

Bara'

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In the beginning God created (bara) the heaven and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1)

...does *bara'* imply creation from nothing? Again the answer must be, 'Not necessarily'. Adam was created, not from nothing, but from 'the dust'. Eve was created, not from nothing, but from Adam.

Creation is not necessarily from nothing, yet in verse 1 the word is used to assert that there was a time when this Universe as we now know it did not exist. The Universe *as such* is not eternal.

The position is put most clearly in the words of Hebrews II. 3 'Through faith we understand that the worlds (ages, aeons) were framed (prepared, perfected) by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear'.

Beyond this the Bible does not go, for the simple reason that beyond this the human mind cannot go. The material universe was made from something non-material which was itself the production of 'word', the absolute, final, creative power of the One who alone is uncreate, the *eternal*.

(Creation Revealed: A Study of Genesis Chapter One in the Light of Modern Science by F. A. Filby, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1965, 42, Paragraph Structure Modified)