

an atlas begins with two maps. A map of the world and a map of the United States would overlap. The first would include a great deal of territory not included in the second. The second would include a great deal of detail not mentioned in the first. This is exactly the relation between the two creation accounts. Genesis 1 describes the creation of the universe as a whole. Gen.2:4-25 gives a more detailed account of the creation of man and says nothing about the creation of matter, of light, of the heavenly bodies, or of plants and animals, except to refer to the creation of animals as having taken place at an earlier time.

It is sometimes said that the creation story of Gen. 1 begins with a watery chaos and that of Gen. 2 with a dry earth. There is no contradiction in this because the two begin at different places in the whole series of creative events.

It is sometimes alleged that Gen.2 gives a different order of events of creation than Gen.1. Actually however only two creative acts are involved in Gen.2: the creation of man and that of woman. There is no contradiction between the order in which they are described and that of Gen.1.

Gen.2 does not describe the creation of vegetation, as some interpreters allege, but simply mentions that God planted a garden. Even this act took place before the creation of man. Only by reading extremely primitive concepts into Gen.2 could one insist on interpreting it as meaning that God created man and then laid him on the shelf for a few years while the garden that he proceeded to plant should grow large enough to be a satisfactory place for man to live. The verbs in Gen.2:8,9 must be interpreted, in normal fashion, as implying an English pluperfect.

The same is true of v.19 where creation of the animals is specifically referred to. God, looking for a companion for man, brought before him the animals