

*"What We Believe"*

## Session 4

### Creation: God makes

#### I) INTRODUCTION

- A) Becoming a Christian in 2000 was the most amazing thing that ever happened to me. That morning that I came forward and gave my life to Jesus, I heard the Holy Spirit speak to me for the first time. He said "you will never be alone again. It's going to be Me and you, forever. I will be with you always. I will never leave you."
- B) The most amazing part of becoming a Christian for me, was not heaven and deliverance from hell, but that I was created by a Creator and I had purpose. This fascinated me unlike any other part of Christianity. This reality caused me to worship, pray, read, attend classes and live in Christian community. My life had purpose and it came from a Creator, who I could know, who loved me and wanted me.
- C) When we look into the subject of creation through the Genesis account, we are not looking at scientific observation but at a theological observation of the relationship between God Himself, and humanity, not at creation.
- D) Genesis is more concerned with Who made creation and why. The Holy Spirit was sent to teach humanity how to get to heaven, not how the heavens got to us. This explains why the creation account only takes up 2 chapters of a 50 chapter book called Genesis. It seems that the lens opens in Genesis 1 with a panoramic view, and then by chapter 3 the view changes from panoramic to specific. We see the story is about God and humanity.

#### II) What Does The Bible Say About Creation?

- A) Church history tells us that Moses wrote the book of Genesis around 1400 B.C. which means he would have had to receive it directly from the same Holy Spirit who performed the creation.
- B) The opening line in the Bible is about God and His work within our earth, and if we fail to see this pattern in all of life, we will struggle to make sense of all things. Our life must be connect to its creator for it to make sense.
  - 1) **Genesis 1:1** *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth".*
- C) The Hebrew word used for *creation* is called Bara. Bara, means to create something from nothing. When we read *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* it means that God created something from nothing.
- D) There is another Hebrew word for creation and it is the word Asah. Asah means to create something from something. When humans Asah, we shape, mold and make things, like clothes from fig leaves, or an ark from materials.
- E) In life only God is able to Bara and humanity can only Asah. Only God creates something from nothing, and only humanity can create something from something.
  - 1) **Genesis 1:1** *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth".*

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- F) **Genesis 1:1** tells us that the earth has a starting point (*In the beginning*), but it also leaves open the possibility that our earth could be both young or old.
- G) What I mean by a young and old earth is, we don't know if the earth had been around for a little bit and then God formed it into a livable place for humans, or it all happened at one moment. The Bible doesn't make this clear.

### III) Where Did Creation Come From?

- A) The opening line of the Bible in Genesis chapter 1 tells us that both humanity and all of creation came from God. Genesis 1-2 tell us that God is a Prophet that made creation solely by the power of His word. No less than 10 times in Genesis 1 does it say that God spoke and what He spoke came to be.
  - 1) **Hebrews 11:3** *"by faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."*
- B) This means that creation didn't come from a hunk of mud, but by God Himself, even the words of His mouth.
- C) God's word is the most powerful thing in the universe. God's word brought order, made things good, created an environment in which life can exist, separated things, came with unmatched authority and does what He sends it to do. This is why we must listen to God on all things.
- D) Creation was created for us by the Person of God, not an impersonal force, it or thing.

### IV) What Does Creation Reveal About God?

- A) Just like music reveals a musician, and art the artist, so creation reveals the Creator.
- B) Looking into the connection between creation and the Creator we can see 7 clear truths about God as a Creator.
  - 1) God is the only God.
    - (i) The opening line of the Bible clearly tells us that God created creation. It was not an equal playing field. Creation has come from God. It doesn't tell us many gods, another god but that *"In the beginning God..."*
  - 2) God is living.
    - (i) Life doesn't spring forth from an it, but rather from God, who Himself is living.
  - 3) God is independent.
    - (i) This means God has no lack, no need, no want or dependence upon anyone or anything. Because God is uncreated, He deals with humans because He wants to, not because He has to, which means He does everything from a pure motive.
  - 4) God is powerful.
    - (i) In creation we see that God spoke and created something from nothing. Nobody has power like this, not even the devil himself.

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- 5) God is personal.
  - (i) Because God is a personal God, He made man in His image, gave him a personality and was personally involved with his creation.
- 6) God is a sovereign King.
  - (i) In creation we see that God is over the stars, plants, seeds, kinds, demons, satan, water, the mountains, humans, kings and queens. He is King over all, because He created all things.
    - (a) **Romans 9:20** *"But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "why have you made me like this?"*
    - (b) The pot doesn't get to tell the potter what to do, or how to work. The Potter is above the pottery.
- 7) God is holy.
  - (i) God is holy and originally made earth and life without sin, prior to the fall. Even in the midst of this broken state after the fall, God still is at work within His creation to redeem it. God will have His Eden in the end.

## **V) Are The Six Days Of Creation Literal Twenty Four Hour Days?**

- A) I believe they are. Some say that word for Day is referring to something that is longer than a 24 hour period. But we have this passage from God to us.
  - 1) **Exodus 20:11** *"For in the six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day."*
  - 2) This passage gives us great clarity that our days, being literal 24 hour period are from Sun up to Sun up.

## **VI) How Old Is The Earth?**

- A) The Bible's teaching is straightforward that the earth was created on the first day of six literal twenty four hour days, with Adam as its first human and if you add up the genealogies in Genesis it puts the age of the earth around between 6,000-10,000 years old.
- B) But, at the end of the day this can't be closed handed. The earth doesn't have a Budweiser label on it with a "Born on date." We really don't know.
- C) The great teachers of the Bible, including David, Isaiah, Paul and even Jesus didn't mention the earth's date and that didn't stop them from proclaiming that God created all things.

## **VII) How Does Creationism Differ From Naturalism?**

- A) Naturalism views creation as merely the product of time, energy and chance. There are two main things that Creationism and Naturalism differ on. Naturalist's believe in something called Macro-evolution and Christians believe in Micro-evolution.

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- B) Macro-evolution is the belief that everything came from nothing. This is the belief that impersonal matter made personal man. It also says that animals and plants evolve outside their species to become something totally different than what they once were.
- C) Micro-evolution is the belief that everything has come from God. And that animals and plants evolve within their species and do not become something totally different than what they once were.
- D) When looking at things such as the distance of the sun to the earth, gravitational force and earth's rotation period, it doesn't lend us to think that the process of nature created all of this, but rather that creation has a Creator and He is good, kind, thoughtful, creative and redemptive.
- E) It's hard to reconcile an Evolutionary view of creation when looking at Genesis 1 and 2 and seeing that God created everything.
- F) As Christians we are not to abandon science, but rather observe what God has written and done in our earth as a means to understand Him and His creation as an act of worship to Him.

## **VIII) What Difference Does The Doctrine Of Creation Make For My Life?**

- A) Here are five things that we should know when it comes to the creation of the Earth and the Creator;
  - 1) God created the universe out of nothing
  - 2) Creation is distinct from God, yet always dependent upon God
  - 3) God created the universe to show His glory
  - 4) The universe was originally created as being good
  - 5) There will be no final conflict between science and scripture
- B) Understanding creation, means that there is a God who is a genius, that He has purpose for His creation and He brings all things to connect to Him and His creation. If we don't believe in creation, we most likely believe we were created by nothing, exist for nothing, have nothing for purpose and when we die we go to a place of nothing.
- C) Seeing a Creator that created all things by the word of His mouth, is seeing that our lives have purpose.
- D) Without a Creator we are left to figure out life on our own and this comes with great pain and loneliness and nothing to sooth the wounds of life in this age. Our hearts become undone when we see a Creator, who created everything, watched it fall, sent His Son to redeem it, called people who hated Him near Him and promises to return so that His creation can be with Him and restore that which sin has broken down.
- E) Being created is cool, having a Creator who knows me, loves me and enjoys me gives life in this fallen age purpose.