

Why Creation

“In the beginning, God created . . .” (Genesis 1:1). When we think of creation, our thoughts almost immediately go to the creation/evolution controversy. Were there billions of years or only 6 days? Was there a literal, historical first couple? What does science say about origins? Dinosaurs, etc. But that causes us to miss the deeper significances of creation, which are several. They include at least the following: (1) It explains the origin of all that exists; (2) it glorifies our inventive and awesomely capable Creator God; (3) it reveals that God owns us, and (4) that there’s purpose for all existence and for human life. Paul didn’t miss this: **“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever!”** (Romans 11:36). Let’s think about these four things:

(1) The origins narrative in the Bible is there to tell us that a transcendent, eternal God did it. He did it by the awesome power of His word, and He did it recently because He’s purposeful. And it took Him six days to do it, the time a master Builder needs to construct a dwelling for His beloved creatures. God is the ultimate author of Scripture, He’s the creator of language and communication, He’s the source of life, the cause of all natural processes, and the reason for morality.

Admittedly, the creation narrative is sketchy; it certainly doesn’t satisfy physicists who want to know exactly how God did what He did. But God gave us exactly the revelation that we need to understand origins. Besides, there’s much mystery in life and in our world, because this existence only anticipates another, one far more glorious, that’s to come.

Why are there stars in the sky? Why are there days and seasons and years? Why are there male and female of each species? Why is there order in the natural world instead of chaos? Why is there beauty in nature? Why are humans so qualitatively different from all the animals, although we have bodies not too unlike those of animals? These and a host of other questions find their answer in the Bible’s creation narrative.

The creation chapters also reveal that the world we inhabit isn’t how God intends it to be. Creation ended with a pronouncement of “very good.” There was initially peace and harmony. Everything was beautiful and innocent, reflecting God’s own character. There was abundance for every creature; the world God made was to be enjoyed. It’s due to the entry of sin and God’s necessary judgment that our world isn’t what it should be. It’s because of sin there’s pain, suffering and death. But in the future God will restore His creation; that’s His great desire. It should be ours too.

Among the existential questions that modern intellectuals raise, none is more pungent than this: Where did I come from, and where did all that exists come from? Why am I here? Why is anything here? We need to know these answers for life to have meaning. The world we inhabit isn’t some eternally existent, impersonal place consisting only of matter acted on by energy, of totally unknown origin. “Big Bang”? But what banged? Who knows? Modern science’s materialist narrative doesn’t satisfy, and most people (including many scientists) see Darwinism as speculative anyway. Putting aside their foolish attempt to void creation, the more scientists discover about the intricate operations of nature, the more opportunities we have to delight in our Creator. The foundation for *all* meaning is Genesis One.

(2) God is the Master-Builder. He’s the ultimate Chemist, Physicist, Biologist, Mathematician, Architect and Engineer. He’s a craftsman with infinitely perfect skills. He first imagined and then brought into existence the basic laws by which our universe operates, the biochemical processes that make life possible, and the innumerable physical processes by which our world continues to operate. How is it possible that there are in nature exceedingly complex, inter-connected systems that function smoothly and consistently? Because that’s how great God is as an inventor and engineer. It’s why David wrote, **“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”** (Psalm 8:1) and, **“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands”** (Psalm 19:1).

What scientists are discovering about nature, God invented and brought into existence. Science has barely made a dent in its knowledge of God’s wonderful creation. No matter how closely anything that God created is examined, whether with optical microscope or electron microscope, there’s complexity and intricate structure. Why do things take the shape that they do, our bodies, for example? Is the information for shape there in our DNA? Who knows? God somehow made bodies with the ability to replicate their unique shapes. What is gravity? What is light? Magnetism? What exactly is the “strong nuclear force” that holds together all the positively-charged protons in the nucleus of atoms? How big is the universe? Who knows any of these things? God does. He devised them. Everything in nature exhibits God’s infinitely rich imagination and His creative skills. God is awesome. We owe Him honor and worship.

Creation was accomplished in an orderly manner, first bringing time into existence, then making spaces, then filling those spaces. This tells us that God has design and purpose in what He does. What He made was “good” which tells us that He

Himself is good. He is not arbitrary in what He does, nor is He a “force.” He is a personal God with intellect, purposefulness, and moral sensibility. And fearful, *dangerous* power. The creation narrative introduces us to God.

When we read the Gospels and think about the Person of the Lord Jesus, we marvel at His love and His wisdom. We’re grateful for and thrilled with all that He accomplished for our salvation. Yet we rarely reflect that it also was He who created the world we live in (Colossians 1:16). The One who graciously said, “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone” is the One who invented water. It was He who put stars in the sky, birds in the air, and fish in the seas. He is the Master-Craftsman of Genesis One. No wonder when John saw Him, he fell at His feet as though dead (Revelation 1:17).

The Enlightenment has given the Western world the bizarre notion that all nature is just matter in motion, like a machine or a clock. The human body is now merely—and only—machinery and is fully explained by physiology. That “the heavens declare the glory of God” is nonsensical in this modern, all-encompassing, reductionist worldview. There’s no supernatural anything. But Genesis One refutes that. Creation introduces us to the immense, infinite, transcendent Creator God. He is the Cause of all that exists and the Author of life. He gives meaning to life and to relationships. Although invisible to us, He is there, and He’s not silent. He has spoken. He not only creates, *He tells us* that He created. No human was there those first 6 days to observe Creation in process; yet the text is there for us to know. God fully expects us to acknowledge the Scriptures are true and derive from Him, regardless who actually penned them.

(3) **“For the world is mine, and all that is in it”** (Psalm 50:12). God created us, which therefore means that God owns us, we’re His possession. He has the right to do with us as He pleases according to His will and for His purposes. It takes humility to acknowledge God’s ownership of us and the awesome significance of it. Pride makes us want to be autonomous. Satan uses evolution to cleverly deceive us into thinking that we’re independent and free of God. But we’re not autonomous, we’re merely created beings. Humility is a creature’s proper stance. God made us and placed us into this house He built, this world we inhabit, which is here also for His pleasure and which He sovereignly rules as He pleases. He loves the animals He made; He’s painfully aware of every sparrow that falls to the ground.

But He’s uniquely made humans, endowing us with His image. That means humans are a living representation of the Person of God. We’re special to God. He loves us, and His desire is to bless us. It means that must exercise extreme care in how we treat others, because other people are not only God’s personal property, but a living image of God. It means not only murder, abortion, rape, cruelty, and all forms of physical abuse, but even indifference to the safety and well-being of others—including their eternal destiny— signify malice toward God’s beloved possessions and an assault upon His Person (see Genesis 9:6). As Creator, God has the right to instruct us how we’re to live in His house and what our responsibilities are. But having given us free will and moral sensibilities, in justice He has the sovereign right to judge us and to dispose of us as He pleases.

(4) God’s purpose in creating is sublime: He made us **“to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord”** (Psalm 27:4). The humble person, aware of the immense Being who made us and owns us, seeks to know God. The one who fears a holy God who has to right to condemn us for our rebellious nature, seeks to know Him. **“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God; My soul thirsts for God, for the living God”** (Psalm 42:1,2), **“O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you”** (Psalm 63:1), and **“My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God”** (Psalm 84:2). God made us to enter into a love relationship with Him that transcends anything we’re able to imagine. It necessarily will involve a profound transformation of our being, something that Scripture only hints at (1 Cor 15:50-53; Phil 3:21; and Col 3:4), but it’s real and it’s coming. A beginning means there’s a planned program that’s going to be carried out, and there’s a climax to be reached.

It’s God’s character to love and to be overwhelmingly generous in blessing others. He made us to be recipients of this love (creation). At great cost to Himself, He did all that was necessary to make us fit to be in His presence (redemption). That’s the glorious destiny of all who humbly acknowledge God as Creator and as Redeemer. Surely, we ought to be sharing this wonderful blessing with others.

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God is the greatest reality that there is. He is there, and He has spoken to us. Everything that exists owes its existence to Him. As our Creator, God owns us; we’re His. We’re not our own. So we need to live according to His will. It’s a creational necessity. And He has a magnificent purpose in creating: to bring us into the surpassing joy and blessedness of the Godhead. Our minds and hearts therefore should be fully given over to Him. **“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy soul, and all thy might”** (Deuteronomy 6:5). It’s why we exist.