

God Creates
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Allen Power

Genesis 1:1-5,26-31; 2:1-3

What are some examples of amazing man-made designs?

How many “accidental” sky-scrapers; suspension bridges; or digital devices have you ever seen? How about those that just “evolved” over time? It’s amazing to me that people are quick to celebrate man-made designs, yet deny the reality of intelligent design in creation.

Our lesson writers say it well:

“The Bible claims that the universe did not begin by chance but by design. That idea is compellingly logical. We know that when we see a design, someone designed it. To believe that nature—with all its complexity—came into being by chance is against everything we know about design. The universe is the intentional creation of a Designer, and the Bible reveals that Designer as the one true God.”¹

But, we’re getting ahead of ourselves. Let’s go back to “the beginning.”

- They are, perhaps, the four most fundamental words in all of scripture.
- We might say the four most important words in scripture are: “For God so loved...”
- No doubt, those are the four words most critical to the eternal destiny of mankind. But I would contend that the four most FUNDAMENTAL words are these: “In the beginning, God...”
- Go back to the beginning and there was only God.
- That’s because God has no beginning and no ending. Before there WAS a beginning, there was God. The first chapter of Genesis underscores this.
- As we look at these verses we see that nothing exists except by the hand of God:
“God created...”; “God said...”; “God saw...”; “God separated...”; “God called...”;
“God made...”; “God set...”; “God blessed...” In the beginning, God...
- In all of Genesis chapter one the only person in this drama is God.

Psalm 90 is attributed to Moses. He wrote in Psalm 90:2 (ESV)

² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

- Verse two tells us: “The earth was without form and void...” There was no creation, but the creator was there.
- Verse two continues: “...and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”
- Apart from God nothing existed. **What does it mean for you and me today that before there was anything, there was God?**

The Bible Knowledge Commentary points out:

The implications of this are great. First, it means that everything that exists must be under God’s control. The Creation must be in subjection to the Creator. Forces of nature, enemies, creatures and objects that became pagan deities—none of these would pose a threat to the servants of the living God.

Second, the account also reveals the basis of the Law. If indeed God was before all things and made all things, how foolish it would be to have any other gods before Him!² Third, the account reveals that God is a redeeming God. It records how He brought the cosmos out of chaos, turned darkness into light, made divisions between them, transformed cursing into blessing, and moved from what was evil and darkness to what was holy.³ Ultimately He who caused light to shine out of darkness made His light shine in the hearts of believers (2 Cor. 4:6) so that they become new creations (2 Cor. 5:17).⁴

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

- According to the first three words of verse three **what was God's method of creation? What does that unusual method of creation say about God?**
- We sometimes use an expression: "Just say the word and it's done!" Only God can actually claim such power. With just a word He created the universe.

Psalm 33:6 (ESV)

⁶ By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

- Think about how Jesus displayed this in Matthew chapter eight:

Matthew 8:26–27 (ESV)

26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

In Isaiah 55:11 (ESV) God speaking about Himself said:

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- **Why is the truth of these verses important to you and me today?**
- Everything in the heavens or on earth is under the sovereign control of God. Anything can be controlled or changed with just ONE WORD from Him!
- When you and I are overwhelmed by problems that seem gigantic, all we need is one WORD from the Father!
- Back to the account of creation: Verse five says: Evening and morning...the first day. **How do people argue over what "day" really means? What are some of the theories? What do YOU think?**⁵
- From verses six to verse twenty-five, the text describes how over five days God created everything...except man. This is where the real trouble began!

Genesis 1:26–31 (ESV)

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- Verse 26: **Whom did God say would create man? What did He mean by that? How does this tie into verse two? How does it connect with John 1:1?**
- The trinity of God the Father; Son; and Holy Spirit has always existed.
- God made man in His own “image.” **What does that mean? How are we created in His image? When you think about the fact that God created people in His image, how does it change the way you look at them?**

Warren Wiersbe writes:

Man is the crown of Creation. There is a “divine conference” among the members of the Godhead before man is created, something not seen at any other step of the Creation. Some of the angels had already rebelled against God, and He certainly knew what man would do. Yet, in His love and grace, He molded the first man “in His image,” referring to man’s personality—mind, will, emotions, freedom—rather than his physical appearance. (See Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10.) Man was given the place of dominion over the earth, the highest position in Creation. This explains the attack of Satan; for Satan (Lucifer) had once held this position and had wanted an even higher one! If Lucifer could not have the place of God in the universe, then he would try to take the place of God in human’s lives. And he succeeded! Man lost his dominion through sin (Ps. 8 and Heb. 2:5–18), but this dominion has been regained for us by Christ, the Last Adam (see Rom. 5).⁶

- Verse 27: “...male and female He created them.” It doesn’t say “male OR female, YOU decide.” Like every part of life, the heartbreak begins when we think we should decide instead of God.
- Verse 31: God saw what He had made was good. God is so good that even HE can’t avoid seeing how good He is. How can we NOT worship a God like that?

Genesis 2:1–3 (ESV)

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

- On the seventh day of creation, God’s work was **completed**, so He **rested**.
- The Hebrew verb for “rested” is *shabat*, from which comes the noun “Sabbath.”
- *Shabat* means “to cease” and often refers to ceasing from work, or resting.
- God wasn’t tired! God is never tired! God is always working (John 5:17). **Why do you think God modeled Sabbath for us? How did he later reinforce this important practice? Do you take this seriously?**

So, What’s The Takeaway?

“In the beginning, God...” Everything ties back to those four fundamental words. Why did God create the universe? What does the creation account say about God?

Warren Wiersbe gives a great response to those two questions:

“Why did God create the universe? Certainly not to add anything to Himself, since He needs nothing. Actually, creation limits God, since the Eternal must now confine Himself to work in time and human history.

What does creation reveal about God? Creation reveals: (1) His wisdom and power (Job 28:23–27; Prov. 3:19); (2) His glory (Ps. 19:1); (3) His power and Godhead (Rom. 1:18–21); (4) His love for insignificant man (Ps. 8:3–9); (5) His providential care (Isa. 40:12ff). Our Lord, when on earth, saw the gracious hand of the Father even in the flowers and fowl (Matt. 6:25ff).”⁷

This week, when the problems mount up and the stress is so high, remember: “In the beginning, God...” He made it all. He controls it all. And with just a word He can fix any problem we have. With His Son Jesus... “the Word” (John 1:1), He gave the solution to ALL our problems: Salvation by grace through faith.

¹ Explore the Bible Leader Guide – Lifeway © 2015

² Ross, A. P. (1985). Genesis. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 27). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

³ Ross, A. P. (1985). Genesis. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 28). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁴ Ross, A. P. (1985). Genesis. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 28). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Ibid - Regarding the word **day** (*yôm*) several interpretations have been suggested. (1) The days of Creation refer to extended geological ages prior to man's presence on earth. (2) The days are 24-hour periods in which God *revealed* His creative acts. (3) They are literal 24-hour days of divine activity. In favor of the third view is the fact that the term *yôm* with an ordinal (first, second, etc.) adjective means 24-hour days wherever this construction occurs in the Old Testament. Also the normal understanding of the fourth commandment (Ex. 20:11) would suggest this interpretation.⁵

⁶ Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Ge 1). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁷ Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Ge 1). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.