

Systematic Theology - Lesson 5

Doctrine of Creation (Part 1)

I. Introduction to the Doctrine of Creation

- Systematic Theology is the study of organized biblical truths about God and His creation.
- Is there a _____? If so, why did He create us?
- The doctrine of creation reveals God's power, purpose, and plan for all things.
- Creation points to an intelligent Designer who brought the universe into existence. (Ps 19:1-2)
- Our understanding of creation shapes how we view life, morality, and our purpose.

II. Worldviews that Challenge Creation

A. Postmodernism

1. Postmodernism rejects absolute truth and is built upon _____, relativism, and distrust of universal truths. (John 14:6)
2. This worldview claims truth is subjective and personal rather than absolute.
3. It undermines the authority of Scripture and denies universal morality.

B. Naturalism

1. Naturalism teaches that all things came into being by _____ processes without divine intervention. (Ps 14:1)
2. It assumes that nature is all that exists and that everything can be explained scientifically.
3. Naturalism removes God as Creator and replaces Him with chance and physical laws.

C. Darwinism

1. Darwinism may explain biological development, but it cannot answer the question of _____. (Gen 1:27)
 2. It proposes natural selection as the mechanism for life but offers no purpose or moral foundation.
- Biblical creation affirms intentional design, meaning, and accountability to the Creator.

- These worldviews remove God from creation, leading to confusion about meaning and morality.
- The Christian worldview begins with “In the beginning, God,” affirming divine purpose in all things.

III. The Biblical Account of Creation

- The Bible begins with the clear declaration that _____ created everything. (Gen 1:1)
- God created in the _____, revealing that He stands outside of time. (John 1:3)
- God created the heavens and the _____, encompassing all that exists. (Ps 19:1)
- God does not _____ the creation account; He simply declares it. (Heb 11:3)
- Genesis means “_____” and introduces God’s purpose for humanity and the universe.
- Creation reveals both God’s power and His desire for relationship with mankind.
- The creation account is foundational to understanding God’s authority and humanity’s responsibility.
- Rejecting the literal creation story undermines the foundation of Scripture and salvation history.

IV. Seven Biblical Truths About Creation

A. Zero Substance Creation

1. God created the universe ex nihilo – Latin for “out of _____.” (Heb 11:3)
2. Creation came from nothing but the will and Word of God alone.

B. Complete Creation

1. Because God created everything out of nothing, matter is not _____ or eternal. (Ps 90:2)
2. God alone is self-existent; all else depends on Him for being.

C. Chronological Creation

1. God created both the visible and the _____ realms, including angels and spiritual realities. (Col 1:16)

2. The spiritual world is as real as the physical; both serve God's purposes.
3. Time has no meaning or _____ to God; He stands outside of it.
(Rev 1:8)
4. God sees all of history simultaneously and sovereignly guides it.

D. Commanded Creation

1. God _____ the universe into existence by His powerful Word.
(Heb 11:3)
2. His Word carries power, authority, and creative force. (Ps 33:6)
3. God's Word is _____ – when He speaks, it accomplishes His will.
(Isa 55:11)
4. Nothing God speaks returns void; all creation obeys His command.

E. Collaborative Creation

1. The Spirit was actively _____ and filling creation with life.
(Gen 1:26–27)
2. The Trinity worked together in harmony during creation.

F. Consummate Creation

1. Asceticism claims creation is evil, but Scripture calls that view _____. (1 Tim 4:1–4)
2. Everything God made is good and meant to be enjoyed rightly.

G. Celebratory Creation

1. Creation was _____ to glorify God and reveal His attributes.
(Ps 19:1–2)
2. Creation displays God's wisdom, beauty, and majesty.
3. God did not _____ creation because He lacked anything; He created for His glory. (Rev 4:11)
4. God's creative act was an overflow of His goodness and love.

V. Views of Creation

A. Theistic Evolution

1. Theistic Evolution teaches that God used evolution as His _____ of creation. (Gen 1:25)

2. This view weakens the biblical picture of God's immediate and personal creation.
3. It attempts to merge science and Scripture but often compromises biblical authority.

B. Gap Theory

1. Gap Theory proposes a _____ creation in Genesis 1:1 and a second creation later. (Gen 1:1–3)
2. Suggests a time gap between God's original creation and re-creation of the world.
3. It claims a _____ creation of six literal days followed a previous destruction. (Gen 1:1–3)
4. No textual evidence supports this second creative event.

C. Day-Age View

1. Day-Age View sees the six days of Genesis as long geological _____. (Ex 20:11)
2. The Hebrew word "yom" (day) elsewhere always refers to a literal 24-hour day.
3. This interpretation tries to reconcile the Bible with long scientific ages.

D. Literary Framework View

1. The Literary Framework View emphasizes forming and _____, treating Genesis 1 as poetic structure. (Gen 1)
2. Genesis shows both literary beauty and historical truth.
3. It reads Genesis figuratively as _____, focusing on theological meaning over sequence. (Gen 1)
4. This approach risks undermining the historical foundation of creation.

E. Young Earth Creationism

1. Young Earth Creationism holds that creation occurred in six _____ 24-hour days. (Gen 1:1–31)
2. God's Word presents creation as a direct, miraculous act.
3. It acknowledges science as an _____ field but upholds Scripture as ultimate truth. (Ps 33:6)
4. True science and Scripture never contradict when rightly understood.

F. Historic Creationism

1. Historic Creationism interprets 'beginning' as a _____ period of preparation for life. (Gen 1:1–2)
2. The focus is on God's preparation of the earth for His people.
3. It describes the journey from the first Eden to a _____ Eden restored in Revelation. (Rev 21:1–5)
4. Redemption culminates in a renewed creation through Christ.
5. This emphasizes God's people living in His blessed _____ from creation to eternity. (Rev 22:1–5)
6. God's plan moves history toward eternal fellowship in His presence.

VI. Conclusion

- The Bible doesn't provide _____ the details about the age of the earth. (Deut 29:29)
- God reveals what we need for faith, not every scientific detail.
- What matters most is knowing who created the world and why – for His _____. (Rev 4:11)
- Creation calls us to worship the Creator, not the creation.
- The doctrine of creation strengthens our faith and gives meaning to all of life.

Answer Key – Doctrine of Creation (Part 1)

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| • CREATOR | • SPIRITUAL | • SECOND |
| • SKEPTICISM | • RELATION | • TWO |
| • OWN | • NOT | • AGES |
| • NATURAL | • SPOKE | • AFTER |
| • ORIGINS | • EFFECTUAL | • EVENTS |
| • GOD | • COMPLETING | • FILLING |
| • BEGINNING | • WRONG | • POETRY |
| • EARTH | • CREATED | • LITERAL |
| • BURY | • NEED | • EVER-CHANGING |
| • BEGINNINGS | • HOW | • DURATION |
| • NOT | • SIN | • NEW |
| • KNOW | • MEANS | • LAND |
| • NOTHING | • KIND | • ALL |
| • ETERNAL | • FIRST | • GLORY |