

CREATION, PART 1: In the beginning, God created all things out of nothing by his word for his own glory and for the eternal redemption of his people.

I. WHO CREATED THE UNIVERSE?

1689:4:1 *In the beginning it pleased God **the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...** to create or make the world....*

Hints of the Trinitarian Personality of God in Gen. 1

V1 *In the beginning, God [**Elohim, plural, not singular**] created the heavens and the earth.*

V2 *The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.*

V26 *Then God said, "**Let us** make man^[h] in our image, after our likeness.*

Clear Assertions of God the Son Having Created All Things

John 1:3 *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Heb. 1:2 *...but in these last days he has spoken to us by **his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, **through whom also he created the world.***

- The universe is not self-existent. Material reality is not eternal.
- All things visible and invisible (angels) derive existence from the one, true, triune God.

APPLICATION QUESTION: What are some of the practical implications of this truth?

Rev. 4:11 *"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, **for you created all things**, and by your will they existed and were created."*

Ps. 100:1-3 *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³ Know that the LORD, he is God! **It is he who made us, and we are his**; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

Eccl. 12:13-14 *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

Jer 2:13 *for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.*

Jer. 9:23-24 *Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."*

1Co 10:31 *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

II. HOW DID GOD CREATE THE UNIVERSE?

By his word, out of nothing; in six days.

Gen 1:3f (7x)... ³ **And God said**, "Let there be light..." ⁶ **And God said**, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters..." ⁹ **And God said**, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered..." ¹¹ **And God said**, "Let the earth sprout vegetation..." ¹⁴ **And God said**, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens..." ²⁰ **And God said**, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly..." ²⁴ **And God said**, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds..." ²⁶ **Then God said**, "Let us make man in our image..."

Gen. 1:5, 8, etc. *God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, **the first day.** ⁶... ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, **the second day.***

There are astronomical reasons for dividing time into days, months, and years. Why do we divide time also into weeks? The best explanation is that in the beginning, God created the world in six days, and then rested on the 7th, establishing a unit of time, the week, that would shape human life.

Heb. 11:1-3 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ 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.***

DISCUSSION Q: Our Maker could have “thought” the world into existence. Instead, he SPOKE the universe into existence, including man. John’s Gospel will introduce Christ as THE WORD. Why do you think Scripture gives such prominence to God’s WORD?

ANSWER: We can only have “*the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things NOT SEEN*” by the unseen, non-material God SPEAKING to us in a manner that we can understand and trust. God’s word is the essential way that he communicates with us. But not only does his word inform; it also creates, bringing into being what previously did not exist. That’s how the Lord creates a new humanity.

III. WHEN DID GOD CREATE THE UNIVERSE?

Gen. 1:1 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

- The Bible does not give us a precise date for when the Lord created the universe.

- The Bible *seems* to point towards a relatively young earth, perhaps ~10,000 years old.
- The modern world tends to ASSUME that the universe is billions of years old. The belief that present life has evolved through a process of many random mutations REQUIRES the belief that billions of years have been necessary for such gradual evolution to occur.
- The reality of “apparent age” (Adam was created as a mature man, not an infant) and the overwhelming effect of the universal flood upon the geology of the earth may explain why the earth appears to be much older than it actually is.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Why is it crucial, biblically, to insist that, contrary to Evolution as a theory of origins, the experience of death was not in the world until after Adam, the literal first man, was created?

ANSWER: Because death was God’s punishment of Adam’s rebellion. *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— (Rom. 5:12).*

IV. **WHY DID GOD CREATE THE UNIVERSE?**

1. **For His Pleasure**

1689:4:1 *In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... to create or make the world,*

Rev. 4:11 *“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”*

KJV *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, **and for thy pleasure** they are and were created.*

Ps. 115:1-3 *Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! ² Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?”*

³ *Our God is in the heavens; **he does all that he pleases.***

2. **For the Manifestation of His Glory**

1689:4:1 *In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, **for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness**, to create or make the world...*

Ps. 19:1-4 *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. ² Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. ⁴ Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

Rom. 1:18-22 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, **in the things that have been made**. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools...*

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What is being asserted and justified in connection with our Maker having clearly manifested his glorious person to all people in all ages through his creative works?

A: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.” [Paul’s larger concern in declaring the wrath of God is to demonstrate the NEED for the gospel.]

3. To Set the Stage for the More Primary Plan of Redemption

Eph. 3:7-10 *Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone **what is the plan of the mystery hidden for***

ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

DISCUSSION Q: What is “the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things”? **A:** *This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Eph. 3:6).* **It was not God’s sovereign, wise purpose to create an indefectible world from the beginning. Rather, it was his purpose to create an original humanity out of which he would then create a new humanity. The latter would not be composed merely of Abraham’s chosen descendants, but also of Gentiles from every nation, tribe, and tongue.**

DISCUSSION Q: According to Eph. 3:10, angelic beings have prominence in God’s ultimate end for having created and redeemed. How so? How did angels have prominence in the beginning of God’s creation?

A: The devil was decisive in his influence in the Garden. He, along with all other angels, both holy and rebellious, will bow, at the end, before the manifold wisdom of God.

FOUR INDICATIONS OF CREATION SERVING GOD’S REDEMPTIVE PLAN

(acknowledge Robert Reymond, A New ST of the Christian Faith, 1998)

- 1) ***“The fact that God’s seventh-day creation rest is made the symbol of the (eternal) Sabbath rest which the redeemed people of God” enter upon the completion of their labors in this world.***

Gen. 2:2 *And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.*

Heb. 4:4-11 *For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” ⁵ And again in this passage [Ps 95:11] he said, “They shall not enter my rest.” ⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long*

afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." ⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

Rev. 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

- 2) ***"Later Sabbath observance, based upon God's creation rest, commemorated the exodus redemption."***

Deut. 5:15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

- 3) ***"The fact that God intended the original marriage ordinance from the beginning as an earthly representation of the relationship between Christ and his redeemed church."***

Gen. 2:24 Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Matt. 19:4-6 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Eph. 5:29-32 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall

leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² **This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**

- 4) *"The fact that God 'subjected creation to frustration' specifically because of human sin, determining that in empathy with the redeemed it would 'groan as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time,' and that, for 'its own liberation from bondage to decay,' it would have to 'wait in eager expectation for the revelation of the sons of God' at the time of their physical resurrection when their bodies will be redeemed, at which time creation too 'will be brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God'."*

Gen. 3:17-18 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' **cursed is the ground because of you;** in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

Rom. 8:19-23 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.