

**Homework for Preparation: Week 4**

**Creation**

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

Read through Genesis 1:1 – 2:18. If you have more than one translation or version of the Bible available to you, read through this in 2 or more translations. If not, read your translation through at least 2 times. Pray for God to open this part of His special revelation to you and to apply it to your heart.

**Day 2: God speaks to us through His word.** Read through Genesis 1:1 – 2:18 one more time, taking notes of any particular points that are meaningful to you personally.

**Day 3: And God said let there be light and there was light.**

- A. What essential point do we find in these verses that separates believer from unbeliever?

Genesis 1:1

Colossians 1:16

Acts 17:24

- B. What does scripture say in Hebrews 11:3 about raw materials God used to create the universe?

- C. Did God create the universe and all creatures because He was lonely or because we fill any need He had?

Ephesians 1:11

Romans 11:34 – 36

**Job 35:5 – 7**

**D. Is there any reason for a Christian not to believe that God used many basic structural designs in lower forms of life and then also used these same designs later in creating man?**

**E. Did Adam and Eve have one specific law to obey? Was this clear?  
Genesis 2:16 & 17**

## **The Major Themes of the Bible Applied to Everyday Life:**

### **Creation**

Introduction –

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

- Original audience and purpose of Genesis – the nation of Israel returning from Egyptian captivity and preparing to go into the Promised Land.  
Living for many generations surrounded by idolatry, needed to learn anew about the one true God. We also live in an idolatrous culture.

#### **1. “In the Beginning, God...”**

- What beginning?? If God is eternal, then what began here? (Time itself, God has no need of time)
- Self Existent – God or the universe?
  - a. Previous to the Big Bang theory
  - b. Origins of the Big Bang theory

God is the Alpha and the Omega, who was and is and is to come. The universe is created – not eternal.

#### **2. “God Created the Heavens and the Earth”**

Homework Q. A. – What essential point do we find in these verses that separates believer from unbeliever? Gen. 1:1 Colossians 1:16 Acts 17:24 God created all things.

The basic problem for the atheist is – where did all this stuff come from??? The atheist's solution: Big Bang + Evolution

Homework Q. B – What does scripture say in Heb 11:3 about raw materials God used to create the universe? None – everything was created out of nothing.

- Scripture frequently appeals to the fact that God is the creator as the basis and foundation for our worship and our obedience to His authority (Ps 148:5, Romans 1:25)

### 3. It Pleased God

What reasons are we given for why God created the universe and all things? Homework QC – Did God create the universe and all creatures because He was lonely or because we fill any need He had? (No)

Ephesians 1:11, Romans 11:34 – 36, Job 35: 5-7

WCF 1.1 tells us that “It pleased God...for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness...to create...the world.” For the manifestation of His glory, or to reveal His glory.

### 4. Let there be....

Various views on how the universe came into being –

- A. Atheistic Evolution (Theory of Natural Selection)– Does not technically address creation, begins with existing matter, and involves movement from simpler to complex forms through random mutations. NOTHING GUIDES the process – chance

Homework question D – Is there any reason for a Christian not to believe that God used many basic structural designs in lower forms of life and then later in creating man?

The word YOM is used for DAY in Genesis, in other places in scripture it does not always mean DAY, although when it is accompanied by a number (as it is in Genesis 1) it does generally refer to a 24 hour day. Some of the views below take YOM as referring to long periods of time.

- B. Christian Views. Christians can and do interpret scripture differently – below are some of the views held by Christians:
  - Theistic Evolution - Everything happened exactly as atheistic evolution says, except that God providentially guides the process, it did not happen by chance.
  - Framework – Literary or analogical – Creation story is representative of truth, it is not meant to teach science but is an artistic arrangement of days, a metaphorical

representation, not chronological. God created the universe, but Genesis does not tell how and when.

- Gap Theory – Literal six 24-hour days, but there is a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 during which the rebellion of Satan occurred, God judges the world, the original perfect creation becomes formless and void, and the 6 days represent re-creation.
- Day Age View – 6 sequential days that are not 24-hour days but long periods of time corresponding to the geological ages  
Progressive Creationism – a variant of the Day Age view – creation ongoing through long periods of time and is still ongoing
- Regular Day/6 Day Creationism – six 24-hour days, text is historical narrative. All other views (except Framework) attempt to explain the apparent age of the universe in terms of actual time unaccounted for in a literal reading of Genesis. Regular day explains apparent age in terms of generally 2 means –  
Flood geology and Creation with the appearance of age – as in Adam’s having the appearance of an adult when first created. (Genesis 2:7)

#### 5. “Let us make man in our image.”

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” How are we in the image of God? WCF 4.2 says that we were created rational and immortal, given knowledge, righteousness and holiness. Although the image of God was damaged and diminished by sin, we still retain it in part.

Homework Question E – Did Adam and Eve have one specific law to obey? Was it clear? Yes (Genesis 2:16 & 17)

As believers, we are actively engaged in God’s ongoing work of sanctification in us. Through this His image in us is being restored and will be fully restored when we are completely sanctified and glorified by His grace.

How is that image being restored – Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 3:10?

God is the One who creates all things by His word of power, He alone is deserving of our worship and obedience.

## Homework for Reflection: Week 4

### Creation

#### Day 1: God Created the World and all Things Therein

WCF 4.1 says “It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good.”

Read and contemplate some of the verses given to support this statement:

Hebrews 1:2

Genesis 1:2

Job 26:13

Romans 1:20

Everything we are, think, believe and do, we owe to the One who created all things by His word of power. Our response to believing and understanding this must be worship and obedience. Think about the ways this should influence the worship of your life. Read through Psalm 148 and rejoice in our great Creator God!

#### Day 2: “Let us make man in our image.”

Read and contemplate: Genesis 1:26 – 28, Colossians 3:10, Ephesians 4:24

How are you created in the image of God? What does this mean to you?

Read through these passages and write out your thoughts:

Psalm 104

Jeremiah 10:11 - 16