



1

# Creation: God Creates the World

## Key Themes

- The Bible tells us how God created the universe.
- God reveals His omnipotence through creation.

## Key Passage

- Genesis 1:1–31

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how God's omnipotence is demonstrated in the creation account.
- Compare and contrast the biblical account of creation with the evolutionary model of the origin of the universe and life on earth.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Write on the board “Can evolution fit into the biblical account of creation?” Have students mark Genesis 1:1 in their Bibles.



### Studying God's Word

page 4

The account of God's creation—by the Word of His mouth—reveals that He is the all-powerful, omnipotent Creator. The evolution model of the origin of the universe conflicts dramatically with the biblical creation account of Genesis 1. We must rely on God's Word alone for the truth.

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Days of Creation answer key for your use.
- Preview the “Six Days” video (4:40) on the Resource-DVD-ROM.
- DVD player and TV or computer



### Activity: The Order Matters

page 9

Students will compare the order of events in the evolutionary model of the origin of the universe and life on the earth to the order of events in Genesis 1.

- Print one The Order Matters worksheet for each student.
- Pencils



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

In order to best prepare your heart and mind for the lesson this week, take time to read through Genesis 1:1–2:3 and John 1:1–3.

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. Included in these are the Trinity (Genesis 1:26), death (Genesis 2:17), marriage (Genesis 2:24), sin (Genesis 3:6), the gospel (Genesis 3:15), and clothing (Genesis 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.

## 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 it is examined closely.

When did time begin? Time itself began when God began to create the universe. He created time for man, but He Himself is not bound by time. He is eter-

nal—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 worlds [universe] were framed [created] by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" (Hebrews 11:3).

Does the order of creation matter? God specifically and systematically presents the order of His creation over a six-day period—so, yes, it does matter. The creation and evolution positions are in direct opposition to each other. 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

Evolutionary Ideas—Not True	Creation in Genesis—True	Reference
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

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Over the past 200 years, many scientists have developed unbiblical ideas and taught that the earth formed around 4.5 billion years ago. Unfortunately, many Christians have attempted to merge these long ages of geological time into the Bible's account of creation. A few of these views are:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The framework hypothesis: a compromise belief that Genesis 1 is written in a non-literal, non-chronological way; based on secular dating methods.
4. Theistic evolution: a compromise belief that suggests God used evolutionary processes to create the universe and life on earth over billions of years.
5. Progressive creation: a compromise belief accepting that God has created organisms in a progressive manner over billions of years to accommodate secular dating methods.

These are all theories that attempt to fit evolution and/or millions of years into the Bible rather than taking God's Word for what it says.

Many Christians feel that the age of the earth is an unimportant side issue and that discussing it detracts from the gospel message. However, 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 at what point do we determine the rest of the Bible to be true? 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.

For more information on this topic, go to the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Eternal Lord, you are my Creator. Please bless my class this week. Where I am weak, be my strength. Help me be gentle and patient as you are so patient with me. Use me as a vessel to speak the truth of your Word clearly and accurately. You are a loving God. Help me to love my students with your love, Lord. You know my students intimately. Please meet their needs this week. Minister to their individual families, their growing minds, and their precious souls. Draw them in such a way that they come to class this week thirsty to learn more about you!

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Review

We are at the beginning of a new quarter of study. In the last quarter, we started our study through Scripture with some foundational work. Understanding the Bible and the character of God is extremely important as we start to make our way through the Bible. If we don't know that we can trust the Bible and, consequently, the Creator who reveals Himself on its pages, the truths of the Bible may seem fantastical or unscientific.

- ?
- We described a framework to understand biblical history using seven words that began with the letter C. Does anyone remember the Seven C's of History? *Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, Consummation.*

*Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, Consummation.*

We have this timeline poster to help remind us of those points in history and to give us some perspective of the events described in the Bible. We will be referring to this timeline often as we walk through the Bible. Refer to the Seven C's of History timeline to frame the biblical perspective of history.

Today, we are going to begin walking through the Bible and the creation of all things. For the next eight lessons we will look at the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth and all of God's creatures—including us.



## Studying God's Word

- Write on the board, "Can evolution fit into the biblical account of creation?"

- Have students mark Genesis 1:1 in their Bibles.

**Genesis 1**

We will be filling in the blanks in your workbooks as the class continues. Don't fill in anything right now. Wait until we get to it—even if you think you know the answers now. OK? Use the Days of Creation answer key for help with the answers.

### READ THE WORD

Today, we are going to start by watching a video that is based on a reading of the first chapter of Genesis. In the video, you will see representations of the things that God created on each day. After we watch the video, we will look more closely at the text. You can read along with the video in your Bible, if you wish. Show the Six Days video (4:40) from the Resource DVD-ROM.

Now that we have listened to the text, let's take some time to break the text down a few verses at a time. Let's start by reading Genesis 1:1–5. Choose a reader for this section.

**Genesis 1:1–5**

### EXAMINE THE WORD

#### Observe the Text

Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God's Word by asking the right questions.

- ?
- What type of literature is Genesis 1? Does it sound like an account, a poem, a letter, or some other type of writing? *The text reads very much like an account of historical events that occurred in a specific series, not a poem or a letter.*
- ?
- What period of time does this passage describe? *The very beginning of time and the universe. Creation in a six-day period.*
- ?
- Who is doing the creating? *God and the Spirit of God.*
- ?
- What did God create on this day? *Heavens, earth, light.*
- ?
- What did God do with the light? *Look at verse 4. He separated it from the darkness.*
- ?
- What did He call the light and the dark? *Day and night.*
- ?
- Let's fill in Day One in your workbooks. Who can tell me what the answers are? *Words to fill in are: "Heavens, earth, light, light, darkness, day, night."*
- ?
- That's right. God created light and darkness, and when He separated the light from the darkness, He created a day and night cycle. Now, does this verse say anything about the sun? *No.*

He did not create the sun until three days later. He only created light on Day One. This light came before the sun according to God—and He was there! We believe this because we take the Word of God for what it says. We stand on biblical authority.

Very good. Now let's move on. Would someone please read Genesis 1:6–8? Assign a reader.

**Genesis 1:6–8**

- ?
- We are on Day Two. What did God create? *A firmament to separate the waters.*
- ?
- Does anyone know what a firmament is? *If no one answers, explain to the students that it is an expanse.*

There was a lot of water. And God separated the waters above from the waters below.

- ?
- What do you think appeared between the water above and below in the expanse or firmament? *Allow students to answer. Air. Oxygen.*

That's right. It was what we call atmosphere—or the stuff we breathe. We know it as the air we breathe. And God knew it was exactly what the plants, animals, and people would need to live when He later created them.

- ?
- Who knows what we need to fill in for Day Two? *Call on someone or discuss.*  
*Words should be "firmament, expanse, waters, atmosphere, breathe."*

Now on to Day Three. Who will read Genesis 1:9–13? Assign a reader.

**Genesis 1:9–13**

- ?
- What did God create on Day Three? Fill in the blanks in your workbooks.  
*Words to fill in should be, "dry land, earth, seas, grass, herbs, plants, fruit trees."*

God is so good! He was preparing for life. Just like with the atmosphere He created on Day Two, He knew we'd need something to eat, so He created the plants!

► Identifying the type of literature is an important part of understanding a passage.

## Genesis 1:14–19

Moving to Day Four. Who will read Genesis 1:14–19? Assign a reader.

- ?
- What did God create on Day Four? *Lights in the firmament of heaven.*
- ?
- Right. Now what does that mean exactly? Verse 16 tells us a little more specifically. *Sun, the greater light to rule the day. Moon, the lesser light to rule the night. And the stars.*
- ?
- How would you fill in the blanks? Can someone tell me? Words should be, "sun, day, moon, night, stars."

## Genesis 1:20–23

So we are going to Day Five. God was revealing His power—His omnipotence. He spoke and the universe was created. Who will read Genesis 1:20–23? Assign a reader.

- ?
- What did God create on Day Five? *Sea creatures and birds.*
- That's right. Creatures to fill the seas and birds to fill the earth.
- Let's fill our workbooks in. Who can help us? These words are from verse 21. Words should be, "sea creatures, winged birds."
- ?
- What does the passage tell us about God? *God is the omnipotent Creator of the universe. Refer to Omnipotent on the Attributes of God poster.*

## OMNIPOTENT

## Genesis 1:24–27

And now Day Six. God's creation was nearly completed. Who will read Genesis 1:24–27? Assign a reader.

- ?
- What kinds of animals were created on Day Six? *Cattle, creeping things, beasts of the earth.*
- ?
- So now we have land animals. And what else did God create on Day Six? *The first people.*
- ?
- What is special about man? You can find the answer in verse 27. *He created man and woman in His own image.*

That's right. Nothing else was created in God's image. This made man a special creation—different from everything else God created. Man is created in God's image.

- ?
- Who were the first people ever created? *Adam and Eve.*
- ?
- So how will you fill in your blanks for Day Six? Words should be, "land animals, people, Adam, Eve, God's image."

## Genesis 1:31

So there we have it. The six days of creation. God's power was displayed from the very beginning; His omnipotence was revealed by the words of His mouth commanding the creation of all things. Who will read Genesis 1:31 for me? Assign a reader.

- ?
- What did God think of everything He had created? *It was very good.*
- Go ahead and fill in number 7 in your workbook. Words should be, "very good."

## Discover the Truth

In Genesis 1:1, there are two phrases that we need to make sure we understand. The first phrase, “heavens and the earth,” is a merism—a figure of speech that means everything. When I tell you that someone was covered from head to toe, you know I am talking about the person’s entire body.

- What other merisms do we use in our speech? Accept various ideas and define them: “bow to stern” describes an entire ship; “top to bottom” describes a complete object; “high and low” might describe where we have searched—everywhere.

God created the entire universe in just six days. He revealed His omnipotence—His power—by speaking everything that exists into being. God is truly worthy of our praise, honor, and worship.

Genesis 1 tells us how history began. The Bible is the history book of the universe. And God was careful to give us many details about how He did it. God doesn’t give information like this unless He wants us to take notice. We know that His Word is true and that He will not lie! And we need to realize that this account of creation is in fact, true history. No matter what we hear people say or see on TV, Genesis 1 is truth—this is the way it happened!

It is all true and shows us just how omnipotent our God is.



## READ THE WORD

We are going back to take another look at some of the verses from Genesis 1. Assign each of these verses to a different child to look up. Genesis 1:5, 1:8, 1:13, 1:19, 1:23, 1:31.

Genesis 1:5, 1:8, 1:13,  
1:19, 1:23, 1:31

After you look up the passages I have assigned to you, meet together quietly in the corner and figure out what phrase is the same in all of the verses. Allow students time to look up the verses and discuss which phrase is the same.

- What was the phrase? “So the evening and the morning were the [first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth] day.”

Great. Fill in number 8 in your workbooks. Words should be, “evening, morning, day.”

This phrase, repeated six times, confirms that these were actual 24-hour days. Because it says “the evening and the morning” and it tells which day it was (first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth), we know it was a normal 24-hour day.

Fill out the next line—number 9—in your workbooks. Words should be “normal, 24-hour.”

## Discover the Truth

- ? Who knows why this is an important thing to remember? *Let the students give answers.*

It is very important because you will hear a lot of people say these days were not 24 hours but may have been millions of years each. In other words, people try to fit millions of years into Genesis chapter 1 because they believe scientists who insist that the world is older than God says it is. These people believe in evolution—and they believe evolution, which is man's word, to be more reliable than God's Word.

But we can't have it both ways. We either believe the Bible or we believe the lies about evolution. God's Word says the days were 24-hour days. Because we stand on the authority of God's Word, this is what we believe.

You must beware. You will hear lies from the evolutionists that are the opposite of what God's Word says. They talk about a lot of different things—including the millions of years. They may seem right and you might want to believe it because you saw it on TV, read it in a book or magazine, or saw it at a zoo or museum. You have to stop—and compare what you hear with God's Word. This information we just filled out will help you to remember what God created when. And remember, God was very specific and we can't change His Word. His Word is our foundation.

As we talked about previously, God is eternal—He has no beginning and will have no end. But His creation is not eternal—it had a beginning. Before God created, there was no space, no time, and no matter. It is very difficult for our minds to understand this concept, but it is clear from our examination of Scripture that it is true.

At this point many people would suggest that this is where the big bang helps us to understand how the universe began. Many might quip, "God said 'BANG!' and it happened." But is this an idea based on the biblical record or man's opinion?

- ? As you read Genesis 1, what we have said is a historical narrative, how many days did God use to create the universe? *Six days.*
- ? Does this agree with the big bang model of the formation of the universe? *No, the big bang model suggests that the universe is about 13 billion years old and the earth about 4.5 billion years old.*

We are going to do an activity to see if we can reconcile the evolutionary models of the universe with the biblical record.





# The Order Matters

## MATERIALS

- The Order Matters worksheet for each student
- Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the worksheets and have students break into small groups to complete the following activity. Discuss the answers after they finish.

On this worksheet, you will find three columns. In the first column are statements from the evolutionary view of the universe and the life we have on this earth. In the second column, you are going to provide a short statement of the biblical view of the relationship in the first column. Then, put the biblical reference that confirms your statement in the last column. All of the answers will be found in Genesis 1, so open your Bibles there.

Walk through an example for the students using the first row. In the first row we see that the sun formed before the earth in the evolutionary view, about 5 billion years ago according to secular scientists. Looking at Genesis 1:2, we see that the earth was present on the first day. Then, in 1:16 we see the sun was created on the fourth day. So, you can write those two references, Genesis 1:2, 1:16, in the last column and something like, “The earth was created before the sun” in the middle column.

Move around the room and assist anyone who is having trouble finding the answers.

Work in small groups to complete the rest of the table and answer the questions at the bottom, and we'll discuss them in a few minutes.

The text uses general words like “beast” and “cattle” to refer to larger animals. “Creeping things” would likely be reptiles and such. Point this out if the students have trouble connecting these terms to mammals, reptiles, and birds as used on the worksheet.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

?

Are there any points in which the order of the different views agree? No, all of the events occur in the wrong order in the evolutionary view.

?

What would we have to do to get the evolutionary view to fit into the biblical explanation? You would have to rearrange the order of events. Some people suggest that the days are vast periods that overlap to allow for the billions of years to fit into Scripture. Regardless, the Bible has to be changed to accommodate the evolutionary view.

?

How do we know which view is true? The biblical view must be true because it is found in God's perfect Word.

This is another example of using biblical glasses to look at the world we live in. If we begin from man's reasoning alone, we might be convinced that scientists have demonstrated that the universe evolved from the big bang and that living things evolved from lifeless chemicals. Over the next several lessons, we will continue to look at this issue as it is at the center of many important doctrines.





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

We have gone over the first chapter of Genesis today, but we have taken a very brief look at it. There is much more detail that we will be trying to understand over the next several lessons. We will look at each of the days of the Creation Week and examine them more closely.

When we read Genesis 1 as a historical account of how the universe was created, it answers a multitude of questions about how we got here. Unless we rearrange the order of Genesis 1 or claim that it is some type of allegory or myth, there is no way to reconcile the evolutionary origin of the universe and life on earth.

God's omnipotence—His absolute power over absolutely everything—is put on display in the description of the Creation Week. By simply speaking, God created the stars, the planets, the sun, the earth, the fish, the birds, the insects—everything. It is all a demonstration of His power and creativity.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

This concept of a six-day creation and how it relates to the big bang and evolution may be a challenge to your thinking. Many Christians have never thought through all of the issues surrounding the tension between the different origins accounts. Some believe that the secular scientific explanations are so overwhelmingly persuasive that to reject them is to be anti-science. Consider that some of the students in your classroom may hold these various views on the origins issue. Do not be harsh or abrasive when talking about this topic, but approach it with grace, hoping that the truth of Scripture will change hearts to the biblical position.

- ? Many people claim that the Bible doesn't tell us *how* God created; it just tells us that He *did* create. Is this an accurate statement based on the text of Genesis 1? *The text says many times that God spoke the creation into existence—it is not silent on the method of creation. Passages like Hebrews 11:3 and Psalm 33:6 confirm this idea.*

This issue—the origin of the universe—is something that sincere Christians disagree over. There are a multitude of different positions: some

believe the days of creation are long ages; some believe there is a gap in Genesis 1 that allows for long ages; some teach that God progressively created animals, wiped out life on earth, and then created again; some believe that God allowed life to evolve and then gave the first human a spirit. We will be discussing these various views in the next several lessons.

- ? As we approach this topic in conversations with fellow believers, what should be our attitude? *We are called to approach discussions of doctrine humbly, pointing to Scripture to make arguments, not science. The doctrine of creation is not a scientific argument—it is a biblical argument. Hebrews 11:3 calls belief in God as Creator a matter of faith. We must take the argument to the Bible since the creation was a supernatural event.*
- ? Should our approach to supporting the biblical view of the Creation Week look different when discussing it with those who are not Christians? *Not necessarily—we should not use a pile of evidence from science to convince anyone of a supernatural work by an omnipotent Creator.*
- ? If we suggest that the account of creation in Genesis is a myth or an allegory, what other doctrines would become mythical or allegorical—what doctrines find their basis in the first few chapters of Genesis? *Marriage, man created in God's image, the entrance of sin into the world, the need for a Savior, and others.*
- ? How can understanding that God created the entire universe in six days by simply speaking it into existence help you to trust Him? *Knowing that He is all-powerful should give every believer great assurance in what God is capable of doing in the future. He can accomplish all of the things that He promises us He will do.*



### MEMORY VERSE

**Exodus 20:11** For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for giving us a clear account of how He created our world.
- Praise God for His absolute power and control over His entire creation.
- Ask God to help each person to look to the Bible as the absolute authority in his life.

# Notes