

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 4: God is the Creator

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. This lesson covers biblical truth about God as the Creator of all things.

MAIN TRUTH, CENTRAL SCRIPTURE, AND OUTLINE

God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He is Creator of all created things in both the physical and spiritual worlds.

(Genesis 1:1-2:3)

God is the Creator of all things. Nothing existed before Him. He spoke everything into existence by the word of His power and gave everything in creation its function and purpose. He formed the earth on the first three days and filled it on the next three days. The Lord was satisfied with all of His creative work and called it “very good.” As the One who formed and gave purpose to all things, God alone is worthy of all worship and devotion. The sovereign Lord ordered all of creation so that it would reflect His perfect character and bring Him glory.

1. Creation was the work of the Trinity (Gen. 1:1-2)

God existed eternally and has no beginning, but the universe had a beginning. Before God created the universe, nothing existed but God. As the Trinity, God was in perfect harmony and sufficiency within Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God did not create because He was lonely, bored, or sad. He did not need to create anything to be fulfilled. He created everything for His own glory. God is distinct and separate from everything He created. He alone is the eternal, uncreated, self-existent, self-sufficient God.

- A. The purpose of creation – Creation exists to bring glory to God.
- B. The means of creation – God made everything out of nothing.

2. Creation was ordered by God (Gen. 1:3-2:3)

God made everything ready to function and to bring Him glory. God made man in His own image and delegated to him the authority to rule over creation and enjoy all that He had made. All people should love and obey their Creator, and will only experience true blessing when they honor Him as their designer and Lord.

- A. God formed creation in days 1-3 of creation week.
- B. God filled creation in days 4-6 of creation week.

MEMORY VERSES

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Isaiah 40:28 *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

Colossians 1:16 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.*

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The following statements are taken from *What We Teach: Doctrinal Statement of Liberty Baptist Church*.

We teach that there is but one living and true God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4; 1 Timothy 2:5), an infinite, all-knowing, self-existent Spirit (John 4:24), perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)—each equally deserving worship and obedience.

We teach that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace (Psalm 145:8-9; 1 Corinthians 8:6). He is the creator of all things (Genesis 1:1-31). As the only absolute and omnipotent ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Psalm 103:19; Romans 11:36). His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with mankind. As creator He is Father to all men (Ephesians 4:6), but He is spiritual Father only to believers (Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 6:18). He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass (Ephesians 1:11). He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events (1 Chronicles 29:11). In His sovereignty He is neither author nor approver of sin (Habakkuk 1:13; John 8:38-47), nor does He abridge the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures (1 Peter 1:17).

We teach that God the Father has graciously chosen from eternity past those whom He would have as His own (Ephesians 1:4-6). We teach that God the Father is sovereign in salvation, and we teach that all people are responsible to repent and believe the Gospel for salvation. Divine sovereignty and human responsibility in salvation are both clearly taught in Scripture. God becomes, upon adoption, Father to His own (John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5; Hebrews 12:5-9).

We teach that Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, possesses all the divine excellencies, and in these He is coequal, consubstantial, and coeternal with the Father (John 10:30; 14:9). We teach that God the Father created according to His own will, through His Son, Jesus Christ, by whom all things continue in existence and in operation (John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:2).

The following notes are from Pastor Stan's sermon series, *The God of Creation* (Summer 2021).

Subject: *The God of Creation – Part 1*

Scripture: *Genesis 1:1-13*

This chapter is the foundation of everything else in the Bible. It is the very foundation of our faith. If we believe what is recorded in Genesis 1, we will believe the rest of the Bible, but if we don't believe what is written here, we will doubt other things in Scripture.

Hebrews 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

Genesis comes from a Greek word that means "origin, beginning." The first chapter of Genesis is one of the most God-centered chapters in the Bible. God is mentioned by name 32 times in 31 verses. If we add the use of personal pronouns that refer to God, He is mentioned a total of 43 times. On the first page of the Bible we understand who is in charge. In the first chapter, we find God controls all the action. God created (vs. 1), God moved (vs. 2), God said (vs. 3), God saw and divided or separated (vs. 4), God called or named (vs. 5), God said (vs. 6), God made (vs. 7), God called (vs. 8), and God approved of all He had done (vs. 10, 12).

The first chapter of Genesis destroys all false teachings and philosophies of the world. These are some of the false views that our children and youth encounter in the classroom.

- A. Atheism (no god) – The Bible says there is a God and He created all things.
- B. Polytheism (many gods) – The Bible says there is only one true God and He created everything by Himself.
- C. Pantheism (all is god) – The Bible says that God is separate from all created things.
- D. Evolution (all things evolved from the simple to the complex over billions of years) The Bible says that God made everything in six literal 24-hour days.
- E. Materialism (matter is eternal) – The Bible says that nothing existed until God made it.
- F. Fatalism (the world has no purpose) – The Bible says that God had a purpose in creation.

Evolution continues to be a popular belief is because it provides a convenient alternative to belief in a Creator God. If there is a God who created everything, that means we are dependant on Him and accountable to Him. Evolutionist Sir Arthur Keith said, "Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it because the only alternative is special creation, and that is unthinkable." Thomas Huxley said, "It is clear that the doctrine of evolution is directly antagonistic to that of Creation."

In the first chapter of Genesis we find the written record of God's creation. We not only learn about creation, but most important, we learn about the Creator. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself. What can we learn about God from the creation record in Genesis?

1. GOD IS ETERNAL – "In the beginning God"

Genesis means "origin, beginning," and it tells us about the beginning of all things except God. He had no beginning, but He has always been. In the beginning He was already there.

Deuteronomy 33:27 *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

Psalms 90:2 *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

1 Timothy 1:17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

2. GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT

He depends on no one else or nothing else for His being. God is the only uncreated being. He is the only independent being.

John 5:26 *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.*

3. GOD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT

God did not need anything that He created. He has no needs. He lacks nothing. Steven Lawson said this about God's self-sufficiency: "God needs nothing. There are no deficiencies in Him. His creation cannot provide Him with anything that He finds missing in Himself. He lacks nothing, while possessing everything. He had no inadequacies, no incompleteness, no gaps, no voids to be filled. God is missing no vital element, no critical part. The strongest person can give Him no power. The smartest intellect can provide Him with no knowledge. The richest tycoon can give Him no resources. He is entirely complete in Himself. He is self-contained, having within Himself whatever He needs."

Acts 17:24-25 ²⁴ *God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.*

God does not need believers, supporters, advisers, servants, or worshipers. He upholds all things, but He needs no one to uphold Him.

4. GOD CREATED ALL THINGS – "God created the heaven and the earth"

The heaven and the earth represent all things in the universe. God created all things, seen and unseen, all things physical and spiritual, all things on earth and in heaven. God is supreme and sovereign (controls all things). In the ancient world, all false gods were in control of some things, but not all things. These false gods were localized and limited, unlike the one true God who has all power over all things. There is no maverick molecule in His universe.

John 1:1-3 ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Colossians 1:16-17 ¹⁶ *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers:*

all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

A. God created by His sovereign choice

He was under no obligation. He created everything by His free will. He didn't ask for permission or advice. There was no one to ask!

B. God created out of nothing

Hebrews 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

God did not use pre-existing materials because there were none. This is called creation "ex nihilo" (out of nothing).

C. God created by His sovereign command

He spoke and it was done. This is called "fiat" creation ("let it be"). God created all things without any effort or difficulty. All the billions and billions of stars were just as easy as a tiny insect or worm. See Genesis 1:16, "He made the stars also."

D. God created in an orderly way

We see how the Scripture unfolds, "the first day, the second day..."

E. God created by perfect wisdom

He had a time and place for everything and everything was put in its place. The word "universe" speaks of the unity and diversity of creation. Everything is different and yet everything works together the way God designed it. This universe is not a chaos; it is a cosmos (Gk. for "world" which means beautiful, orderly arrangement).

5. GOD REVEALED THE DETAILS OF HIS CREATION

When God made everything, no eyewitnesses were present. God revealed the truth to Moses and it was recorded and preserved for all time.

Acts 7:22 *And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.*

Moses was raised in Egypt and learned all the wisdom and religion of Egypt including their beliefs about the beginning of the world. But God taught Moses the truth he needed to know and the truth we need to know. From ancient times, people choose what they want to believe about creation. Everybody will believe the truth or a lie.

When God created all things He revealed Himself through what He made.

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.*

Romans 1:18-20 ¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

But when God recorded Genesis 1 and all Scripture that followed, He revealed so much more about Himself. And with this greater amount of truth comes a greater accountability. People who reject the biblical account of creation are condemned and deserve the worst punishment.

6. GOD CREATED ALL THINGS FOR HIS GLORY AND PLEASURE

God created all things for Himself. If you ask, “Why did God create this world?” you would get all kinds of answers, but many people would either say, “I don’t know” or “He made it for us to enjoy.” God had a purpose in creation...to bring Him glory and pleasure.

Isaiah 6:3 *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

Revelation 4:11 *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

Subject: *The God of Creation – Part 2*

Scripture: *Genesis 1:1-25*

Last week we began a study of Genesis 1, and we learned that this first chapter is filled with references to God. It is one of the most God-centered chapters in the Bible. We notice that God is the one in control of all things: He created (vs. 1), moved (vs. 2), said (vs. 3), saw and divided (vs. 4), called or named (vs. 5), and said everything was good. Everything was created by God and for God. He is center of attention. Now that runs counter to what many people really believe. They think that everything revolves around them and their wants and needs, when it actually everything revolves around God.

Romans 11:36 *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

God is the source, the sustainer, and the end of all things. What does God reveal about Himself in creation?

1. GOD IS ETERNAL – “In the beginning God”

2. GOD IS SELF-EXISTENT – He depends on nothing or no one else for His existence.

3. GOD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT – He did not need to create anything. He has no needs.

4. GOD CREATED ALL THINGS

- A. God created by His sovereign choice – He was not obligated to create anything.
- B. God created out of nothing – Artists paint pictures, but they must have paint. Contractors build buildings, but they must have materials. But God made everything without any pre-existing materials.
- C. God created by His sovereign command – He spoke and it was done.

***Psalms 33:6, 9** By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*

- D. God created in an orderly way – day one, day two... (the entire universe)
- E. God created by perfect wisdom – He is the Master Designer.

5. GOD REVEALED THE DETAILS OF HIS CREATION – He told Moses.

6. GOD CREATED ALL THINGS FOR HIS GLORY AND PLEASURE

If God thought it was important to reveal the details of creation, then it just stands to reason that we ought to look carefully at what He revealed.

THE SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CREATION (Gen. 1:1-2)

- A. The beginning – everything had a beginning except God
- B. The Creator – the one true God created (Heb. *bara*, used of God’s creative work)
- C. The creation – the heaven and the earth (all things in the universe)
- D. The unfinished state of creation – “without form and void” – unformed and unfilled. The means not finished in its shape and not inhabited by its creatures, but that changed quickly. “and darkness was on the face of the deep” – at first the earth’s surface was covered with water before the dry land appeared on day 3 (vs. 9).

***Psalms 24:1-2** The earth is the LORD’S; and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.*

- E. The Spirit of God moved upon (was hovering over) the waters – the words suggest an expectation that something is about to happen. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all involved in creation.

DAY ONE OF CREATION (Gen. 1:3-5)

- A. God spoke and created light – He created instantly and without effort. God is sovereign and controls all things.
- B. God saw the light and it was good – everything God made was good

***James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

- C. God divided (separated) the light from the darkness – God created things differently and separated them one from the other. He is the author of order, not confusion. Someone said: “Order is the first law of heaven.” Soon after this God separated the waters above the firmament and the waters under the firmament; He separated the waters and the dry land. He separated the sun, moon, and stars. And on day 6 (Gen. 1:27) He created male and female, and separated them one from the other. He had a place for everything and everything in its place.
- D. God called (named) the light Day and the darkness Night

Isaiah 5:20 *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

- E. God created all things in six literal 24-hour days – Day one of creation was a 24-hour day. When God spoke all things into existence it didn’t take millions of years for it to happen.

In our first message we briefly mentioned evolution as a false teaching about our universe. Evolution teaches that all things are produced by time and chance. To believe in evolution you have to believe that all things were created over a long period of time. There is also a view called “theistic evolution” that teaches God made all things, but He used the process of evolution over long periods of time to do it. Some believe the “days” of creation are not literal 24-hour days, but ages to make room for evolutionary changes. How do we know these were 24-hour days and not ages as some people believe and teach?

- 1) The plain meaning of scripture supports 24-hour days – The cardinal rule of Bible interpretation is this: if the plain sense makes sense seek no other sense. “The evening and the morning were the first day” – This is why the Jewish people consider the start of every day at sundown. ***Psalms 55:17*** *Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.* If God used the word “day” to stand for an age or long period of time He would have said so.
- 2) The primary meaning of the word “day” (Heb. *yom*) is a 24-hour day – the Hebrew word *yom* is found more than 1,900 times in the OT, but only 65 times does it refer to a period of time rather than 24 hours.
- 3) When a numerical adjective such as “first, second...” is used with the Hebrew word for day it always refers to a literal 24-hour day
- 4) Other scripture refers to the six days of creation as literal 24-hour days.

Exodus 20:8-11 ⁸ *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.* ⁹ *Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work:* ¹⁰ *But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:* ¹¹ *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

To create everything in six 24-hour days was no problem for God, and it should be no problem for us to believe He did it.

Hebrews 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

Genesis 1 and 2 reveal God's great work of creation in six days. The rest of the Bible reveals God's greater work of salvation that covers a long period of time. Salvation was planned in eternity before the foundation of the world. It was accomplished when Christ came into the world to die on the cross as the Lamb of God for the sins of the world. Salvation is applied by the Holy Spirit as He opens our heart to repent and believe the Gospel.

All of us can say, "God has created me," but can you say, "God has saved me?" Just like creation, salvation is a special work that only God can do. And just like creation, the work of God in salvation is powerful, unmistakable and it brings Him glory.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Subject: *The God of Creation – Part 3*

Scripture: *Genesis 1:1-23*

As we start another school year we should pray for our schools, teachers, and students, and we should remember that schools don't always teach our children what they need to know. This is especially true when it comes to creation and the beginning of the universe.

That's why the church and the home are so important. It is our responsibility to teach the truth and expose error and misinformation. More often than not our children are being taught the theory of evolution as if it were scientific fact. Evolution teaches the survival of the fittest, but it cannot account for the arrival of the first. People believe that everything began with a Big Bang, but the truth is that everything began with a big God. God preserved the reliable record of creation in Genesis 1-2.

John MacArthur in his book *The Battle for the Beginning* writes: "The Bible is supreme truth, and therefore it is the standard by which scientific theory should be evaluated, not vice versa. And the Scripture always speaks with absolute authority. It is as authoritative when it instructs us as it is when it commands us. Although many have tried to set science against Scripture, science has never disproved one jot or tittle of the Bible and it never will. It is therefore a serious mistake to imagine that modern scientists can speak more authoritatively than Scripture on the subject of origins. Scripture is God's own eyewitness account of what happened in the beginning" (p. xxii, xxiii).

MacArthur continues: "The Bible gives a clear and cogent account of the beginnings of the cosmos and humanity. There is absolutely no reason for an intelligent mind to balk at accepting it as a literal account of the origin of our universe. There is no valid reason to doubt or distrust the biblical record of creation, and there is certainly no need to adjust the biblical account to try to make it fit the latest fads in evolutionary theory" (p. xxviii, xxix).

In revealing how He created all things, God revealed important things about Himself. God reveals His attributes through His actions, and one of His greatest actions is creation: “In the beginning God...”

1. GOD IS ETERNAL AND SELF-EXISTENT

All people must say what the Apostle Paul said: “I am what I am by the grace of God.” Only God can say, “I AM.”

2. GOD IS GREAT

Creation is an expression of His greatness. A few years ago Lee Strobel made a video called “Case for a Creator” in which he mentioned a book about Earth called *The Privileged Planet*. Two things are unique about this planet: 1) Earth is the only place in the universe that can sustain life; and 2) Earth is the place from which we can observe everything else God made. God gave us an atmosphere that is like a window to look out and see the rest of the universe.

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork.*

“The sun will burn your eyes out from a distance of 92 million miles and do you expect to casually stroll into the presence of its maker?”

3. GOD IS GOOD

Creation is an expression of His goodness. Over and over God said, “It is good...very good.” Even the darkness is good. There is no direct statement or implication that the darkness was evil. Everything God made was good. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. The darkness provided a backdrop for the moon and stars to shine (vs. 16).

4. GOD IS OMNIPOTENT (all-powerful)

He spoke and all things came into existence.

Romans 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

5. GOD IS OMNISCIENT (all-knowing)

As the Master Designer, He made everything perfectly.

Psalms 104:24 *O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.*

Proverbs 8:22-30

6. GOD IS TRANSCENDENT (above and beyond all creation)

God is separate from His creation and supreme over creation. This destroys the teaching of pantheism that God is all and all is God.

7. GOD IS IMMANENT (personally involved with creation)

The Holy Spirit moved upon the face of the waters (vs. 2). Douglas Kelly writes: “This ‘brooding’ of the Spirit of God over the waters is a major detail in the creation account, not a minor one. It demonstrates vividly the biblical worldview of a God whose hand and direct presence are never lifted from the elements and working of the material order” (cited in MacArthur, *Battle for the Beginning*, 47).

God was intimately involved in the creation of Adam and Eve. This destroys the false teaching of deism that God set everything in motion and then removed himself.

8. GOD IS SOVEREIGN (in control of all things)

God created (vs. 1), moved upon (vs. 2), spoke (vs. 3), saw (vs. 4), divided (vs. 4), called (vs. 5), made (vs. 7), set (vs. 17), and blessed (vs. 22). Creation is not a process that God started; it is something He completed. He is the source of all, the sustainer of all, and the reason for all things. As R. C. Sproul said, there are “no maverick molecules” in God’s universe.

Many people in the world stand in awe of science and technology. Some people stand in awe of creation. But all people should stand in awe of the Creator.

***Psalms 33:6-9** ⁶By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. ⁷He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. ⁸Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. ⁹For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*

9. GOD IS ORDERLY

Someone said, “Order is the first law of heaven.” God had a place for everything and He put everything in its place. God separated (divided) things one from the other (light and darkness, the waters under the firmament and the waters above the firmament, the waters and the earth, the lights in the heaven (sun, moon, and stars). He separated time into days...day one...day two.... These were literal 24-hour days.

We see that God first created the environment and then the creatures to live in that environment:

Day 1: light and dark

Day 4: lights of the day and night (sun, moon, stars)

Day 2: sky and seas

Day 5: birds and fish

Day 3: dry land

Day 6: land animals and humans

We see another phrase repeated in this chapter, “after his kind” (vs. 11, 12, 21, 24, 25). This destroys the theory of evolution.

F. B. Meyer also said, “If God maintains the sun and planets in bright and ordered beauty, He can keep us.”

10. GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY

God explained to us exactly how He created everything, and we can trust what He tells us. He has not left us to wonder and speculate. He has told us all we need to know.

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

If we trust what God tells us about creation, we should trust what He tells us about salvation and everything else in life.

One of the leading proponents of evolution and naturalism (view that the universe is all there is, was, or ever will be), Dr. Carl Sagan wrote this near the end of his life: “Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves” (cited in MacArthur, *Battle for the Beginning*, xiv). He was wrong. There is hope. There is a Savior.

Subject: *The God of Creation – Part 4*

Scripture: *Genesis 1:24-31*

From time to time I have mentioned that the Bible has some major themes that run through it from Genesis to Revelation: the black thread of sin and death; the scarlet thread of redemption; and the golden thread of God’s glory and grace. This golden thread of God’s glory is the first theme of the Bible as we read the profound record of God’s creation.

We have read what God did on the sixth day of creation week. God made everything in six literal 24-hour days. This is an amazing record that reveals some things about creation and some things about the Creator. This world speaks of “Mother Nature” and “the Man Upstairs” which is a form of blasphemy because it undermines the truth of our Creator God.

Two profound truths are found in Genesis 1. All creation had a beginning and all creation had a Creator. The false teaching of evolution tries to account for creation without a Creator. There is another false teaching called naturalism. This is the view that the universe or the natural world is all there is, was, or ever will be.

Dr. Carl Sagan wrote this near the end of his life: “Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves” (cited in MacArthur, *Battle for the Beginning*, xiv). He was wrong. There is help and there is hope because there is a God and He is the creator, sustainer, and redeemer.

1. God is eternal and self-existent
2. God is great
3. God is good
4. God is omnipotent (all-powerful)
5. God is omniscient (all-knowing)
6. God is transcendent (above and beyond creation)
7. God is immanent (personally involved with creation)
8. God is sovereign (in control of all things)
9. God is orderly

Someone said, “Order is the first law of heaven.” God had a place for everything and He put everything in its place. God separated (divided) things one from the other (light and darkness, the waters under the firmament and the waters above the firmament, the waters and the earth, the lights in the heaven (sun, moon, and stars). He separated time into days...day one...day two.... These were literal 24-hour days. God first created the environment and then the creatures to live in that environment:

Day 1: light and dark

Day 4: lights of the day and night (sun, moon, stars)

Day 2: sky and seas

Day 5: birds and fish

Day 3: dry land

Day 6: land animals and humans

We see further evidence of this in Genesis 2:8, where God first planted the Garden of Eden and then placed Adam and Even in that garden.

Genesis 2:8 *And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

We see another phrase repeated in Genesis 1, “after his kind” (vs. 11, 12, 21, 24, 25). This destroys the theory of evolution.

The “laws of nature” are actually laws of God and they make it possible to do modern science and technology. The existence of order and natural law are evidence of an orderly God who makes and maintains all created things by these laws. Ray Comfort placed some leaves in a neat row to see if his wife would notice. She did because it was evident someone had placed them there.

Even after the fall of man and the worldwide flood, the world still operates in an orderly and predictable way.

Genesis 8:22 *While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

Dr. Charles Stine, an organic chemist and for many years the Director of Research for DuPont Chemical Company gave this wonderful testimony about God: “The world about us, far more intricate than any watch, filled with checks and balances or a hundred varieties, marvelous beyond even the imagination of the most skilled scientific investigator, this beautiful and intricate creation, bears the signature of its Creator, graven in its works.”

10. God is trustworthy

God explained to us exactly how He created everything, and we can trust what He tells us. He has not left us to wonder and speculate. He has told us all we need to know.

Hebrews 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

If we don't trust what God says about creation, how can we trust what He says about salvation, the Christian life, heaven, hell, and judgment? If we trust what God tells us about creation, we should trust what He tells us about everything else.
