



September 17/18, 2011

Genesis 1

“Creation Sensation”

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Pastor Gary’s message last week focused on an introduction to the book of Genesis, as well as disarming Darwinian Evolution. This week’s message centers on the first chapter of Genesis.

The Hebrew word for Genesis is *bereshith*, which means “in the beginning.” This is indeed a book about beginnings: the natural world, human civilization, and Israel and its people (later known as “Jews”). Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, which are known as the Pentateuch (the Hebrew is *Torah*). We know Moses was the writer because Jesus confirmed it in [Luke 24:44](#).¹ The “Law of Moses” or the Torah includes the following books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Moses wrote Exodus through Deuteronomy as he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write about things he had eye-witnessed. Since Moses wasn’t alive to be a witness to creation, what about the book of Genesis? The answer is found in [2 Peter 1:20-21](#), which says: “...*No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*” The Greek word for “carried along” is also used of a ship in [Acts 27:15](#).² The idea is that writers of Scripture would “raise their sails” in cooperation with God and the Holy Spirit carried them along with the information God wanted recorded. So, Moses had to rely on the Holy Spirit, not just for the content, but also for the revelation itself, since he wasn’t there to witness it.

¹ “...*Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses [Torah], the Prophets and the Psalms.*”

² “*The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.*”

It's at this point that the ire of critics and skeptics is raised about the Creation story. They say, "Well, if no one was there to witness the beginning of creation, how can you be confident that the account in the Bible is true?" The Christian's response would be: "And what scientist was there for the Big Bang?" The fact is that any explanation for the origin of life and the universe requires a belief system. The question is, which one will you believe?

It makes rational sense to believe in an Eternal Being who created the universe and life. It is irrational to say that something simply popped into existence out of nothing, then evolved into a highly sophisticated, intelligent, complex system all by itself. The subject of an "undirected origin of life" has long plagued evolutionary scientists. They can theorize about the process and development of life, but they agree that they cannot explain the origin of life. This is such a troublesome thing in the scientific community, that one Nobel Prize winning scientist, Dr. Francis Crick,³ who has written several times about the undirected origin of life on earth, has explained it this way: "[W]e should consider the idea that space aliens sent a rocket ship to the earth to seed it with spores to begin life."⁴ It's hard to believe, but Dr. Crick is actually agreeing with Intelligent Design, it's just that he believes the "designer(s)" are space aliens!

It's important for Christians to approach the study of Creation with faith. [Hebrews 11:3](#) says, "*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*" Christians also need to be humble when it comes to this topic. We read about God's conversation with Job in [Job 38:4](#), which says, "*Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.*"

In this study we're going to learn about and emphasize the biblical account of God's creation.

The Preexistence, Power and Presence of God

1. The preexistence of God - [Genesis 1:1](#) - "*In the beginning God...*"
2. The power of God - [Genesis 1:1](#) - "*God created...*"

³ Dr. Francis Crick along with Dr. James Watson discovered the double-helical shape of DNA.

⁴ Behe, Dr. Michael (Biochemist @ Lehigh University), Darwin's Black Box, p. 248.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=7L8mkq4jG6EC&lpg=PA248&ots=ZAwmw8itgV&dq=rocket%20ship%20to%20earth%20to%20seed%20it%20with%20spores&pg=PA248#v=onepage&q=rocket%20ship%20to%20earth%20to%20seed%20it%20with%20spores&f=false>

3. The presence of God is found Genesis 1:2 - *"... the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."*

The Plurality Of The Godhead

4. God is one God who reveals himself in three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.
5. We call it the Trinity of God.
 - a. **Genesis 1:1** - *Elohim* (masculine plural noun) with *bara* (masculine singular verb)
 - b. **Genesis 1:26** - *" 'Then God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...' "*

The Parts Of The Atom

6. Space, matter and energy are the components of the atom.
7. *"In the beginning"* time, as we understand it, began.
 - a. Space - **Genesis 1:1** - *"the heavens"*
 - b. Matter - **Genesis 1:1** - *"the earth"*
 - c. Energy - **Genesis 1:3** - the whole electromagnetic spectrum

Creation - Day 1

8. **Genesis 1:3-5** - *"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.' And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day."*
9. *"Day"* means a literal 24-hour day.
 - a. The axial rotation of the Earth began on day one.
 - b. *"Day"* is not a geological age, because God didn't create the world over long periods of time.
 - i. Theistic Evolution ⁵ is the theory that attempts to marry science and Scripture.
 - c. The Hebrew word for day is *yom*.

⁵ <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v20/n1/theistic-evolution>

- i. This word can mean a long period of time or a season, as in *“the day of the Lord,”* however, *yom* is used over 2,000 times in the Old Testament and, whenever it’s attached to a numerical value, it always means 24 hours.
10. An interdependent system exists because everything had to be up and running quickly, since one part was dependent on another.
- a. For example, vegetation was created on day three and the Sun on day four, so obviously all vegetation would die if there were long periods of time in between.
11. What are we to believe about scientists’ estimates of the Earth being 4 billion years old?
- a. The simplest answer is that the Earth was created with age-dated material.
 - i. Example - Day three - Fruit-bearing trees with seed (mature)
 - ii. Example - Day six - Adam was created as a man, not a baby.
 - b. The appearance may look old, but the actual age of the Earth is somewhere around 6,000 years old.
 - c. A genealogical record exists in the Bible, which we can use to trace back 6,000 years to Adam, who was created on day six.

Creation - Day 2

12. **Genesis 1:6-8** - *“And God said, ‘Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.’ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse ‘sky.’ And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.”*
13. The expanse (“*sky*”) was created to separate water above the Earth (vapor canopy) and water on the Earth (a shoreless ocean).
14. There was a greenhouse effect; the Earth would have been very tropical at first, which is evidenced by the fact that Woolly Mammoths found in Siberia had tropical vegetation in their mouths and stomachs.

Creation - Day 3

15. **Genesis 1:9-13** - *“And God said, ‘Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry ground ‘land,’ and the gathered waters he called ‘seas.’ And God saw that it was good.*

Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day."

16. The waters on the Earth retreated to lower basins and dry land emerged, and vegetation covered the dry land (grasses, herbs, and fruit-bearing trees).

Creation - Day 4

17. **Genesis 1:14-19** - *"And God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.' And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day."*

18. The Sun, Moon and stars were created.

Creation - Day 5

19. **Genesis 1:20-23** - *"And God said, 'Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.' So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.' And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day."*

20. God made creatures of the sea and air (fish, birds, etc.).

Creation - Day 6

21. **Genesis 1:24-31** - *"And God said, 'Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and*

wild animals, each according to its kind.’ And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’ Then God said, ‘I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.’ And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.”

22. God created land creatures: wild animals, livestock, and things that move along the ground.
23. God created man, both male and female.
24. At the end of day six, God said something quite different than he’d said on the all of the previous days of creation.
 - a. Prior to creating man, God had said that his creation *“was good.”*
 - b. When he made man, he said that what he had done was *“very good.”*
25. Mankind was the exclamation mark on God’s creation.
 - a. Only man was created in the *“image” (tselem)* and *“likeness” (demuuth)* of God.
 - b. The plant and animal kingdoms were created without human characteristics or in the *“image”* and *“likeness”* of God.
26. Mankind is distinctly different from the rest of creation, including angels.
 - a. [Revelation 4:11](#) - *“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Genesis 1:6-31](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Read and discuss each of the six days of creation.
4. This study doesn't lend itself to a lot of personal application, so it's recommended that you use this study guide and the September 17/18 study guide during your Bible study time.⁶

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).

⁶ <http://cornerstonechapel.net/pdf/studyguides/2011/2011%2009-11%20Study%20Guide.pdf>