

WE BELIEVE IN CREATION

Genesis 1:1-10

Turn in your Bibles, please, to Genesis 1:1-10. It has been said that Genesis 1:1 is the most well-known verse in the entire Bible. Whether or not this is true I do not know. I would not be surprised if it were true. But I do know this. It is perhaps the most **disputed** verse in the entire Bible. Genesis 1:1 tells us first of all there is a higher power than mortal men. That this Higher Power is God, and He operates outside the confines of our known universe. And this is true because He created the universe, and according to Hebrews 11:3 He created it out of nothing. And beloved, there are many who take great issue with this fact.

You see the word genesis means “origin”. And this is the very purpose of the book of Genesis. It is a book of origins. It tells us how the universe came into being. It tells us how we as humans came into being. It tells us how evil came into the world. And it explains to us why this world is a world of decay, disease, and death. But Genesis’ first, overarching message to us is that this universe was created by God. It is not here without divine design or purpose, and neither are we.

Now, if you believe in Satan, and I trust that you do, it should not surprise you that Satan wages war with anyone who picks up a Bible and reads Genesis 1:1. For he would have no one to believe that God created the heavens and the earth. If he could he would have everyone to believe that there is no God, that there is no divine purpose in life, and surely that there is no life beyond this life. And there is no better way to do this than to come up with an alternative answer for the origin of the universe and our origin as well. We cannot deny the existence of the universe. We cannot deny that we are all here. But we can deny that we arrived by the creative hand of God. And that is exactly what Satan is up to every single day, to cause people to deny that they were created by God. And in the last 180 years or so he has done it by Darwinism, or the theory of evolution.

It is truly staggering to the mind to consider the influence that Darwinism has had since Charles Darwin first published his diary entitled The Voyage of the Beagle, back in 1836. In it he shared his observations of the natural wonders that he observed on a five year expedition to the shores of South America. And then in 1859 he published his most famous book, entitled On the Origin of the Species by Natural Selection. And these two volumes have literally turned inside out the beliefs that much of the world had held for millenniums. One author states it this way, “Darwin is seen as giving the world a comprehension of itself so unlike the view held in the past that, in a sense, he restarted history”. And the comprehension that is so unlike the past is the comprehension of Creation.

So today there are three purposes in my message. First of all, we are going to the Bible and reaffirm the truths of Genesis 1 that tell us that God created the

heavens and the earth in six literal days. Secondly we are going to learn why the theory of evolution is so untenable and should be rejected. And thirdly, we are going to see the dangers of trying to straddle the fence, believing in a divinely created universe by means of unguided evolution.

Genesis 1:1 tells us plainly that God created the heavens and the earth. The word “create” is the word “bara” in the Hebrew language, and it means the origination of something new, rare, and wonderful - creation out of nothing. The word on occasion can mean to shape something new out of existing material. But that is not case here, for on every day of Creation Week, Moses writes that God simply said it, and it was done. God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light. God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.....and it was so”. And on and on. No prior existing material is ever mentioned, so we know that God created the universe from nothing.

The psalmist also declared his belief in God’s creative act. Psalm 104:5-9:

“You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which You founded for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth”.

Can you see the reference to Genesis 1 here? God laid the foundations of the earth – He created it. And on the first day of Creation the waters covered the whole earth. Then He divided the land from the sea. He sent the waters into their places where, except for the Great Flood, they’ve never covered the earth again. But the psalmist believed in the Genesis account of Creation.

The writer of Hebrews believed in Creation by God. Heb. 11:3 says, “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”. The writer says, by faith we know that God created all that we see out of nothing. And Peter corroborates with Hebrews in 2 Peter 3:5 when he writes, “...by the Word of God the heavens were of old....”

But not only do these three confirm the words of Moses concerning Creation, but so does Jesus. Jesus said in Matt. 19:4, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female.” Jesus said that at the beginning God made the man and the woman. Jesus believed that on the sixth day of Creation God created a literal Adam and Eve, and from Gen. 2 we know that He placed them in a literal Garden of Eden.

So we see that those old saints who followed Moses, and also Jesus, believed without a doubt that Creation came about as a special act of God. But it is also

critical that we understand the time frame of Creation, for this is the flash point of Satan's war with God. And specifically, it is the length of the six days of Creation Week. Were they literal 24 hour days, or were they figuratively much longer? And as long as we believe that God was the Creator, why does it matter?

Well, let me begin by telling you the evolutionists' position. The evolutionist will tell you that the age of the universe is 13.73 billion years old, and that it began by an explosion of a tiny ball of matter and energy called the Big Bang. And, of course, we are the final offspring of that explosion. And then, after over nine billion years of random, unguided expansion the earth came into being, about 4.5 billion years ago. But the evolutionists' say that we humans have not been around nearly that long. For our ancestors who had not quite climbed to the top of the evolutionary ladder go back to just a little over 6 million years. But in the latest discovery to my knowledge concerning how old we Homo sapiens are – we with the enlarged brain cavity and present facial features – the latest discovery concerning our time on the planet is the skeleton of a little girl found about five years ago which dates us back about 3.3 million years

Now, as far as the length of the days as recorded in Genesis 1, the evolutionist will give you one of two answers. One, that there is no such thing as the days of Creation – the Genesis account is nothing more than myth. Or the theistic evolutionist, the one who believes in God, will say that the days of creation are just figurative numbers for billions and billions of years.

But this line of thinking runs totally contrary to the language of the Bible. The Hebrew word for "day" in the OT is "*yom*". And scholars tell us that never in the OT is the word "*yom*" used to mean an elongated period of time. It is either used to mean the daylight hours, or a twenty-four hour period, or occasionally a fairly definite short period of time, such as in Isaiah 11:16: "There will be a highway for the remnant of His people....in the day that he (they) came up from the land of Egypt", which was only 40 years. Another example is in Isaiah 13:6, which says that the day of the Lord shall come as a destruction from the Almighty, and this "day of the Lord" speaks of the period between the rapture and the end of the millennial reign of Christ, which is just over 1000 years. Moses writes in 2:4 that he is about to give the history, that is, the details of creation in the **day** the Lord made the heavens and the earth. And again, he is talking about a six-day time period. But even if you took the "day" in that verse to mean millions or billions of years, you are creating a definition for the Hebrew word "*yom*" for Gen. 1 & 2 that you find nowhere else in the entire OT.

But in addition to this, Moses ends his description of each day by the words, "and the evening and the morning were the first day", and the second day, and so on. And this expression is just another way of saying that after the daylight hours came evening, and after the night hours came morning, and that this was the conclusion of the day, and another day would begin. But this terminology puts brackets around

each day and is another strong evidence that the six days of Creation were 24 hour days.

Now, some use the argument, “But the Bible says that one day is as a thousand years with the Lord”. And it does say that in 2 Peter 3:8, but it also says that a thousand years are as one day. And the context of that Scripture is the second coming of Christ. It has nothing to do with Creation. And Peter is simply saying that while men are scoffing at the second coming because it hasn’t happened already, that God operates outside of time, and what seems like a long time to us is like a day to Him and what seems like a day to us is like a long time to Him. So don’t fret but keep looking for His Coming (v.11-12).

So beloved, the plain, simple interpretation of Genesis 1 tells us that the universe was created in six 24 hour days, and when the plain sense makes the best sense, we should look for no other sense. And the rest of the Bible supports this position. But I want to share with you some facts outside the realm of Scripture that are also very pertinent to this issue. The evolutionist’s view of origins is highly dependent upon a dating method for fossils called Carbon-14. Many of you have heard of this method from the classroom. Carbon-14 was invented/discovered in 1947, and is said to be a reliable dating method for fossils up to 50,000 to 60,000 years old.

But down through the years this method has yielded a whole lot of gaffes. For instance, from various sources you can read about the body of a seal that had been dead for 30 years that was carbon dated, and the results stated that the seal had died 4,600 years ago! The shells of living mollusks have been dated using the carbon 14 method, only to find that the method said the mollusks had been dead for 23,000 years! Shells from living snails were dated using the Carbon 14 method. The results stated that the snails had died 27,000 years ago. The truth is the Carbon-14 method of dating is so faulty that it led one scientist to make this statement in the Anthropological Journal of Canada. Dr. Robert Lee wrote:

Continuing use of the Carbon-14 method depends on a fix-it-as-we-go approach, allowing for contamination here, fractionation there, and calibration whenever possible. It should be no surprise then, that fully half of the dates are rejected. The wonder is, surely, that the remaining half has come to be accepted...

Let me share one more thorn in the evolutionist’s side. Another method of pre-historic dating evolutionists’ highly rely upon is called radioisotope, or radiometric dating. This method deals with dating rocks such as granite and also solidified lava, and can supposedly can take us back to billions and billions of years ago. Well, in 1997 a group of scientists set out to investigate the validity of the radioisotope dating method, and here was one of their studies. They took eleven samples of solidified lava from a volcano in New Zealand, from eruptions in 1949, 1954, and 1975. And

the radioisotope dating method determined that these rocks were between .27 and 3.5 million years old. So the question we all should be asking the evolutionists is, "How can you base your belief on such a flawed, unreliable source of data"?

Well, beloved, there is definitely a good answer to that question. You see, many evolutionists are atheists, and they cling to evolution so ferociously because it is the only way to support their presupposition that there is no God. And they have to have some basis for not believing in God. Richard Dawkins is one of the most famous atheists alive today. He was a professor at Oxford University for years. He acknowledges that there are many evolutionists who are theologians and scientists and who believe in God, but as far as he is concerned he said, and I quote, "My personal feeling is that understanding evolution led *me* to atheism". But Dawkins is by no means alone. Bible teacher Lee Strobel wrote in his book The Case for a Creator, "I've lost count of the number of spiritual skeptics who have told me that their seeds of doubt were planted in high school or college when they studied Darwinism".

Most of you know that Humanism is a movement that began in the early 1900s that exalts mankind above everything else in the universe. And in their revised statement of belief in 1973 they wrote: "As non-theists we begin with humans, not God, nature, not Deity. We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural...No Deity will save us". And the statement goes on to say, "science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces." Friends, evolution is the atheists' very life blood. One author stated the humanists' dependence on evolution this way: "For the Humanist, atheistic evolution is not one option among many, but rather the only option compatible with their worldview. Creationism, or Intelligent Design, is considered an enemy of science".

But the fact remains that there are many sincere Christians who believe in theistic evolution, that God caused the Big Bang and then took His hands off Creation and let evolution run its course. So for a few minutes I would like to point out the dangers of theistic evolution.

Beloved, if you believe theistic evolution to be true, then you raise some troubling questions about other parts of the Bible. For instance, the Bible gives us the genealogical record of the human race all the way from Adam to Jesus. And it gives us the number of years the patriarchs lived as well. This is how Bishop James Ussher derived his figures that date Creation to be about 4004BC. Now, there have been many other attempts to calculate the date of Creation through the genealogical records since Bishop Ussher, and all of them come up with the same general date. But if you throw out Genesis 1 as being non-literal, then you must also say that the genealogies of Gen. 5 and Gen. 11 are also not literal. You say that Adam was not a literal person. But in saying this, you deny the testimony of not only Jesus, as we have seen, but also the writer of the Chronicles (1 Chron. 1:1), of Job (31:33), of Luke (3:38) of Paul, and of Jude (14), who all spoke of Adam as being a real person. You

are saying that the inspired writers of the Bible were in the dark about how the universe was really created.

But there is another huge problem you create if you believe in theistic evolution. And that is, the problem of disease and death before the Fall of man. Genesis tells us that when God finished His creative work on day six that He looked at it and said that it was very good. It was perfect. No disease, no death. But then we learn from Genesis three how all of that changed. How Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, and how that from that point they began to die. But not only that, creation was cursed with disease and death as well. And Paul writes in Romans 8 that now the entire creation groans and yearns for redemption from its cursed state, which will come at the time of man's redemption at the end of the age.

But you see, if you believe in evolution you believe that billions and billions of years of disease and death were taking place before Adam and Eve were ever born. For that's what evolution teaches, that humans were the last living thing to evolve, after billions of years of disease and death from natural selection and the survival of the fittest. And friends, that is flat out denying what the Bible says.

There is a third overarching problem that you create when you embrace theistic evolution. And that is, you open up the possibility of treating anything else in the Bible as myth or allegory as well. If Adam was not a literal man, then how do we know that Noah was a literal man? How do we know that Jonah was literal? You also interject the notion that God just might not be supernatural. If He did not supernaturally create the universe, then did Moses really part the Red Sea? Did the sun really stand still as Joshua said it did? Was Jesus really born of a virgin? Did He really bear the sins of the whole world on the cross and really rise from the dead? Yes, once you open up the door for unbelief, it can go all the way to the cross and the empty tomb!

Well, I trust that you have seen why it is so critically important that as believers in Jesus Christ we believe in the literal Creation account of Genesis 1. But I want us to make this very personal before we close. You see, beloved, the Bible teaches that just as God made Adam with His own hand, He also made you. David wrote in Ps. 139 that God shaped you just the way He wanted to while you were still in your mother's womb (Ps. 139:13). And he goes on to say that God wrote His plan down for your life in a Book, that all of your days are numbered. Friend, the God Who so meticulously created this universe created you in the same way! You were fearfully and wonderfully made, David said.

But the Bible also says that just like Adam and Eve, your life has been horribly marred by sin. You have sinned and I have sinned, and we are separated from God by our sin. And just like God had to reach down from Heaven and provide a way of forgiveness to Adam and Eve, so He had to do for you and me. And He did it when He came down Himself in the person of His Son Jesus, and died on the cross in your

place and mine, that we might not suffer for our sins eternally, but go to Heaven when we die.

I ask you, what have you done with this great truth personally, the truth that Jesus Christ loves you and died for you? You are accountable to God for your sins today, and if you ignore God's only remedy for your sins, when you die you will not stand before a God of grace and forgiveness, but a God of wrath, who will cast you into hell forever and ever. Have you ever sincerely turned from all of your sins and trusted Christ alone to save you? Have you been saved? If not, won't you come to Jesus today?