

Creation: God's Divine Design Of Everything

"Life Foundations: Christian Faith Essentials", Part 11
Pastor Vince DiPaola

**THE BIG IDEA: GOD CREATED ALL THAT EXISTS WITH ORDER,
PURPOSE AND EXCELLENCE!**

"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." (Genesis 1:31, NIV)

I. WHY STUDY CREATION? THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING CREATION

1. Your view of how we came into being determines your view of GOD.
2. Your view of how we came into being determines your view of YOURSELF.
3. Your view of how we came into being determines your view of OTHERS.
4. Your view of how we came into being determines your view of THE WORLD.

II. WHY DID GOD CREATE? A FEW KEY REASONS

1. God created simply for His own GOOD PLEASURE.

"...the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will."
(Ephesians 1:11b, NIV)

2. God created to reveal His SOVEREIGNTY.

"The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it."
(Psalm 89:11, NIV)

3. God created to provide a glimpse into His CHARACTER.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge."
(Psalm 19:1-2, NIV)

4. God created to demonstrate His WISDOM.

"By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding He set the heavens in place."
(Proverbs 3:19, NIV)

III. HOW DID GOD CREATE? THREE THEORIES FROM “SECULAR” TO “SACRED”

1. Evolution: Life originated from NATURAL PROCESSES that began with the first LIVING SUBSTANCE and then continued with the evolving of SPECIES.

a. Common postulations:

i. The “big-bang” theory:

ii. Life began by chance:

iii. Mutations + Natural Selection x Time = Evolution

c. Chief problems:

i. It is impossible to prove evolution SCIENTIFICALLY.

ii. Any involvement by God is REJECTED and the biblical account is CONTRADICTED.

iii. There are problems with their Mutation theory.

iv. There are problems with their Natural Selection theory.

v. There are problems with their Time (and “chance”) theory.

vi. There are problems with the SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS.

vii. There are difficulties related to the FOSSIL RECORDS.

2. Theistic Evolution: God in some way USED the processes of naturalistic evolution to create the world and all that is in it.

a. Common postulations:

- i. An attempt to combine recent “science” and the Bible:
- ii. The “day-age theory” where “days” in Genesis 1 are understood as “ages” (long periods of time):
- iii. The “gap theory” of a long period of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2:

c. Chief problems:

- i. The “scientific” data presented by evolution **CONTRADICTS** the Bible.
- ii. The Bible pictures God as intimately and **ACTIVELY** involved in creation. (see Psalm 19:1, Nehemiah 9:6, Psalm 33:6&9, etc.)
- iii. Making Genesis 1-11 **OVERLY** poetic in contrast to Genesis 12-50.
- iv. **EQUATING** shifting scientific discoveries with biblical revelation. (see Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 24:35)

3. Supernatural or Special Creation: God personally and SUPERNATURALLY created the world and all that is in it.

a. Essential postulations that come from the Bible:

- i. God created out of **NOTHING** (called “ex nihilo” creation).
“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3, NIV)

“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” (Hebrews 11:3, NIV)

ii. God created with a **PROPER ORDER**.

(see Genesis 1:3-26 where everything created originated in the right order)

iii. God created with goodness, perfection and **EXCELLENCE**.

"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning— the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31, NIV see also 1:4,10,12,18,21,25)

iv. God created and **COMPLETED** the job.

"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in their vast array." (Genesis 2:1, NIV)

"...His work has been finished since the creation of the world." (Hebrews 4:3b, NIV)

v. God created and **RESTED** on the seventh day.

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that he had done." (Genesis 2:2-3, NIV)

vi. God now **SUSTAINS** all that He created.

"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17, NIV)

vii. God created **MAN** as the chief object of His creation.

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule...'" (Genesis 1:26a, NIV)

IV. APPLYING BIBLICAL CREATION TO YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE

1. Because God created us wonderfully, we owe Him our WORSHIP.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." (Psalm 139:13-14a, NIV)

2. Because God created us in His image, we owe Him our ACCOUNTABILITY.

"When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be." (Psalm 139:15b-16, NIV)

3. Because God created everyone, we owe others our LOVE.

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

(Matthew 22:39b, NIV)

4. Because God created the world, we owe it our RESPECT so it can help us worship God.

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities— His eternal power and divine nature— have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made..." (Romans 1:20, NIV)

SUMMARY THOUGHT: SINCE GOD CREATED ALL THAT EXISTS WITH EXCELLENCE, WE SHOULD WORSHIP HIM WITH SINCERE EXCELLENCE!

V) QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION IN GROUPS OR FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- 1) Review some of the reasons that God created. How do they strike you? Do they seem God-centered and why is that acceptable? Discuss.

- 2) Summarize in one or two sentences why "evolution" and "theistic evolution" are really not acceptable explanations of creation for a Bible-believing Christian. What are their weakest points?

- 3) Clearly believing in "special creation" takes faith, but it is an informed faith. Explain why the other positions ("evolution" and "theistic evolution") are also systems that require faith, just not a faith focused on God.

- 4) What are some things you learned about creation and evolution? Find two or three ways in which you can personally apply this session to your life.

Excerpts from *Foundations A Purpose-Driven Discipleship Resource Participant's Guide*, pg. 96-97, by Tom Holladay & Kay Warren

1. Science shows us the big bang, but it takes faith to believe God said, "Let there be light."

Science can point to a creator.

- On May 4, 1992, *Time* magazine reported that NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer satellite – COBE – had discovered landmark evidence that the universe did in fact begin with the primeval explosion that has become known as the Big Bang. "If you're religious, it's like looking at God," proclaimed the leader of the research team, George Smoot.¹⁰

But only by faith can we believe in our Creator.

- In Genesis 1:3 the Bible says, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

2. Science shows us the intelligent design of the universe, but it takes faith to believe God personally created that universe.

Science can point to a creator.

- A July 20, 1998, *Newsweek* article entitled "Science Finds God" reported:

Physicists have stumbled on signs that the cosmos is custom-made for life and consciousness. It turns out that if the constants of nature – unchanging numbers like the strength of gravity, the charge of an electron and the mass of a proton – were the tiniest bit different, then atoms would not hold together, stars would not burn and life would never have made an appearance. "When you realize that the laws of nature must be incredibly finely tuned to produce the universe we see," says John Polkinghorne, who had a distinguished career as a physicist at Cambridge University before becoming an Anglican priest in 1982, "that conspires to plant the idea that the universe did not just happen, but that there must be a purpose behind it." Charles Townes, who shared the 1964 Nobel Prize in Physics for discovering the principles of the laser, goes further: "Many have a feeling that somehow intelligence must have been involved in the laws of the universe."¹¹

But only by faith can we believe in our Creator.

- In Genesis 1:1 the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

A sound explanation may exist for the explosive birth of our Universe; but if it does, science cannot find out what the explanation is. The scientist's pursuit of the past ends in the moment of creation. This is an exceedingly strange development, unexpected by all but the theologians. They have always accepted the word of the Bible: In the beginning God created heaven and earth... For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.¹²

- Robert Jastrow, found of NASA's Goddard
Institute for Space Studies

Notes:

10. Michael D. Lemonick, "Echoes of the Big Bang," *Time*, (4 May 1992), 62.
11. Sharon Begley, "Science Finds God," *Newsweek* (20 July 1998): 46-51.
12. Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*, 2d ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 1992), 106-7.