

Providence Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School – October 5, 2008
Rev. Ronnie Rowe

***Foundations of the Faith: Knowing for Living
Creation***

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of man. – John 1:1-4

*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.
- Psalm 100:3*

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. – Hebrews 11:3

Introduction

What God's word teaches about creation answers some of the greatest questions: Where did the universe come from? Where did all life come from? Where did we come from? How did this happen? And for what purpose?

God's work of creation

Read Genesis 1:1-31 and listen for the repetition of certain words and phrases

1/ The act of creation

- When was this?
- How did this come about?
- What was created and what was its condition?
- What were the subsequent acts of creation?
- According to John 1:1-3, who is speaking at creation? According to Job 26:13 and Psalm 104:30, who is involved in the execution of this work of creation? See also Colossians 1:16
- What was created on each day of creation?

DAY 1	DAY 4
DAY 2	DAY 5
DAY 3	DAY 6

- Do we learn anything from the phrase “according to its kind” (vv. 11,21, 24, 25)?

2/ Statements of Completion and Fulfillment

- What phrase does God use in Genesis 1:7, 9, and 15?
- Why do you think this is significant?
- Should this have any bearing on how we view the world?

3/ Statements of Name and Purpose

- In verses 5, 8, and 10 what do we see God doing? Is this significant and why?
- In verses 14, 15, 29, and 30 what does God express about what he has created?
- And in verses 22 and 28 what further purpose do we see expressed?

4/ Expressions of Approval and Delight

- In verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31 what is it that God expresses?
- Does this tell us anything about the results and purposes of creation
- How does creation; how do we glorify God?

5/ Expressions concerning Time and Order

- Is there any indication of the measure of time in verses 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31
- What assumptions could we make about the nature and order of the days of creation?

6/ The call to respond to these truths

*“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.”*

- Revelation 4:11

Summary: 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. – WCF, 4.1.

N.B.: Most of this handout is adapted from The Westminster Confession of Faith Study Book: A Study Guide for Churches by Joseph A. Pipa, Jr., Christian Focus Publications, 2005.