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The Old Testament: Foundations of Our Faith



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Creation: Where It All Began – Part I

Scriptural References: Genesis 1:1-13

Key Verse: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (*Genesis 1:1, NLT*)

Life Principle

The Old Testament begins with the creation story, where God creates the world. Notably, there is no reference to God's origin. He always was, always is, and always will be.

Introduction

Albert Einstein once stated that God does not play dice with the universe. This quote reminds us that God, in creating the heavens and the earth, was neither random nor accidental. He was purposeful and intentional in His creation. Equally powerful is the conclusion that all He created was good—and ultimately very good. Genesis 1 reveals how God, from nothing, created everything. Without the help of humanity and without preexisting materials, He brought all things into existence by the power of His word. As we receive creation as a miraculous gift from God, we should respond with thanksgiving and praise. Psalm 96:12 and Isaiah 55:12 show how creation itself—the fields and the trees—responds with joy to God's sovereignty, power, and dominion. How much more should we, who are made in His image?

BIBLICAL EMPHASES FOR STUDY

I. The Creation of Light – Day 1 (*Genesis 1:1-5*)

In Genesis 1, we are introduced to God as the Creator of heaven and earth. This introduction rejects the notion that the world created itself or came into being by chance. God created heaven and earth—the One who was, is, and will always be. Scripture describes the earth as formless, empty, and covered in darkness, while the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. On the first day, God brought order out of disorder when He said, "Let there be light." The omnipotent God needed only to speak, and light appeared instantly. As readers, we begin to understand that the means God used to create the heavens and the earth was His spoken word. When God

speaks, order follows. Some scholars conclude that light was God's first creation because light represents His presence. The light, separated from darkness, was called day, while the darkness was called night. It was the light that God evaluated as "good."

The critical question then becomes: How is the creation of light relevant to our lives? Light is essential to our Christian walk because, when we walk in the light, we walk in the presence, guidance, and approval of God. Metaphorically, walking in the light means living according to God's truth, righteousness, and integrity. God brings light into our dark, formless, and empty lives so that we may reflect His goodness and help dispel the darkness of the world.

II. The Creation of Space and Water – Day 2 (*Genesis 1:6-8*)

On the second day of God's wonder-working creation, God spoke a vault into existence to separate the waters. In this context, the vault refers to the firmament that separates the *heavenly* waters above from the *earthly* waters below. God not only created space; He also controlled it by dividing and designing it. He established clear and well-defined spheres. This miracle, brought forth by the spoken Word, symbolizes order and structure in the universe. God created cosmos out of chaos. Once again, He spoke, and it was so. He was intentional in His creative design and strategic in His planning. Just as He named light and darkness, God also identified the firmament, or vault, as sky. Some scholars suggest that, although the physical result is clear, this act of creation also carries spiritual significance. Metaphorically, it reveals that God establishes boundaries. The critical question then becomes: Has God also established boundaries for our lives?

Throughout the Bible, we see that God has indeed established boundaries for humankind. Just as He created order in the universe, He has also given us limits that help us live within His promises. These divine guidelines teach us to align ourselves with His will. Likewise, we should walk according to godly principles that shape our decisions and conduct. Such boundaries should lead us toward peace and toward a life that receives God's affirmation: "It is good."

III. The Creation of Plant Life – Day 3 (*Genesis 1:9-13*)

Verse 9 suggests that the earth was covered with water, but at God's command, the waters were gathered together, making way for dry land. Once again, God spoke, and it was so; He gave names to distinguish His creation. This reminds us, as Scripture consistently shows, that names are important.

After the waters were gathered, we witness a shift in the pattern of creation. On the third day, the earth participates in bringing forth life. God instructs the earth to produce vegetation. We have been taught that vegetation needs three essential elements for survival: water, nutrients, and light. Even though the sun had not yet been created, vegetation flourished because of the light that was made on the first day. God commanded it, and it was so. The earth brought forth grass, seed-bearing plants, and fruit-bearing trees, each with seed within itself. The trees and plants were created fully formed, with the ability to reproduce after their own kind. When God speaks, things happen.

The critical question for us as Christians is this: Are we participating in the self-perpetuating work of making more disciples? Just as the orange tree continues to produce oranges and the rosebush continues to produce roses, God expects His people to continue the work of bearing spiritual fruit and making disciples.

Conclusion

Genesis is the book that chronicles where it all began. It identifies the origin, beginning, source, ancestry, and birth of all things. At its root is a spiritual message about God's sovereignty. He is omnipotent, and the book of Genesis affirms His Godhood. He existed before all things, and from nothing He created all that is. The wonders of His creation have not needed readjustment or modification. Many have tried to refute the Genesis account; still, as believers in the Word, we affirm 2 Timothy 3:16-17, which teaches that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. God existed before time and remains all-knowing and all-powerful.

Biblical Principles for Men

1. How is God's intentionality reflected in your Christian walk?
2. The word Genesis means beginning. How can this meaning serve as a theme for your daily life?
3. How does Genesis dispel myths that the world came to be accidentally?

Closing Prayer

Most holy God, You are mighty and all-powerful. As we consider the sovereignty displayed in Your great and wonderful creation, we commit ourselves to serving You with intentionality and gratitude. We stand in awe of You and humbly receive the gifts You have provided through Your creation. May we never lose sight of, or take for granted, the many blessings You have given us because of Your love for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Creation: Where It All Began – Part II

Scriptural References: Genesis 1:14-31

Key Verse: And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.
(*Genesis 1:19*)

Life Principle

God's creative activity continues as He completes the world's creation and His crowning act: the creation of humanity.

Introduction

In the continuation of creation, we see a recurring pattern. The omniscient God commanded, and things happened just as He had instructed. God saw that it was good, and time was realized. The dominant theme is that our sovereign God is the God of all creation. Though the Scripture in this text leads us to God's crowning creation, we should not overlook the fact that His other creations are also important to Him and to the food chain. In fact, these different creations have consistently lived up to God's original intent. The sun, moon, stars, plants, animals, and fish of the sea have always remained faithful to their created purpose and were valued by God as "*good*." Even so, it was God who elevated His crowning creation and gave humanity dominion over all other creations to value and delight in. What a mighty God we serve!

BIBLICAL EMPHASES FOR STUDY

I. God Created the Firmaments of the Sky - Day 4 (*Genesis 1:14-19*)

God, in His creative workmanship, on the fourth day, renovated and furnished the expanse. He made the sun, the moon, and the stars, all of which made way for the seasons of the year. God created them, and humanity has continued to use them to mark time, to make signs, and to determine direction. God, in His mathematical perfection, placed each element precisely to serve according to His will perfectly. God instructed the light to be placed in the vault to separate day and night, and it was so. God saw that it was good. The light was designed to illuminate the earth, and throughout the ages, it has continued to do so. Light, figuratively and literally, is intense. The attributes of

both involve a path of visibility that is easily seen, readily distinguishable from darkness, and clearly highlighted. God made the light of the sun to govern the day and the light of the moon to govern the night. They were created to regulate time.

The critical question is, how does the light of God impact our daily walk? First and foremost, we should recognize that the light of God should manifest itself in our lives. Though speaking figuratively, in the reality of the Christian's walk, God's light should be visible to all we encounter. It should provide a distinguishable quality of love, humility, and good work. It should radiate a path of righteousness and dispel darkness. God created light to illuminate the earth, and the light of God in our lives should likewise illuminate the earth. It is not designed to be placed under a bush (Matthew 5:15).

II. The Creation of Birds and Sea Creatures - Day 5 (*Genesis 1:20-23*)

On the fifth day, God created all the living creatures, those that inhabit the seas and those that grace His friendly skies. He instructed the waters to abound with living creatures. To abound means to flourish, overflow, and pack. God was intentional in structuring each species of birds and sea creatures with unique features and qualities exclusive to a kind. Though there are many variations of a kind, one type does not become another. An eagle and a sparrow are both kinds of birds, even though they do not look alike nor function the same. They will forever be birds, and they will never become dogs. Since verse 1, when the creation of living creatures is described, this is the first time the word "created" appears in Scripture (verse 21). Created here marks a new stage in the divine creation. It may be worth noting that Hebrews do not include vegetation among living things. In this new phase of creation, God saw that the creatures of the sky and the sea were good. He blessed them, which showed His love for the gift of life. He commanded them to extend their likeness, to be prolific and multiply.

The critical question is, would God be pleased if you abound, flourish, overflow, and pack our churches with others like you? The answer is yes. God wants us to disciple our kind, but only if we are Christ-like.

III. God Created Beast of the Earth and Man - Day 6 (*Genesis 1:24-31*)

The fifth day of creation rendered the animals of the sea and sky. On the sixth day, God began His focus on land animals, each corresponding to its own kind. According to the Blue Letter Bible, one might concur that, relative to the creations of the beast, God had awesome creative power as well as a sense

of humor. It goes on to state, “Any Being who makes the giraffe, the platypus, and the peacock is a God of joy and humor.” Whatever the case, God deemed these creations to be good.

Next, God affirms that He is one God in three persons by using plural phrases such as “Let us,” “Our image,” and “Our likeness.” He united with His Son and the Holy Spirit to create humanity in their likeness and in their image. He created male and female. To be made in the image of God suggests that humankind was valued above all creation. He was valued to the extent that the entire Godhead was called to order. In this case, the term *image* does not mean that humanity has the physical features of God, because God is spirit. Humanity does, however, possess the spiritual attributes of God. Like God, he has spirituality, sacredness, sensitivity, and standards. The critical question to ask yourself is, “Can God be imaged through you?” For believers, the answer should be a resounding, “Yes!” The image of God in humankind is a mandate of power and responsibility, as evidenced by God’s gift of dominion over all.

Conclusion

Contrary to the teachings of the Bible, there is an acceptable (to those of the world) scientific theory known as *the Big Bang Theory*. Scientists theorize that miraculously, energy and matter exploded, resulting in the universe as we now know it. The idea is a futile attempt to minimize the biblical account of the creation and reduce it to a mere myth designed to question and subjugate the omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent God. As devout believers of God, we remain steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the knowledge that God’s Word is truth and that there is nothing greater than Him.

Biblical Principles for Men

1. God saw that His creations were good. Using your life as an example, would God see in you a creation that was good today?
2. Beyond having children, how else can the command, “be fruitful and multiply,” apply to our lives?
3. What spiritual attributes of God should you possess as a Christian?

Closing Prayer

God of all creations, we are forever grateful for Your perfect handiwork. We praise You and humbly submit to Your will. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.