

here of Genesis and of course most of us ~~α~~ have always thought we knew exactly what that verse meant. I thought so until I began ~~to~~ preparing to teach O.T. History and then I found there are many different theories ~~fo~~ of what verse one here means, and I had pretty near come to a conclusion within the last three years that it means ~~mx~~ something different than that I had ever heard (?). But in the beginning God created heaven and earth; however you interpret it , it says that God is the one who created it, and it says ~~was~~ what was created, to that we can all agree--no question to that. That is clear. ~~But~~ Now, beyond that we have various possibilities, and all your liberal scholars today, without exception, all agree (I don't think they are necessarily right) that this should be translated, "In the beginning of God's creating heaven and earth, when the earth was without form and void, and darkness upon the face of the deep, then the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the water, " and if you take it that way, as the RSV translates it (I don't think it's necessary at all, but I do think its possible) , it still says that all ~~α~~ things were created and that God created them. The basic teaching is still there if you take it that way. To me the biggest reason for not taking it that way is that all the ancient translations take it _____.

But when you read it , "In the beginning ~~α~~ God created the heaven and the earth," What is meant by the heavens and the earth? I am inclined now to think that that means all matter. That means the heavens and the earth is the totality of the universe --the matter of which ~~it~~ is composed. It means that God brought this into exist^ence and that was the beginning of the universe ~~perper~~ proper.

And when that took place we are not told.