

Subject: *The God of Creation – Part 3*

Scripture: *Genesis 1:1-23*

As we start another school year we should pray for our schools, teachers, and students, and we should remember that schools don't always teach our children what they need to know. This is especially true when it comes to creation and the beginning of the universe.

That's why the church and the home are so important. It is our responsibility to teach the truth and expose error and misinformation. More often than not our children are being taught the theory of evolution as if it were scientific fact. Evolution teaches the survival of the fittest, but it cannot account for the arrival of the first. People believe that everything began with a Big Bang, but the truth is that everything began with a big God. God preserved the reliable record of creation in Genesis 1-2.

John MacArthur in his book *The Battle for the Beginning* writes: "The Bible is supreme truth, and therefore it is the standard by which scientific theory should be evaluated, not vice versa. And the Scripture always speaks with absolute authority. It is as authoritative when it instructs us as it is when it commands us. Although many have tried to set science against Scripture, science has never disproved one jot or tittle of the Bible and it never will. It is therefore a serious mistake to imagine that modern scientists can speak more authoritatively than Scripture on the subject of origins. Scripture is God's own eyewitness account of what happened in the beginning" (p. xxii, xxiii).

He goes on to write: "The Bible gives a clear and cogent account of the beginnings of the cosmos and humanity. There is absolutely no reason for an intelligent mind to balk at accepting it as a literal account of the origin of our universe. There is no valid reason to doubt or distrust the biblical record of creation, and there is certainly no need to adjust the biblical account to try to make it fit the latest fads in evolutionary theory" (p. xxviii, xxix).

In revealing how He created all things, God revealed important things about Himself. God reveals His attributes through His actions, and one of His greatest actions is creation: "In the beginning God..."

1. GOD IS ETERNAL AND SELF-EXISTENT

All people must say what the Apostle Paul said: "I am what I am by the grace of God." Only God can say, "I AM."

2. GOD IS GREAT

Creation is an expression of His greatness. A few years ago Lee Strobel made a video called "Case for a Creator" in which he mentioned a book about Earth called *The Privileged Planet*. Two things are unique about this planet: 1) Earth is the only place in the universe that can sustain life; and 2) Earth is the place from which we can observe everything else God made. God gave us an atmosphere that is like a window to look out and see the rest of the universe.

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork.*

“The sun will burn your eyes out from a distance of 92 million miles and do you expect to casually stroll into the presence of its maker?”

3. GOD IS GOOD

Creation is an expression of His goodness. Over and over God said, “It is good...very good.” Even the darkness is good. There is no direct statement or implication that the darkness was evil. Everything God made was good. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. The darkness provided a backdrop for the moon and stars to shine (vs. 16).

4. GOD IS OMNIPOTENT (all-powerful)

He spoke and all things came into existence.

***Romans 1:20** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

5. GOD IS OMNISCIENT (all-knowing)

As the Master Designer, He made everything perfectly.

***Psalms 104:24** O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.*

Proverbs 8:22-30

6. GOD IS TRANSCENDENT (above and beyond all creation)

God is separate from His creation and supreme over creation. This destroys the teaching of pantheism that God is all and all is God.

7. GOD IS IMMANENT (personally involved with creation)

The Holy Spirit moved upon the face of the waters (vs. 2). Douglas Kelly writes: “This ‘brooding’ of the Spirit of God over the waters is a major detail in the creation account, not a minor one. It demonstrates vividly the biblical worldview of a God whose hand and direct presence are never lifted from the elements and working of the material order” (cited in MacArthur, *Battle for the Beginning*, 47).

God was intimately involved in the creation of Adam and Eve. This destroys the false teaching of deism that God set everything in motion and then removed himself.

8. GOD IS SOVEREIGN (in control of all things)

God created (vs. 1), moved upon (vs. 2), spoke (vs. 3), saw (vs. 4), divided (vs. 4), called (vs. 5), made (vs. 7), set (vs. 17), and blessed (vs. 22). Creation is not a process that God started; it is something He completed. He is the source of all, the sustainer of all, and the reason for all things. As R. C. Sproul said, there are “no maverick molecules” in God’s universe.

Many people in the world stand in awe of science and technology. Some people stand in awe of creation. But all people should stand in awe of the Creator.

Psalms 33:6-9 ⁶ By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. ⁷ He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. ⁹ For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

9. GOD IS ORDERLY

Someone said, “Order is the first law of heaven.” God had a place for everything and He put everything in its place. God separated (divided) things one from the other (light and darkness, the waters under the firmament and the waters above the firmament, the waters and the earth, the lights in the heaven (sun, moon, and stars). He separated time into days...day one...day two.... These were literal 24-hour days.

We see that God first created the environment and then the creatures to live in that environment:

Day 1: light and dark

Day 4: lights of the day and night (sun, moon, stars)

Day 2: sky and seas

Day 5: birds and fish

Day 3: dry land

Day 6: land animals and humans

We see another phrase repeated in this chapter, “after his kind” (vs. 11, 12, 21, 24, 25). This destroys the theory of evolution.

F. B. Meyer also said, “If God maintains the sun and planets in bright and ordered beauty, He can keep us.”

10. GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY

God explained to us exactly how He created everything, and we can trust what He tells us. He has not left us to wonder and speculate. He has told us all we need to know.

Hebrews 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

If we trust what God tells us about creation, we should trust what He tells us about salvation and everything else in life.

One of the leading proponents of evolution and naturalism (view that the universe is all there is, was, or ever will be), Dr. Carl Sagan wrote this near the end of his life: “Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves” (cited in MacArthur, *Battle for the Beginning*, xiv). He was wrong. There is hope. There is a Savior.