



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#2 – Creation Speaks of God

Job 12:7-16

PICTURES NEEDED

2-1 Picture of child observing God's creation

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What is an account? What is Genesis an account of? Who wrote Genesis? Why did he write Genesis?
- **Review the Big Question:** How do we become wise? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Review Memory Verse:** Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

Genesis begins with the story of creation. **(Picture 2-1)** Before we begin the study of creation, we have to first gain some understanding of who God is and how he is different from man.

When we say “man,” whom are we referring to? The term “man” refers to all human beings: men, women and children.

How is God different from man? (Let students give answers. Then list on the board the characteristics of God’s nature that do not belong to men: eternal, spiritual, infinite, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, perfect. For each characteristic ask what that means God is compared to us.)

- Eternal: God has no beginning nor will he ever have an end. He has and always will exist. He wasn’t born and he won’t die. He is of a different nature than we are. We will die but God opens up the way to eternal life.
- Spiritual/non-material: God is not like the things he has created. He is spiritual and doesn’t have a physical body. You can’t experience him with your physical senses (sight, touch, smell, hearing, etc.) like you can the things he has made. We have a physical body although we also have a spirit.
- Infinite: This relates to the fact God is a spiritual being. He has no measurable limits, meaning he has no end. He can’t be contained in a space. We live life in a finite body.
- Omnipresent: Because God is infinite he is not confined by time and space. He can be all places at all times. We are only in one place at one time.
- Omniscient: Besides being everywhere at all times, God knows and understands everything. There isn’t anything he doesn’t know and he alone is the source of true wisdom and understanding. The Bible says he even knows the number of hairs on your head. We have a mind so we can learn but we are limited in our knowledge and understanding.
- Omnipotent: God is all powerful and has the ability to do what he desires. He can bring things that haven’t existed into existence as he did in creation. He can also perform miracles and change the way things normally function. We have very little power. We can only work with what God has made.
- Holy/Perfect: God is without sin. Because God is holy and perfect he can only do what is right. He won’t do anything that is against his nature. We rebel against God and sin.

In the Old Testament, there is a book about a man named Job who was faithful to God even in the midst of great suffering. Through all that happened to him, Job came to see God more fully. Listen to what Job had to say about God.

Job 12:7-16 (NIV84)

⁷But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ⁸or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. ⁹Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? ¹⁰In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. ¹¹Does not the ear test words as the tongue tastes food? ¹²Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding? ¹³To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his. ¹⁴What he tears down cannot be rebuilt; the man he imprisons cannot be released. ¹⁵If he holds back the waters, there is drought; if he lets them loose, they devastate the land. ¹⁶To him belong strength and victory; both deceived and deceiver are his.

What can we learn from the animals God created? They exhibit design and have a purpose. They have life, which only comes from life.

How do we know that the hand of God has made them all? Man with all his understanding can't recreate life. Living things have to have a creator. Life doesn't come from non-life. That living things only come from other living things is an important law of science called the Law of Biogenesis (bio-life, genesis-beginning).

How do we know that the life of every living thing is in God's hands? If God is our creator, then he is also our sustainer. He has provided for his creation everything that is needed to sustain life: food, water, air, light, etc.

How does the ear test words? The ideas you hear are made up of words. You examine ideas to see if they reflect what is true, what fits reality.

Why do we gain wisdom and understanding by listening to God? Since God is the creator of all things he knows how they work and are to function. We learn what is true from God.

What does it mean to be deceived? To be deceived one believes a lie or what isn't true and doesn't fit reality (the way things really are). We believe something that may appear to be true but isn't.

Who is a deceiver? One who tries to get people to believe things that aren't true. Satan is the great deceiver.

What does it mean that both the deceived and deceiver are God's? Whether or not you believe God and what is true or don't believe God, you still belong to him and are under his authority. You will answer to God for who or what you chose to believe and follow.

As we examine the created world we want to listen carefully and determine whether or not it speaks of God. We live in a time where many people deny that God exists and consequently they don't hear what creation has to say about God. They have believed a lie that keeps them from seeing God's work and hearing his voice. That lie is the theory of evolution.

What is evolution? Evolution is the belief that all the majesty, beauty, and design of the world around us came into existence without a creator through small changes over billions and billions of years. People who believe in evolution think that everything must be explained by natural causes and won't consider the possibility of God working in supernatural or miraculous ways. The basic premise of evolution is that given enough time the impossible (life coming from non-life) becomes possible.

God says that he can be clearly seen through his creation so people who deny his existence are without excuse. Romans 1:20 says *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

God's power and divine nature is seen in the things God has made as all of God's creation shows design and purpose. What is design? A plan that determines how something will be built or function. What is purpose? Purpose is the reason for which something is designed, done or created.

The design and order that anyone can see in the world of living things means that there must be a designer. This is called the teleological argument for God. If you were walking through a forest and came upon a watch you would know by looking at it that a watch maker existed. The watch has both a design and purpose; it didn't come together by chance.

Anything that exhibits both design and purpose must have been brought about by a designer, who has both the intelligence and ability to create something. God is omniscient and omnipotent meaning he has both the understanding and power to bring creation into being.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What can we learn from the things God has created? How do we know that the hand of God has made them all? How do we know that the life of every living thing is in God's hands? How does the ear test words? Why do we gain wisdom and understanding by listening to God?
- **Thought Question:** What would cause people to look at the design and purpose in creation and deny that God exists?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that the design and beauty of the world speaks of his wisdom and majesty. Pray that your eyes would be open to see him more fully through his creation, and that your ears would hear what he has to say through both his word and his works. Pray that your desire would be to submit to and obey God.

- **Memory Verse:** Romans 1:20

What does creation show about God?

Creation reveals God’s eternal power and divine nature.

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Questions: What are God’s invisible qualities? How can they be seen in his creation? What does it mean that men are without excuse? What does that mean for people who believe in the theory of evolution? Why do people not see who God is through his creation?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: The animals, birds and earth tell us about God.

1. The life of every living thing is in God’s hand.
2. Wisdom and understanding come from God.
3. God has control over his creation and everything in it belongs to him.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Crossword Puzzle

Word Search: Find words in the word search puzzle that describe attributes that only belong to God. Talk about how those attributes are seen through creation: eternal, spiritual, infinite (without limit), omnipresent (all present), omniscient (all knowing), omnipotent (all powerful), holy, perfect.

O+E+++++O+O+++ +M+T++++M++M+++ ++N+I+++N+++N+++ +++I+N ++++I+++ ++++PPI++++S+++ +++OR+F++LC+++ +++T++E+NTAI+++ ++E++++SCINE+++ +N++++EE+RN+++ T++++F++NET+++ LAUTIRIPS+T++++ HOLYE++++E++++ +++P+++++ +++++ +++++	(Over,Down,Direction) ETERNAL(11,12,N) HOLY(1,12,E) INFINITE(10,8,NW) OMNIPOTENT(10,1,SW) OMNIPRESENT(1,1,SE) OMNISCIENT(12,1,S) PERFECT(4,13,NE) SPIRITUAL(9,11,W)
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★ Further Understanding: Investigation/Reasoning Skills

The Building Blocks of Creation

Because the theory of evolution is what is taught in the public schools we have to examine carefully the ideas behind it and determine whether or not they can possibly be true. That means we test the evidence we can gain from observing the world around us and come to a reasonable conclusion about the existence and nature of the earth and living things. Go through the No God/God chart on the back of the lesson notes.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>No God</u> <u>Evolution</u> (Random Processes)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>God</u> <u>Creation</u> (Intelligent Design)</p>
<p><u>Presupposition</u>: There is no God or if there is a god he is confined to nature (part of the material world) and cannot act outside of it, therefore everything must be explained by natural causes. Miracles can't happen.</p>	<p><u>Presupposition</u>: There is a God who has revealed himself through the Bible and who transcends the natural world (exists beyond the physical world), therefore things can happen through supernatural events (miracles) designed and carried out by God.</p>
<p><u>Theory</u>: Slow changes occurred in the universe, earth and living things over billions of years.</p>	<p><u>Theory</u>: Creation is a supernatural event which happened by God's design and power.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everything we see came from nothing and organized itself into systems. (Contradicts natural laws.) 2. The earth and the universe must be billions of years old to allow time for changes to take place. 3. Living things came from non-living matter. (Contradicts the Law of Biogenesis.) 4. The first living thing mutated into a different living thing, which changed into another and so on. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everything we see was created by God. Order and systems are part of God's design. (Follows natural laws.) 2. Matter and all that is made from it were formed by God during creation. Creation marks the beginning of time. 3. God created living things. He brought life into existence. 4. God created each type of living thing after its own kind and designed them to reproduce their own kind by having babies.
<p><u>Conclusion</u>: Because things came into existence through time and chance there is no meaning or purpose to life. We are not accountable to God. We can determine for ourselves right and wrong.</p>	<p><u>Conclusion</u>: God created all things for his purposes and our purpose is to honor and glorify him. Since God is the creator we are accountable to him. God determines what is right and wrong.</p>

If God is the creator then all things belong to him and he is the ruler over all things. All things are to reflect the design and purpose for which they were brought into being. We are to look to God for how things are to work and what is right to do.

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

- **Digging Deeper:** What happens when people refuse to acknowledge God?
Reading 1: Romans 1:18-23 People suppress the truth and can't see God through creation. What does man's wickedness cause him to do in relation to God? What is clearly understood about God through looking at creation? What happens when people don't acknowledge or give thanks to God? What do foolish people do?

Reading 2: Isaiah 1:2-6 People who deny God are injured and afflicted. What did the people of Israel not see about their relationship with God? What was the result of their forsaking God?

Reading 3: Psalm 53:1-6 People who deny God become corrupt and vile. What does a fool say? Why is that so foolish? What would God bring out of Zion? How was that fulfilled?

Reading 4: Job 35: 9-13 God doesn't respond to wicked people. Why doesn't God listen to the cries of wicked men? What does it take to have a relationship with God? What is the result of having a relationship with God?

Reading 5: Job 8:11-19 Godless people have no future hope. What happens to plants? How are the godless like plants?

Reading 6: Psalm 19:1-4 Science and the Bible shouldn't contradict one another. Science is the systematized study of the natural world through observation and experimentation. Should science and the Bible contradict one another? Why not? Why do people want to leave God out of the study of science? Why is an understanding of God critical to a right understanding of science? A presupposition is something that is assumed to be true beforehand or is taken for granted. What happens if you study science with a presupposition that there is no God or that God has no supernatural power? What is evolution? How do you know if something you read in school is coming from an evolutionary viewpoint? Why can't creation and evolution both be true? If evolution were true what would that mean to our faith? Why?