

Lesson 12

God Creates the Universe

The omnipotent God created the universe.

Overview

Lesson Focus

God created the universe in six 24-hour days about 6,000 years ago. The account of God's creation—by the word of his mouth—reveals that he is the all-powerful, omnipotent Creator. We must rely on God's Word alone for the truth.

Key Passage

Genesis 1:1, 1:3, 1:5–6, 1:9–11, 1:16, 1:20, 1:24, 1:27; Exodus 20:11

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe what God created on each day during creation week.
- Identify the omnipotence of God displayed at creation.

Memory Verse

Psalm 8:3–4 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

What scriptural background can we possibly give here? Before Genesis nothing but God in eternity past existed. Genesis 1 is the beginning of the universe, time, space, history, and all of life as we know it. In addition, Genesis is foundational to the rest of Scripture. It sets the tone for God's eternal plan of redemption.

From the very first verse, Scripture assumes God's existence without trying to prove it in any way. We must avoid using arguments that attempt to prove God by demanding evidence in the natural world. Man's need to prove God implies his intention to elevate his own autonomous reason above God's Word.

Though obviously presented with very little "background," the information given to us in the early chapters of Genesis is foundational to many important doctrines, including the Trinity (Genesis 1:26), death (2:17), marriage (2:24), sin (3:6), the gospel (3:15), and clothing (3:21). The book of Genesis is to be taken as literal history provided by God to give us a glimpse of his majesty, wonder, creativity, and eternal purpose.

Historical/Apologetics Background

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." This first verse in the Bible answers many questions for us, such as "Where did everything come from?" "Is there a God?" "When did time begin?" These are questions Christians often have trouble answering—not because they lack faith, but because they don't realize that answers to questions like these can be found in Scripture.

When did time begin? Time itself began when God began to create the universe—"In the beginning." He created time for man, but he himself is not bound by time. He is eternal—the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:8). God confirms this concept when he tells us that to him a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day (2 Peter 3:8).

There are many opposing views of the Genesis account of creation that manipulate God's Word to include millions of years (the old-earth view). Many will try to persuade us that the creation account must be "proven" before being believed. Realistically, however, no account of origins can be proven—it must be accepted by faith. Christians must stand firm on biblical authority—God told us in his Word what happened and how he created: "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible" (Hebrews 11:3).

Over the past 200 years, because of "scientific" developments, many Christians have attempted to merge millions of years into the Bible's account of creation. Some of the biblically compromised views that evangelical Christians hold to are listed below:

The day-age view: a compromise belief that the days of Genesis 1 are actually vast ages of different lengths; based on secular dating methods.

The gap theory: a compromise belief that a vast period of time exists between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 into which the geologic eras can be fit.

The framework hypothesis: a compromise belief that Genesis 1 is written in a non-literal, non-chronological way; based on secular dating methods.

Theistic evolution: a compromise belief that suggests God used evolutionary processes to create the universe and life on earth over billions of years.

Progressive creation: a compromise belief suggesting that God has created organisms in a progressive manner over billions of years to accommodate secular dating methods.

These are all ideas that attempt to fit evolution and/or millions of years into the Bible rather than believing the Genesis account of the six days of creation.

Does the creation account matter? Is the order important? Why should we care what God created on each day? Well, if God specifically and systematically presents the order of his creation over a six-day period in his Word, we can safely say yes, it does matter.

It matters because we must be aware that evolution is prominent in our culture today—even indoctrinating our youngest children. We must beware. This idea is

in direct opposition to what God’s Word tells us about his amazing work of creation.

Creationists believe God’s Word as recorded. Evolutionists believe in millions of years of slow change, from non-life to simple cells, to more complex plants and animals, and eventually to the organisms that exist today, including man. Those who embrace this position must reject God’s Word because evolution does not harmonize with God’s account of creation. Here are a few examples of the more obvious differences:

Evolutionary Ideas— Not True	Creation in Genesis—True	Reference
Sun before earth	Earth (Day 1) before sun (Day 4)	Genesis 1:1
Sun before light on earth	Light (Day 1) before sun (Day 4)	Genesis 1:3
Earth at same time as planets	Earth (Day 1) before other planets (Day 4)	Genesis 1:1, 1:14–15
Sea creatures before land plants	Land plants (Day 3) before sea creatures (Day 5)	Genesis 1:12–13, 1:20–23
Reptiles before birds	Birds (Day 5) before reptiles (Day 6)	Genesis 1:20, 1:23–24, 1:31
Creation took billions of years	God created in six normal 24-hour days.	Genesis 2:1–2

It is very sad to consider that many Christians feel that the age of the earth is an unimportant side issue and that discussing it detracts from the gospel message. Christians must understand that all of Scripture is foundational to our faith. If we can set aside a literal six-day creation because it is considered “unscientific” or unpopular, then what will be our basis for determining the truth of the rest of Scripture? Can we teach a virgin birth or a literal resurrection? When we read the genealogy of Christ, which goes back to Adam, can it be taken literally? Believing the historical account of Genesis 1–11 is foundational to believing the rest of the Bible and essential for understanding the gospel message.

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