell in with fallen angels. That is, the outer space made up of thesun, moon and stars. The third is where God has his throne and from there rules and reigns over the universe.<sup>4</sup>

On his part, Charles Wood in the Big Bang Theory notes that cosmologists attempt to reconstruct the about14 billion year old story of the universe. It is based on the silver of existence visible today and is used to illustrate the arc of

---

<sup>2</sup> 1 Benny Hinn, Welcome Holy Spirit, Tennessee, Thomas Nelson, 1982, pp. 67 -100

<sup>3</sup> Holy Bible Reference edition, King James version, Jet Move Publisher, 2004 pp. 1-6

<sup>4</sup> John Hagee, The three Heavens, www.jhn.org and Don Stewart, What are The Three Heaven, www. blueletterbible.org.

the observable universe as it thinned out and cooled down from an initially dense, hot state. This description boils down to the idea that the cosmos is expanding, a broad principle analogous to survival of the fittest in biology.<sup>5</sup>

Richard Potts is of the view that Human Evolution is a lengthy process of change by which people originated from apelike ancestors and that scientific evidence indicates that the physical and behavioral traits shared by all people evolved over a period of at least 6 million years. Humans he notes, are primates and that physical and genetic similarities show that the modern human species, *Homo sapiens*, has a very close relationship to another group of primate species, the apes. Humans and the so-called great apes (large apes) of Africa—chimpanzees (including bonobos, or the so-called pygmy chimpanzees) and gorillas—share a common ancestor that lived sometime between 8 million and 6 million years ago. According to him, the earliest humans evolved in Africa, and much of human evolution occurred on that continent. The fossils of early humans who lived between 6 million and 2 million years ago come entirely from Africa. Most scientists distinguish among 12 to 19 different species of early humans. Scientists do not all agree, however, about how the species are related or which ones simply died out. Many early human species, probably the majority of them, left no descendants. Scientists also debate over how to identify and classify particular species of early humans, and about what factors influenced the evolution and extinction of each species

Roberto polio in Aenesidemus of Cnossus Testimonia deals with the Greek skeptic philosopher Aenesidemus, who lived in the 1st century BC and who attempted to demonstrate the relative character of all judgments and opinions. Born in Knossos on the island of Crete, he taught at Alexandria, Egypt. Ten well-known arguments called tropoi for skepticism are attributed to him. He held that judgment must be suspended in seeking knowledge and that nothing is certain either in itself or through anything else. This principle seemed evident to him, as objects appear differently to people according to the perspective taken. He believed that proof of an assumption requires an infinite process of proof. That is, one assumption is based on another.

### **Before Creation**

The question that has been asked is, before creation of heaven and earth, where was God and where did he live. Before creation, God had no permanent place of abode as he was everywhere due to his omnipresent quality. That is, his ability or attribute of being everywhere at the same time. But in Genesis Chapter one, he decided to create one (a palace) and called it heaven and then created the earth for the things he had planned to create. Today and in the past, there exist or existed numerous kings who ruled over different parts of the world. Examples are England, Austria, Russia, Benin Kingdom, Ife, Lagos and South Africa amongst others. The kings or monarchs acting like the Almighty God who made them in his image and likeness, built permanent places of residence called palace. In the palaces, you find the kings court where he has the king seat. That is, the seat on which he sits to preside over the affairs of his people. These Kings

---

<sup>5</sup> Charles Wood, The Big Bang Theory: How The Universe Began, June 2019.

usually have a tool on which they place their feet and are surrounded by aids and chiefs.

In the same vain, God the king of kings and Lord of Lords probably felt the need for a permanent Place of residence hence he created the heaven which we can call the palace of God, the king of all kings. In that palace that is heaven, is a section which has Gods stool or throne where he seats to preside over the affairs of the entire universe, judge issues and pass judgment. To do this, he is surrounded by God the son, God the Holy Spirit, 24 Elders, Angels etc. When he seats on the throne, the heavenly hosts bow down in reverence, sing unto him and worship him and serve him day and night in his temple in which he dwells forever. 'After this, I beheld and lo great multitude which no man could number, of all nation and hundreds and peoples and tongues stood before the throne and before the lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands. And cried with a loud voice saying, salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne and unto the lamb. and all the angels stood round about the throne and about the elders and the four beasts and fell down before the throne on their faces and worshiped him saying, amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be unto our God forever and ever, amen'<sup>6</sup> As he sits on the throne, he is so bid that his feet rests on the earth. Hence heaven is his throne and the earth his foot stool.<sup>7</sup> Hence David in Psalms 100 verse 4 wrote that we can enter the gates of heaven with thanksgiving and the court of God with praise.

Thus, the answer to the question, where was God and where did he live before he created heaven is that he had no specific place of residence as he was everywhere due to his quality of being omnipresent. For the question, where is God now? the answer is he lives in heaven but still everywhere. And as to what should be to ultimate goal of man, it is to meet his creator who lives in heaven when he or she dies. The third heaven where God is and reign and rules the universe is a place of peace, love, community and worship surrounded by heavenly hosts. While on earth, Jesus who knew the serenity of heaven taught his disciples to pray that the kingdom of God come unto the earth as in heaven because he knows that if what obtains in heaven is replicated on earth, there will be no hatred, killings, wars etc.<sup>8</sup>

God embarked on creation for specific purposes. The heaven as his throne and other heavenly host to serve and worship him. He also created the earth for a purpose which is to provide a place for his creature and for them to serve and worship him. "And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne who liveth forever and ever. The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne and worship him that liveth forever and ever and cast their crowns before the throne saying, thou art worthy Lord, to receive glory and honour and power for thou has created all things and for thy pleasure, they were created".<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Holy Bible, Revelations Chapter 7 verses 9 -15

<sup>7</sup> Holy Bible, Isaiah Chapter 66 verse 1

<sup>8</sup> Holy Bible, Matthew Chapter 6 verse 1 - 5

<sup>9</sup> Holy Bible, Revelation Chapter 4 verses 9 - 11

What obtains at the palaces of royal father in Nigeria for example, is a microscopy of what happens in heaven as they are acting the way of he who created them in his image and likeness. After He had created heaven and earth, the earth was void or without form. That is was empty and was filled with darkness and water. In order to have more land to accommodate the things he was to create, God sent the Holy Spirit to move over the earth so some water could recede and create more space to accommodate what he would create. The Holy spirit like the mighty rushing wind as was on the day of Pentecost or the day of crossing the red sea by children of Israel,<sup>10</sup> After the holy Spirit had completed its assignment and there was much room to accommodate God creature, he set in motion his process of creation. He created light to reduce much darkness that existed, day, night, trees, herb, grass, animals, fishes etc. In order to replicate what obtains in heaven on earth, he created man to exercise control over his creatures as he does over all from heaven. He then proceeded to create a permanent place of residence for the man by creating the Garden of Eden for him to live in. Just as God is not alone in heaven, he saw that Adam was alone which he said was not good so Eve, his wife was created to be his companion. The garden was created because he needed an environment where He could relate with man or have fellowship with him. Hence in the cool of the evening, He would descend physically to the place of fellowship. It has been argued that in Exodus 33 verse 20, it is recorded that no man can see God face and live, so how come Adam did not die. The first man, Adam, had the privilege of seen God and lived as long as he kept the law governing the Garden of Eden, the place of fellowship with God. Adam however lost the privilege the moment he violated the law and though he did not die physically, he died spiritually. The creation story as recorded in the Bible therefore testifies to the Omni existence of God at the beginning. This Omnipresent quality coupled with omnipotent quality, the quality of being the most powerful caused him to take decisions that nothing on the universe has been able to replicate.

So this was the state of affairs until Adam and Eve rebelled against him and he chased them out of the garden. This set on the process of wondering about which in history and archeology is said to be the way of life of the early man beginning with Adam and Eve. The man God created was created with brain to think which is above the capacity of others created by God. Referred to as the early Stone Age man or Homo erectus, he made beautiful and finely worked stones tools in form of picks and bifaces or hand axes called Acheulian tools. He was a gatherer of wild fruits, seeds, leaves and engaged in hunting. Thereafter, he invented fire accidentally probably through lightening which caused dry grass or bush to burn and left roasted animals behind which when eaten was sweeter than raw meat. Light was also used for warmth in cold weather, hunting, lighten darkness, cook food and protect him against wild animals'.<sup>11</sup>

The late Stone Age saw the emergence of the true man, Homo sapiens who used polished tools that had wooden handles, bows and arrows were invented to make hunting easier with tiny stone tools called microliths. Polished ground stones axes were also used. This early man found that the seeds of the fruits he

---

<sup>10</sup> Holy Bible, Acts Chapter 2 and Exodus Chapter 12

<sup>11</sup> [www.britanica.com/homoerectus](http://www.britanica.com/homoerectus).

ate and threw away had germinated, grew and produced fruits. This led to the discovery of agriculture and animal husbandry. But the Man God chased out of the Garden of Eden was used to agriculture and animal husbandry as God had charged him to till and maintain the place which had different plants and trees and took charge of all animals God created. This with the discovery of caves which provided shelter from sun and rain made man to live in groups and control his environment. He then had leisure time due to settled life to think of what to do to improve his living condition.<sup>12</sup> As population increased, the need for laws to ensure peace and harmony ensued leading to the idea of leadership or kingship, social grouping, division of labour, accumulation of wealth etc. Those who emerged as kings or rulers then built palaces from where they ruled over their people just as he who made man in his image and likeness does from heaven after creation. Man again advanced to using bronze and iron instruments that made farming, hunting, fishing etc. easier.<sup>13</sup>

The wandering man that was chased away from the Garden of Eden became the progenitor of all human beings on earth. And as his seeds multiplied, sin pervaded the face of the earth. And as sin pervaded the face of the earth man's inhumanity to man increased because every imagination of the thought of man was always evil. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thought of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on earth and it grieved him at his heart."<sup>14</sup> This was the situation that caused God to decide to destroy man and all that he had created with the flood. But Noah and his family found favour with God who preserved them to start a new generation of people who God believed would fear and obey him.

After the flood, Noah's offering pleased God so much that he made a covenant of the rainbow never again to curse the earth as he had done or to destroy his creation with the flood. However, every man would henceforth shoulder the consequences of his or her actions.<sup>15</sup> Noah then produced the present generation of humans on earth including Abraham and his seeds with whom God also entered into covenants. But sin on the face of the earth did not abate. Hence to appease God, his maker, man began to offer animals and their blood as sacrifice. These offerings included burnt offerings, grain offerings, peace offering, sin offering and guilt offering amongst others.<sup>16</sup> As sin continued to increase and the blood of animals was no longer sufficient to pacify God and since he had entered into a covenant with man, he out of his love sent Jesus, his only begotten son to mediate between Him and man.<sup>17</sup> When Jesus came, he carried out his father's mandate by preaching the gospel to lost souls, healing the sick, conducting deliverance and paid the ultimate price of giving up his life to die on the cross for the sins of man. This ushered in redemption.

---

<sup>12</sup> [www.Britanica.com/Earlyman](http://www.Britanica.com/Earlyman),

<sup>13</sup> Chris Stinger, the Origin and Evolution of Homo sapiens. [www.royalsocietypublishing.org](http://www.royalsocietypublishing.org)

<sup>14</sup> Holy Bible, King James Version, Genesis Chapter 6

<sup>15</sup> Holy Bible, King James Version, Genesis chapter 8: 20-22.

<sup>16</sup> Holy Bible King James Version, Leviticus Chapters 1-5

<sup>17</sup> Holy Bible King James Version, John Chapter 3 verse 16

Consequently, anyone who believed in what he did become saved by his death and resurrection. He then begins to live a sinless life on earth as he puts on the righteousness of Christ. He promised that those who believed in him would be with in paradise.<sup>18</sup> That should be the ultimate goal of the believer, paradise being a place of peace (Isaiah 65:25), without sin (Revelations 21:27), a place of blessing and happiness (Psalms 16:110 and where believer from all nations will gather (Revelations 7: 9) and be united with Christ and God. Heaven should also be the ultimate desire or goal of believers because of the mansion that awaits him there to inherit. (1 John 14:1-3).The desire of any Christian would therefore be to seek first the kingdom of God. As the sin of one man (Adam) death came that sinners go to hell, the death and resurrection of Chris brought redemption that the redeemed may have eternal life in heaven through him.

Heaven should be the ultimate goal of the believer because it is a place where everything operates according to God's will. It is a place of peace, love, joy, community and worship, where God is surrounded by a heavenly court and healingly being, where there is no sickness, disease, pain sorrow or weeping. The streets are paved with gold, gates made of pearl, walls made of precious jewels and thus a place of immense beauty not comparable to any beautiful city on earth.<sup>19</sup> It is a wonderful place of service and worship, serve God with your talent, worship without distraction, and fellowship without fear, learn without fatigue and rest without boredom. A city designed and built by God and a better country or place to live in.<sup>20</sup>

In heaven, believer who make it there will have access to the tree of life that is in the middle of its streets, which bears 12 fruits and its leaves that bring healing of the nations.(Revelations 22:2), no hunger and no thirst (Revelations 7:15-17) making heaven will afford the believer the opportunity to participate in the greatest social event that will take place in heaven i.e. the marriage supper of the lamb and "blessed are those who are called to marriage supper".<sup>21</sup> When a believer is qualified to make heaven, he/she is raptured and escapes the great tribulation that will take place on the face of the earth thereafter. Whose features will be unprecedented religious persecution, global religious deception, untold global economic problem and abominable religious practices.<sup>22</sup>

Going to heaven affords the believer the opportunity to appear before the judgment seat of Christ and be in his presence (John 14:5), see him face to face and behold his glory (John 17:24), be glorified with him and reign with him(Romans 8: 17 - 18) and inherit all things (Revelation 21:7). The believer then receive rewards and crowns for his or her work on earth. These are, the crown of faithfulness (1 Corinthians 9: 24 -25), crown for soul winning (1 These. 2:19), crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4.8), crown of life James (1:12), crown of glory (1Peter 5:4), crown of gold (Revelations 4:4)<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> Holy Bible King James Version, Luke Chapter 23 Verse 43

<sup>19</sup> Holy Bible King James Version, Revelations Chapter 21 Verses 9-21

<sup>20</sup> David Burns, Heaven isa Wonderful Place,February 25, 1996.

<sup>21</sup> Holy Bible King James Version, Revelations Chapter 19 Verses 1 -9

<sup>22</sup> RCCG Sunday School Manual,30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 2021- 2022.

<sup>23</sup> RCCG Sunday School Manual,30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 2021- 2022.



### Conclusion

This paper has attempted to examine the question as to “where was God when he created the heavens and the earth” That is where was his place of abode. It notes that God initially had no specific place of abode as he manifested his omnipresent quality until he decided to create one. It further examined the question of what should be the ultimate goal of man at the end of his journey on earth. This paper is of the opinion that the ultimate goal of the believer after his journey on earth should be to make heaven and be with his maker since that is where his soul and spirit will return to. It also disagrees with the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe.

### Bibliography.

- Benny Hinn, *Welcome Holy Spirit, Tennessee*, Thomas Nelson, 1982, pp. 67 -100  
Charles Wood, *The Big Bang Theory: How The Universe Began*, June 2019  
Chris Stinger, *The Origin and Evolution of Homo Sapiens*. [www.royalsocietypublishing.org](http://www.royalsocietypublishing.org)  
Don Stewart, *What are The Three Heaven*, [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org).  
Holy Bible Reference edition, King James version, Jet Move Publisher, 2004 pp. 1-6  
John Hagee, *The three Heavens*, [www.jhn.org](http://www.jhn.org) [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org).  
Potts, Richard B. "*Human Evolution*." Microsoft® Encarta® 2009 [DVD]. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation, 2008.  
David Burns, *Heaven is a Wonderful Place*, February 25, 1996.  
RCCG Sunday School Manual, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 2021- 2022.  
[www.britanica.com/homoerectus](http://www.britanica.com/homoerectus).  
[www.Britanica.com/Earlyman](http://www.Britanica.com/Earlyman)