



Creation

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

“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” (Psalm 33:5, 9).

“Look at this! Here’s a fossil fish that’s different. Notice the thick fins that look a little bit like arms.”

All the scientists in the group crowded around. All agreed that this fish was beginning to develop arms and legs that would eventually evolve into a creature capable of crawling onto land.

“I’m sure this fish became extinct millions of years ago,” said one learned scientist. “Let’s call this fossil coelacanth (see-la-kanth) and keep it in a museum as evidence of evolutionary change.”

But later in 1938, some fishermen were pulling in their nets off the coast of South Africa. They found a large fish more than five feet in length and weighing more than 100 pounds.

“Tis indeed a strange one. Never caught one like this before. Fins are padded and stick out from its body like little arms,” one fisherman commented.

Someone from a museum saw this unusual fish and decided to keep it. A scientist heard about it, came to see it, and was aghast. “That fish is just like the extinct coelacanth. But this one is swimming! And we were sure that fossil was extinct millions of years ago,” he exclaimed.

He might not have been embarrassed had he believed God’s creative account: “The Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is” (Exodus 20:11).

Does your mind probe for answers, many of which cannot be answered scientifically in a laboratory? Conflicting theories abound. Neither evolution nor creation can be established by research. Either conclusion is based on presuppositions—on faith, if you please. We have the choice. Will we believe the Bible, or the theories of scientists?

Preview

Moses, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote the account of creation in Genesis 1 and 2. Do these chapters contradict each other, or are they consistent? The first chapter recounts the events of the six days of creation chronologically.

The second chapter begins with the wonderful seventh day. Then verse 4 introduces a family: “These are the generations....” This expression goes on to include more details of the creation of Adam and Eve and their garden home. We’re informed of the nature of humanity—of God’s divine government and His plan for man. Only if accepted literally and historically do they harmonize with all the rest of the Bible.

Now the big question. Are the days of creation literal, or do they represent large time periods?

Note that each day ends with these words, “And the evening and the morning...” (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31). The Bible measures individual days with the day beginning at sunset:

“From _____ unto _____, shall ye celebrate your sabbath” (Leviticus 23:32).

Evening to evening can only mean a period of twenty-four hours. If Moses meant “day” when he wrote Leviticus, would he then mean thousands or millions of years when he wrote Genesis?

The Hebrew word translated “day” is *yom*. It has various meanings. However, a careful study of its usage reveals that every time *yom* is accompanied by a definite number used as an adjective, a literal day is indicated.

Note that the last three days of creation week, clearly controlled by the creation of the sun on the fourth day, are alike in length and described as evening and morning. It would be logical, then, that days one, two, and three—also described as evening and morning—would refer to the same period of time.

The wording of the narrative implies shortness of time. God spoke. Immediately it was done.

If each creation day consisted of long geological periods, a problem appears after the third day. Green plants cannot be kept alive in continued darkness. The pigment chlorophyll would rapidly decompose in the absence of light. Before many months of the millions of years of darkness had passed, every green plant would have died. The account says these green plants appeared on the third day and lived through creation week, furnishing food for animals created on the sixth day. This indicates that these were literal, solar days.

Also, flowering plants are dependent on insects for pollination to reproduce. If from day three to day six, millions of years had passed, many plants would have vanished from the earth before the pollinators appeared.

The Sabbath commandment definitely states that we should work for six days and rest on the seventh (Exodus 20:8-11). The twenty-four-hour Sabbath day commemorates a literal week of creation. If the first six days were long geological periods, and the seventh was a solar day, as God Himself said in Leviticus 23:32, the Creator would be commanding us to do an illogical thing of observing a twenty-four-hour day as a memorial to periods of millions of years. The fourth commandment would be meaningless if each day were stretched into long periods of time.

Some are puzzled by what Moses meant when he wrote Genesis 1:16: “He made the stars also.” Were the heavens really made only 6,000 years ago? Surely creation week did not involve the heaven that God has dwelt in from eternity, nor the great, vast universe. This earth, instead of being Christ’s first creation, may have been His last one. The sons of God mentioned in Job 1:6-12 no doubt came from great distances in God’s vast universe—from far beyond our sin-polluted solar system. We, on this speck of a planet, are privileged to study a bit of the glories of the stars.

It is apparent that if we are going to accept the creation story of Genesis as upheld by the Bible, we will have to view creation as God’s miraculous act performed in six twenty-four-hour literal days. The Bible is God’s golden chain of truth.

Points to Ponder

1. Who brought this world into existence?

John 1:1-3: “In the beginning was the _____, and the Word was with _____, and the Word was _____ ...” “All things were made by him; and without him was _____ made that was _____.” “The Word was _____, and dwelt among us.” The Word is Jesus. True, all the members of the Godhead were involved in Creation, but the Son of God, the preexisting Christ, not only made us but bought us back. He created human beings so they could enjoy a relationship with Him.

2. What was the purpose of creation?

Psalm 19:1: "The _____ declare the _____ of God; and the _____ sheweth His handiwork."

Genesis 1:28: "Be _____, and _____." God shared with us the privilege of participating in creation.

3. Read Genesis 1 and 2 and list what God created on each day of creation week.

Day 1 _____

Day 2 _____

Day 3 _____

Day 4 _____

Day 5 _____

Day 6 _____

Day 7 _____

Nuts & Bolts

Satan tempts us to ignore the significance of creation. He knows that if we reject any part of the biblical account, he can lead us to ignore, belittle, or reject many great Bible truths.

1. Creation is the antidote to idolatry.

Isaiah 42:8: "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my _____ will I not give to _____, neither my praise to _____ images." Anything we put before God in our affection is our idol.

2. Creation is the foundation of true worship.

Revelation 14:7: "Worship him that made _____ and _____, and the _____, and the fountains of _____."

3. The Sabbath is a memorial of creation.

Genesis 2:3: "God _____ the seventh-day, and _____ it: because that in it he _____ from all his work which God _____ and _____." If people had obeyed God's command and kept the Sabbath holy (Exodus 20:8-11) there would be no belief in the theory of evolution, no unrest, but only a weekly celebration of joy with the Creator Himself.

4. Marriage is a divine institution.

Genesis 2:18: "And the Lord God said, It is not good that _____ should be _____; I will make him an _____ for him."
Mark 10:9: "What therefore God hath _____ together, let not man put _____."

5. Creation gives to humans true self-worth.

Genesis 1:27: "God created man in his _____, in the _____ of God created he him."

6. Creation provides the basis for true fellowship.

Malachi 2:10: "Have we not _____ one _____? hath not one _____ created us?" If we accept God as our Father and treat all of those around us as our brothers and sisters, wouldn't racism, bigotry, and discrimination disappear?

7. Creation provides the basis for our responsibility toward the environment and true personal stewardship.

Genesis 1:28: "God said unto them, be _____, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have _____ over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over _____ that moveth upon the earth." Everything we have—physical, mental and spiritual—is a gift from God. If we are not faithful stewards, how can we face the question, "Will a man _____ God" (Malachi 3:8)?
Revelation 11:18: God will "_____ them which _____ the earth."

8. Creation teaches the dignity of manual labor.

Genesis 2:15: God placed Adam and Eve in the garden "to _____ and to _____ it."

9. Creation reveals the holiness of God's law.

Genesis 2:16, 17: "Thou shalt _____ ." God's law existed before the fall. His charge to Adam and Eve not to eat the forbidden fruit was a reflection of that law, demanding absolute allegiance to Him. God was calling on them to demonstrate their loyalty.

10. Creation reveals the sacredness of life.

Psalm 139:16: "Thine _____ did see my substance, yet being _____; and in thy book all my _____ were written...when as yet there was _____ of them." If we believe we have derived from a protoplasm or a monkey, we have lost respect and dignity for human life. Creation helps us remember that life is a gift from God and that we are made in His image.

Words to Remember

Preexisting matter: A substance, solid, liquid, or gas, that existed before in a previous state. In creation God was not dependent on preexisting matter. He spoke and it was done. However, God did use preexisting matter in the creation of Adam and Eve.

Condescension: Voluntary descent to a lower level, as when Christ assumed humanity.

The Difference Between

Creation: The process whereby God brought to existence the universe and life on it. With respect to this earth, He created the world in a short period of six days. He spoke the worlds into existence. At creation Christ spoke, and it happened instantly.

Salvation: The process whereby God saves sinners and makes them once again part of His redeemed family. He does not speak salvation into existence. Instead, He sent His Son Jesus to die for the sins of the world and make forgiveness for, and salvation from, sin possible. For each individual, salvation is a lifelong process.

I Truly Believe

An explorer in South American jungles noticed an unusual nest in which the leaves were sewn together with tiny silken threads. He saw only ants scurrying about, not spiders. How could they accomplish this impossible feat?

Carefully, he cut the silk threads that held the leaves in place. Then he watched. Immediately, the ants removed the old strands of silk. Then, making a chain with their bodies, they formed a bridge from the end of one leaf to another. Carefully, the first ant pulled the leaf to the next and the next, until the edges of the leaves touched.

At that moment worker ants appeared, each carrying a totally helpless baby or ant larva, which spin cocoons around themselves as they change to adults. Holding the ant larva to the leaf edge, the adult ant banged on the hind end where the silk thread emerges. Expertly, he moved it up and down, back and forth, like a zigzag sewing machine. Each time he wanted to make a new stitch, he hit the hind end again and continued until the nest was totally repaired.

What a great God planned this remarkable feat so that jungle ants could live in their environment. Surely, He can solve your problems, too, just as well as those of the sewing ants.

He who gave man the Tree of Life in Eden hung on a tree for you at Calvary. The same God who declared creation finished on that first Friday suffered as He declared the plan of salvation finished on crucifixion Friday. The hands that made the universe are the same hands that—pierced and blood-stained—secured eternal life for you.

Won't you accept Him as both the One who created you and is now recreating you in His divine image?

My Prayer

Eternal Father,

Thank You, Father, for creating me in Your image. May I be willing to follow You wherever You lead. Guide me in Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.