

CREATIONISM - The Study and Doctrine of Creation as the Bible declares it

Introduction:

The **Doctrine of Creation**, perhaps more than other teachings of the Bible, has been criticized during the past century because of the wide acceptance of Darwin's theory of evolution. The biblical claims of **creation** fly in the face of evolution. For that matter, any philosophy or claims by man that ignore God, His intelligent and intricate design as a finished creation that He calls "good" (Genesis 1:10,12,18,21, 25) and "very good" (1:31), undermines the clear statements of God's word.

It's important to know that there is no competition between God's word and science. To say that science contradicts the Bible's claims is an idea fabricated by those who seek to disprove God's existence and the Bible's reliability. Science is important and has its place in human discovery. If it is true science it will simply reinforce the truth of God's word. There are limitations to what God allows and we are able to observe. With all the discoveries of man, past, present and future, we will not see all that is invisible. (Deuteronomy 29:29).

Hebrews 11:1-3 "Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 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.**"

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

As we observe what we are capable of seeing, we will see God's fingerprint in the fabric and complexity of His design. As we acknowledge this it will lead us to accept true science and strengthen our faith in God. If we deny His existence and capabilities it will blind us to His miraculous work of creation, which in turn will result in error and false science.

1 Timothy 6:20-21 "O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is **falsely called knowledge**, by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith."

If we are born again spiritually (John 3:1-12) we have a tremendous added advantage of supernatural insight given to us by the Spirit of God. This ability transcends beyond any natural ability that man can perceive or acquire.

1 Corinthians 2:15 "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Is it any wonder why "Genesis" (which means beginnings), is the first book of the Bible and the first sentence we read is, "In the beginning **God created** the heavens and earth?" (Genesis 1:1). Genesis reveals the seed plot for the rest of the Bible. If we can get past the first sentence without stumbling everything in time will fall into place.

Mark 11:22 "So Jesus answered and said to them, "**Have faith in God.**"

It is no accident or mere coincidence that our world exists with all its complexity and diversity. God **created** it all, and that for His glory. God wants us to observe His glory and majesty in creation and by

observing come to believe that He is indeed our **creator** God. The desired end is that we put our faith completely in God and His explanation of beginnings as recorded in the Bible and not in the wisdom of man.

Romans 10:17 "So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the **word of God.**"

Hebrews 11:6 "But **without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

As we read and meditate on God's word, the Holy Spirit will give us revelation and insight into His wisdom and knowledge.

I Corinthians 2:13 "These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

James 1:5-8 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Satan will also try to cause division among God's people by creating distractions on debatable issues concerning the **Doctrine of Creation**. He attempts to get us arguing about suppositions on matters where there is not clarity. We are not ignorant of his devices. We must be alert and guard our hearts and minds. (Proverbs 4:23)

1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **Resist him**, steadfast **in the faith**, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

Ephesian 6:16 "above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be **able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**"

Hebrews 10:28 "Now **the just shall live by faith**; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

A. **What Is Biblical Creationism And Why Is It Important?**

1. **Biblical Creation** is the study of the Bible's account of how **all** things came into existence: time, space and matter and life, supernaturally by God.
2. **The importance of biblical creationism** is that it answers the fundamental questions of human existence, many of these within the opening chapters of Genesis.
 - a. How did we get here? Where did we come from?
Genesis 1:1, 26
 - b. Why are we here? Do we have a purpose and worth?
Genesis 1:26-28
 - c. Are there more than two sexes? Did God design Marriage?
Genesis 1:27; 2:18, 22-24
 - d. Where did sin originate and what are its consequences?

Genesis 2:17; 3:6-7,22-24

e. What happens to us when we die?

Genesis 3:19

f. Is there hope beyond the consequences of sin?

Genesis 3:14-15, 21 (John 1:29, 3:16)

3. **Biblical creationism is also important** because it alone answers the basic questions of why man is spiritual, has intelligence, a conscience, ability to reason, design and create, will and love. These are attributes that cannot be explained by evolution, which would have us believe that mankind is simply a higher form of animal.

Although animals may exhibit some of these attributes, mankind alone was created to be the image bearer of God. None of the animals were said to have been created in the image of God. Mankind alone was created in this special way and was given dominion over the animal kingdom.

Genesis 1:26-27 "Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man **in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Notice also the implied triune collaborative decision in v1:26, "Let us** make man in Our image. Also notice the unified awareness of man's recognition of good and evil in 3:22.*

Genesis 3:22 "Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become **like one of Us**, to know good and evil."

B. Who Was Doing The Creating?

1. **The Bible clearly attributes creation as the work of the Triune God.**

We see hints of this in the fact that the name used for God in Genesis 1:1 is "*Elohim*" which is plural. Also the Spirit is hovering over the face of the deep in verse 2.

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning **God** (Elohim) **created** the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 2:4 "This is the history of the heavens and the earth **when they were created**, in the day that **the LORD God** (Elohim) **made the earth and the heavens**,"

Psalm 8:3 "When I consider Your heavens, **the work of Your fingers**, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,"

Psalm 89:11-12 "The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, **You have founded them**. The north and the south, **You have created them**;

2. **But more specifically Jesus, God the Son who is the Living Word.**

John 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word was with God**, and the **Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through Him**, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

C. **What was created?**

2. **Absolutely everything that exists**, the animate and inanimate, all forms of matter and all kinds life, whether visible or invisible in their uniquely individual present and complete form. Yes, God really is that awesome!

Colossians 1:16-17 "For **by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

Psalms 148:5-6 "Let them praise the name of the LORD, **For He commanded and they were created**. 6 He also established them forever and ever;"

**(to fully appreciate the vastness of God's creation read Psalm 148 in it's entirety)*

Acts 4:24 "So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, **You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,**"

2. **Even Time**. Although there is no clear statement that God created time, certainly it is often eluded to. (Genesis 1:1; Romans 16:25)

2 Timothy 1:9 "(God) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus **before time began,**"

Titus 1:2 "(acknowledging truth) in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised **before time began"**

D. **How Was Everything Created?**

1. **The Bible tells us that God spoke the world into existence by His word.**

Hebrew 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." (2 Peter 3:5)

2. **From nothing that previously existed**. Often the Latin term "*ex nihilo*" which means "out of nothing", is used to clarify that God created something out of nothing. (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26; Romans 4:17)

Psalms 33:6 "By the **word of the LORD** the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the **breath of His mouth.**" (Psalm 148:6, 9)

3. **By God, yet distinct from God and absolutely dependent on God.**

Colossians 1:17 "He is before all things, and in him **all things hold together.**" NIV

E. **When Did Creation Take Place And How Long Did It Take?**

This question is a **point of discussion and debate**. There are **two main views** that most evangelical Christians accept. Both are based on an understanding of the

Hebrew word "yom" for day and its use in context.

The Bible uses the word "yom" in three main ways:

- **First**, as in **Genesis 1:5** "God called the light day," a **twelve hour day**.
- **Second**, as in **Genesis 1:14** "...let them be for signs and seasons, and for **days** and years." a **twenty-four hour day**.
- **Third**, as in **Genesis 2:4** "This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, **in the day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens," a **period of time** which could include many days.

2. **Young Earth Creationism**. This view takes the Bible literally and views the word "day" in the strictest sense, seeing the six days of creation as twenty-four hour days, just as our common understanding of a 24 hr. day. (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31) Taking this approach and calculating genealogy time spans, the earth is viewed as approximately 6000 years old.

Old Earth Creationism. This view sees the word "yom" used in the third way, as a long unspecified period of time up through the fourth (yom) creation day. (Genesis 1:1-19) Then at v.20, the last two creation days are seen as twenty-four hour day periods. Finally, the 1. seventh day of rest is seen by some as a twenty-four hour day and others as possibly an indefinite rest which remains for all believers. Taking into account the long first 4 days in this view, the time span could have been millions, perhaps billions of years.

**There is a third idea which is an Allegorical Approach that we cannot consider since it does not take the Bible literally. This view includes all those who do not believe that the Genesis creation days signify time periods at all. They believe that the Bible should not be read as either history or science.*

Whatever our view, it should not divide us and should never cause us to be unloving or mean spirited, which are not Christ-like characteristics.

F. **Why Did God Create The Universe, Our World And Us?**

This is perhaps the most fascinating question of all, second only to "does God exist?"

1. **For His Glory**

Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

2. **To Reveal His Glory and Make His Existence Known**
3. **To Have Image Bearer Witnesses**

Genesis 1:26-27 "Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image**, according to Our likeness,.... So God created man **in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 5:1, 9:6; 1 Corinthians 11:7)

Isaiah 43:10-12 "**You are My witnesses**," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. 11 I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior. 12 I have declared and saved,

I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you; Therefore **you are My witnesses**," Says the LORD, "that I am God.

John 17:20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;" (Luke 24:48; John 15:27; Acts 1:8)

4. Us For Him and Him For Us

Song of Solomon 2:16 "My beloved is mine, and I am His." (6:3)

John 17:21-23 " that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (Rom. 12:5; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 4:4, 6; 1 John 3:1-2)