

CREATION:
The Origins
of the
Universe

By

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Lessons/Handouts

Recommended Resources

INTRODUCTION

A study of Creation is foundational to the Christian Faith. In this study we will take a look at the first couple of thousand years of history as we examine Genesis 1-11, scientific facts, and more!

This study has originated from the notes that I created for a 3 month multi-generational Sunday School at the church I was a member of during my early adulthood. It was originally inspired by my mentor Vincent Newfield's Sunday School class on Creation which I was privileged to take twice during my teens, helping compile his notes and help spearhead an effort to create a curriculum for his ministry to offer. While that never materialized, the themes and intertwined philosophies, debates, and truths of Genesis and Creation have become a passion and basis for a large portion of my Biblical worldview. Thanks, Vincent! And most of all, thank You, Lord Jesus, for stirring my heart by Your Spirit to cherish Your Word!

I and FMM pray that this curriculum will be a blessing to Disciples of Christ around the world!

Grace, Truth and Peace in Christ alone,

Ryan Marks

Lesson 1

Introduction to Class, Wisdom and the Bible

Focus of this class: Search for and find the Truth, Wisdom, Understanding, and Instruction and don't let go of it!

Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.
Prov 23:23 (ESV)

Question #1 What should I invest my time/life in? **Pursue Godly Wisdom**

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; **8** they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. **9** He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! **10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! Psalms 111:7-10 (ESV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. **8** Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, **9** for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. **10** My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. Prov 1:7-10 (ESV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. **11** For by me [wisdom] your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. **12** If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it. Prov 9:10-12 (ESV)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. **6** But let him ask in faith James 1:5-6 (ESV)

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. **15** This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. James 3:14-17 (ESV)

Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge. Prov 23:12 (ESV)

How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. Prov 16:16 (ESV)

Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, **11** for wisdom is better than jewels, and **all that you may desire cannot compare with her. 12** “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion. **13** The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. Prov 8:10-13 (ESV)

A Personal Testimony:

I applied my heart to wisdom by reading a proverb every morning when I was 12 till now....and soon after I sought out godly men that I could be mentored by instead of seeking the advice of people my age who weren't much smarter. The result, wisdom and favor and the blessing of God in many ways. Many of my closest friends are 40-50 years old. So what's the point? I encourage you, **Seek Wisdom**

Question #2: What is the standard for truth for everybody and everything? **The Bible**

A Little History

No book has been banned, burned, censored or sought after more than the Bible. King's and Emperors have tried to destroy it. Many men and women have given their lives to translate and smuggle it. When it was printed, it ended the Dark Ages and started the Reformation (back to the Bible movement). It was written over a period of 1,600 years by about 40 different authors in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek. It has been translated in more than 1,400 languages, is the best selling book every year, and has been credited with the transformation of individuals and even entire nations.

knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17 (ESV)

Side note: Eph 2:10 God has prepared **specific** works for you and me to do during our time on this earth to impact and influence others

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10 (ESV)

God takes His Word seriously, so should we

You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you. Deut 4:2 (ESV)

“Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it. Deut 12:32 (ESV)

Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. Prov 30:6 (ESV)

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. Rev 22:18-19 (ESV)

A Quote to Remember

Pascal’s (brilliant mathematician) wager:

“If I as a Christian am wrong about there being a God, then all I’ve done is live my life by a set of rules out of a book that has provided nothing but good and the benefit of mankind, and when I die, that’s all there is. But, if you as a non-Christian are wrong about there not being a God and you die, are you willing to suffer the consequences?”

--Your Notes for This Week—

What one or two things really stood out to you? Write this down—it is your takeaway:

What needs to change in your heart?

What small step can you take this week to align your life closer to God’s design?

Lesson 2

Purpose, Purpose, Purpose!

Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding. Prov 23:23 (ESV)

Handout: Creation/Evolution Comparisons

Question #1 Does Life really have value, meaning, purpose? Yes!

God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Gen 1:27-28 (ESV)

the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷ But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Jeremiah 1:4-7 (ESV)

And I [Paul] said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ Acts 22:10 (ESV)

But the Lord said to him [Ananias], “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. **16** For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” Acts 9:15-16 (ESV)

Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. **20** And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. Acts 9:19-20 (KJV)

Look Up Matthew 25:14-30

The Result

These verses talk of God’s specific plan for Mankind, Jeremiah and Paul. Many other examples from Scripture could have be listed: Daniel, Nehemiah, King David, Esther, Ruth, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc... The point is this: *if there is no purpose to life, if life is not given by God and meant to be spent serving Him, then there is no purpose for LIFESTYLE.* **When Evolution says that man has no purpose and is just an advanced animal then life has no sanctity nor moral obligations.** Evolution opens the door and welcomes—polygamy, rape, incest, immorality, abortion, pornography, human trafficking, genocide, euthanasia, suicide, homosexuality, feminism, atheism, Global economy, one world religion, extreme environmentalism..... God’s Word alone is the foundation for marriage, family, morality, and valuing human life.

Next Week: Through Genesis 1&2—God’s Perfect World!

A Quote to Remember

Martin Luther on Creation:

“How long did the work of creation take? When Moses writes that God created heaven and earth and whatever is in them in six days, then let this period continue to have been six days, and do not venture to devise any comment according to which six days were only one. But, if you cannot understand how this could have been done in six days, then grant the Holy Spirit the honor of being more learned than you are. For you are to deal with Scripture in such a way that you bear in mind that God Himself says what is written. But since God is speaking, it is not fitting for you to wantonly to turn His Word in the direction you wish to go.”

--Your Notes for This Week--

- What one or two things really stood out to you? Write this down—it is your takeaway:

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Lesson 3

The Creation of Man and Woman

Gen 1:26-2:25

Mankind created in God's image. (God said created in "our image"—denotes the Trinity)

Mankind is to take dominion—rule over and subdue—train/tame/rule over the animals

Man is not an animal. If he was then no need to take care of the sickly or old. But if mankind is created in the image of God—must care for them

All humans and animals were vegetarians prior to the Fall ("every green thing for food"—1:28-31)

God instituted the Sabbath at the end—we are to rest 1 day a week (not just a day to run around doing things or catch up on stuff that didn't get done during the week, a day to be a human being not a human doing. American culture derives self-worth from doing, Eastern cultures (ie Judaism) derive self-worth from who they are (in Christ, family, church). Gen 2:1-3

Genesis 2

Vs 1 The heavens and earth were finished. The Heavens—outerspace—universe was completed (remember in Hebrew "3 understandings of heaven" 1. Sky 2. Outerspace, stars, firmament 3. The abode of God—this is why Paul talks about a guy who was "caught up to the 3rd Heaven in the NT. Not that there's more than one heaven, but the Jews understood heaven to mean different things)

Vs 5-6 No rain before the Flood? The Bible seems to indicate so here. A mist came up and water the ground (remember the canopy and different atmosphere of the earth last week).

Vs 7 God formed Adam from the dust of the ground. Anyone know what Adam's name means? Adam means—dirt, dust, earth, or clay. Eve—means "the mother of all living" (Eve did not receive her name until after the Fall—Adam just called her Woman). Studying the meaning of a name is interesting... Noah means "there is hope" Samson means "there is a second chance" ...anyway that may be something to study one day

Vs 8-14 God planted the Garden, there were four rivers that irrigated it much like the fertile Nile Delta in Egypt. ...of the four rivers listed only two exist today (Tigris and Euphrates) the other two dried up or perhaps were destroyed during the Flood. Notice that God tells Adam there is Gold and precious stones in the land the one river extends to—God knew there would be a need for currency one day

Vs 15-17 Adam receives his work from God

Vs. 18 it's not good that Man should be alone. We are created to live in community, to have relationships—family, church, friends, marriage. We need other people

Vs 19-20 God brought all the animals to Adam to name. That was a big job. It took longer than a day to name 10,000s of animals and it meant that Adam had to be pretty smart to name and remember that many names! Far from a cave-man.this also shows us that the six days of creation have passed, yet there is no woman. Some theologians take a Deist approach to Scripture and say that God does not create anymore but just manipulates the creation He's finished. So they deny that Jesus really miraculously created fish and bread out of nothing and really just reconstructed matter because sciences says no energy can be created or destroyed, but just change forms. That is hogwash and the fact that Woman is not created yet after the 6 days of creation proves that God still creates today and intervenes as He chooses.

Vs. 20 There was no helper fit for, comparable to, complimentary to Adam

- Adam was not complete without Eve
- Woman would be comparable to Him—fully human (not an alien or animal) as He was
- Yet she would be different than He was
- She would be a helper to Him
- Her strengths would compliment his

Vs 21-24 God performed surgery and CREATED Eve from Adam's rib (God had to create, it takes more than a rib to form a whole person—again this denies the “Christian deist's” beliefs).

Eve was fully human—bone of Adam's bone and flesh of His flesh

When he saw her he did not name her Eve (That's after the Fall), he named her Woman. Theologians write woman a little different

Womb-man—that is she came from Adam, yet she was the only one with a womb to be able to carry children

Another theory that isn't theologically based, but funny is that when Adam saw Eve for the first time he Said WO-man!

From Adam's rib

....woman was to be equal with and beside man. She was not from his ear or something to be above him or from his toe to be his slave. She was created to compliment him, to help him, she was “fit for him”

Vs 24 man and woman leave father and mother to what? Establish their own family

What does this mean to us Today?

Genesis answers many of the debates and issues in our culture today

For example, when a man and woman get married they are not to live with their parents

A man should have a job before he gets married

God gave Adam

- Income/vocation—take care of the Garden
- Calling/task—name the animals
- Place to live—Garden of Eden
- Had commanded Him to be fruitful
- Had commanded Him to multiply
- Had commanded Him to rule over (take dominion) and subdue the animals
- Had a relationship with God (don't be unequally yoked, he needs to walk with God)

Marriage is between a man and woman alone—no homosexuality or bestiality (human with animal)

Do you have a creation or chance mindset?
...in regard to your romantic life?

God brought Eve to Adam
Rebekkah to Isaac
Jacob to his Uncle Laban to marry his daughter
Ruth to Boaz
Jesus to the Church, the Bride of Christ

A Quote:

“Do you have a creation or chance mindset? Evolution teaches we have to make our lives ourselves. Creation teaches God has a plan in place. Many Christians run around looking for “a mate” believing they must “find the one.” Often they leave God out of their love life and seek to follow their own heart instead. The result...down the road regret and sorrow. God brought Eve to Adam. ...Rebekkah to Isaac, Jacob to Rachel, Ruth to Boaz, Esther to King Xerxes, Jesus to the Church ...and so on.isn't God able to be the Creator of our romantic lives?”

Follow your heart or God?

Ecclesiastes 11:9, 12:13-14, Ps 37:3-5 (this whole chapter is awesome on this subject!)

Example: David had it on his heart to build a house for the Lord, but God told David that he had killed too many to build it. So what did David do? He didn't follow his heart anyway, but he did prepare millions or even billions of dollars worth of gold and wood and materials and on his death bed commanded his son Solomon to build it.

Lesson 4

The Fall—Sin Destroyed Perfection

Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.
Prov 23:23 (ESV)

Question #1 Is Temptation ever too great to bear?
10:13

No, Memorize 1 Cor

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

1 Cor 10:13 (KJV)

Recap from last week

Differences between men & women

Gen 2:25 Adam&Eve were naked—the significance? They were innocent and noting was hidden before God. When they sinned, they were ashamed and wanted to hide themselves

Genesis 3—Outline

3:1-3 Notice that Eve misquotes God. She says, “God said don’t even touch it!” All Genesis says is don’t eat it.

4 Satan lies—you won’t die

5—you’ll be like God: having knowledge of good and evil

Rom 16:19

6—pride&lust **1 John 2:15-17**

7—Adam was with her, standing passively by not being a man, her protector

7—shame of sin (knowledge of evil)&no longer innocent

8-13 blame-game-Adam-the woman! Woman- the serpent

14-15 serpent punished, Christ (woman’s offspring) would crush his head—prophecy for Christ in Gen 3

16 woman’s punishment:

- Great pain in childbirth
- teshuqah: a longing for her Husband yet he will have the role of headship, leader in the marriage,the authority, to govern. Men & Women are equal but have different roles contrary to feminism

17-19 punishment

- toilsome work instead of perfect work
- thorns & thistles (things that destroy and choke what you’ve planted)

- sweaty work (prior to Fall, work was enjoyable and easy)
- WORK is not the curse, the difficulty is

20 Adam now names the woman Eve—mother of all living

21 God killed some animals and made clothes for them

Adam&Eve were vegetarians (all mankind till the Flood) although they killed animals for clothing

22-24—Trinity mentioned again, the mystery of community within the Godhead.

Eden was protected by an Angel and sword of fire to guard the tree of life. Adam and Eve were driven out.

What happened to the garden? Scripture does not clearly say... Likely it was destroyed in the Flood

Another theory is that it was taken to heaven because the Tree of Life is mentioned in Biblical passages describing heaven—bearing a new fruit every month and leaves that provide healing for the nations

A Quote to Remember

*“The **service** of Christ is the **business** of my life. The **will** of Christ is the **law** of my life. The **presence** of Christ is the **joy** of my life. The **glory** of Christ is the **crown** of my life.”*

#ThoughtsfortheQuietHour, Public Domain Christ is all and in all. Colossians 3:11

Am I Honorable, Humble, Teachable? Blessed or cursed, opposed or favored, wise or foolish

--Your Notes for This Week—

What one or two things really stood out to you? Write this down—it is your takeaway:

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Lesson 5

Are you offering what will be accepted by God? (Genesis 4)

Cain and Able brought sacrificial offerings to the Lord. The practice of sacrificing is seen all around the world. How could a desire to worship be in an evolved blob of goo?

Why did God not regard Cain's offering? Well 1, it wasn't with the right heart. God says if you do what is right, you'll be accepted. 2, Cain did not offer an animal (blood sacrifice) this is likely why God did not regard Cain's offering. Also, we see that Cain was not **humble**. He was proud and hurt when his humble Brother received God's favor.

- 4:5-7 Cain's face changed, he was downcast
- God spoke to him and told him to rule over sin or it would master him
- Cain's wife? His sister.
- **Jewish tradition says Adam and Eve had 600 children.*
- Cain left the presence of God. (symbolically all humanity has done this)
- Lamech—perverted God's design of marriage by taking two wives
- Tubal-Cain: craftsman, master in making instruments in bronze and iron (requiring furnaces of over 9,000°) & Jubal—musician. Mankind was advanced and smart from the beginning
- Then, man began to call on the Lord again.

Application—I'm young so don't I have an excuse/forgiveness not to take responsibility for my actions?

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Tim 4:12 (ESV)

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. Eccl 11:9 (ESV)

What is God saying to you? Will you obey?

Lesson 6

Life Spans, the Nephilim and the Wickedness prior to the Flood Gen 5-6:8

Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.
Prov 23:23 (ESV)

The righteous shall choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray. In the way of righteousness is life. Proverbs 12:26,28 NKJV

Picking up from last week:

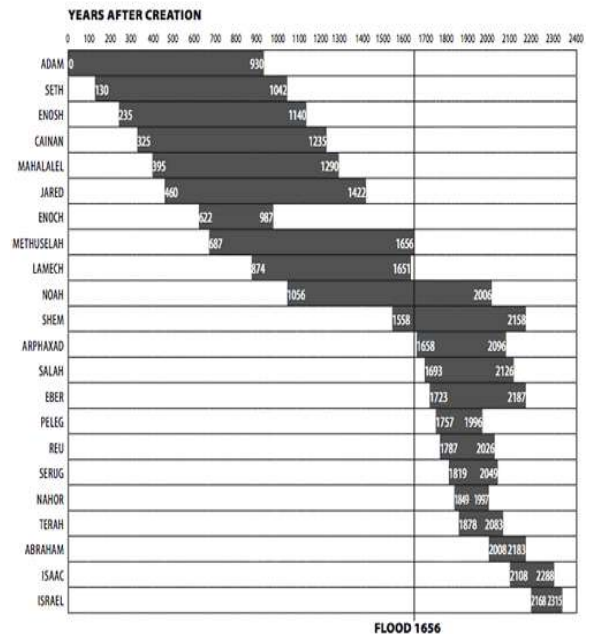
Application—I'm young so don't I have an excuse/forgiveness not to take responsibility for my actions?

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Life Spans

- Why did life spans decrease?
- Who also lived during Noah's life?
- BING (the chart below was found on a Bing search):



Enoch never died—taken to Heaven one of the two witnesses in Revelation?

Adam died about 100 years before Noah
was born

Noah's name meant "hope or peace" —
look at the prophecy of Noah's birth Gen
5:29

It appears Noah's sons were triplets

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