

I. Introduction and review: Faith begins with an acknowledgment of God as Creator.

II. By faith we know God created all things. v. 3

A. Our belief in creation illustrates how faith operates. v. 3a

1. None of us was present to observe God making the universe. Job. 38:4
2. How then do we know how the universe came into being?
3. The medium of our understanding is faith in the written Word of God.
 - a. We know and believe because God has revealed this truth to us in Scripture. 1:3 Gen. 1:1f Ps. 33:6,9 Ex. 20:11 Jo. 1:3 Co. 1:16 Acts 14:15 (special rev.)
 - b. He has given us faith to believe what He wrote. 11:1f Rom. 10:17
4. We who believe in creation should put the same faith in the unseen world to come. 11:15-16 12:11

B. By His powerful Word, God created all things out of nothing. v. 3b Ge. 1:1f Ps. 33:6

1. The Bible teaches creation *ex-nihilo*. Acts 14:15 Rom. 4:17
2. The physical universe is neither eternal nor self-existent. But God is!
3. Unseen spiritual realities are ultimate, preceding what is seen. v. 1b 11:27
4. The same Word which established the physical creation has established the new spiritual creation. 11:17 Isa. 55:11 II Cor. 4:6 5:19 I Pet. 1:23
5. Word-faith heretics claim that we also can, by faith, speak things into existence.

C. Can lost people understand creation through natural revelation? Ro. 1:19f Ps. 19:1f

1. God has given ample external evidence of His existence and nature in the physical creation. Rom. 1:20 Ps. 94:9
2. Deep down they know God exists and that He has created all things. Rom. 1:19
3. Why do many disbelieve in creation? II Pe. 3:5
4. They wickedly suppress the truth. Rom. 1:18,21,25
5. Natural revelation does not convert, but it does render all people without excuse.

D. The only way anyone can properly understand creation is through God-given faith.

1. True knowledge of God as Creator is not gained through scientific inquiry or philosophical speculation.
2. It is only through special revelation that we embrace God as Creator. Ro. 10:17
3. Believers see God's fingerprints all over the physical universe. Ps. 19:1-6
4. You will not be able to convince an unbeliever of a biblical view of creation unless God grants faith.
5. Those who are blind cannot see (believe) spiritual realities. I Cor. 2:14
6. They suppress the truth by coming up with alternative explanations for the physical universe.

III. How should Christians address the attacks upon the truth of creation?

A. Many point out problems with the atheistic Darwinian theory of evolution.

1. Scientific problems.
 - a. Human scientific inquiry is limited.
 - b. Eternity of matter. From where did the original stuff come?
 - c. Spontaneous generation of life. How did life emerge?
 - d. Increasing complexity of life.
 - e. Gaps in the fossil record.
 - f. Unreliability of dating methods.

2. Humanistic theories of origins continue to change.
 3. Evolutionism is a religious system whose adherents are zealously faithful.
 4. Can we hope to turn people into believers by proving Darwinism is untrue?
 5. Should we expect public schools to allow intelligent design to be taught as an alternative to Darwinism?
- B. Creation Scientists gather evidence to support the biblical account of creation. (ICR)**
1. The impact of the universal flood in Noah's day might explain much in terms of geology and the fossil record.
 2. Can we prove the Bible is true using geology, archeology, etc.?
 3. What is the proper place for creation science? Be careful not to identify a particular scientific theory which tries to explain the data as THE biblical view.
- C. Some believe that God directed the evolutionary process (theistic evolution).**
1. Some try to harmonize the scientific data with the biblical accounts by saying the days of creation refer to ages of creation.
 2. At first glance there is similarity between the order of evolutionary theory and the biblical account of creation.
 3. There are differences between the order in Genesis and that proposed by evolutionists.
 4. Some biblical problems with evolution:
 - a. The goodness and completeness of the original creation. Gen. 1:30-31 2:1-3
 - b. The special creation of mankind. Gen. 2:4f Acts 17:26
 - c. Jesus as the second (last) Adam. Rom. 5:12-14
- D. Some try to harmonize the scientific data with the Bible by saying the creation account is a poem which is not meant to be taken literally (framework view).**
1. There appears to be a pattern in the days of creation.
 - a. Days 1-3 are days of forming realms: light, sky and sea, dry land
 - b. Days 4-6 are days of filling: lights, birds and fish, animals and man
 2. Biblical problems with the framework view:
 - a. The creation account is written as history, not a myth.
 - b. The use of literary devices and structure does not necessarily imply that the account is not historical and chronological.
 - c. The rest of the Bible treats the creation account as historic and literal.
Ex. 20:9-11 Mt. 19:4-5 Acts 17:26 I Co. 11:8-9 Mark 10:6 13:19
 - d. The goodness and completeness of the original creation. Gen. 1:30-31 2:1-3
 - e. The special creation of mankind. Gen. 2:4f Rom. 5:12-14 Acts 17:26
 - f. In light of the myths of Israel's pagan neighbors, it is incredible that God would use figurative language to teach the correct view of origins.
 - g. How far do you go?
- E. Faith in God's infallible revelation supercedes the claims of human science.**
1. Science is good. Gen. 1:28
 2. True science will never contradict the Word of God.
 3. While the Bible is not an exhaustive science or history book, it speaks authoritatively to matters of history and science.
 4. If scientific data seems to contradict the biblical account, we may want to re-examine our interpretation of Scripture.
 5. We cannot, however, twist the plain meaning of Scripture to placate today's fallible, changing, and biased "science". I Jo. 5:9 Ex. 20:9-11 Ps. 33:6,9
 6. We place our ultimate trust in the unseen realities of God's infallible unchanging Word, not human scientists whose theories are fallible and frequently changing.

IV. How does the truth that God is Creator impact our lives?

- A. The biblical account of creation account refutes atheism, materialism, naturalism, agnosticism, dualism, polytheism, pantheism, deism, and humanism.**
- B. The creation account affirms:**
 - 1. The existence of a personal God. Ps. 14:1**
 - 2. The self-sufficiency of God. Acts 17:25 Isa. 46:10 Rom. 11:33-36**
 - 3. The eternity of God. John 1:1-2 Ps. 90:2 Titu 1:2**
 - 4. The omnipotent power of God.**
 - 5. Creation out of nothing.**
- C. The creation account is foundational in our lives.**
 - 1. We are created in God's image. Gen. 1:27**
 - 2. We are accountable to God, our Creator. Acts 17:25,31 Isa. 5:20 Ps. 24:1**
 - 3. We understand our relationship to the physical creation: dominion and stewardship. Gen. 1:28f**
 - 4. We understand our vocation (work). Gen. 2:15**
 - 5. We know God's design for the family. Gen. 1: 2:18-25**
 - 6. We understand how sin and evil came into the world. Gen. 3:1f**
 - 7. The second (last) representative man (Adam) comes to restore what the first lost. Rom. 5:12f I Cor. 15:21-22**

V. Concluding applications.

- A. Creation is a matter of faith.**
 - 1. Whom are you going to believe?**
 - 2. Whom are you going to tell? Rom. 1:20 10:17 Acts 17:24-31**
 - 3. Whom will you praise? Praise God for His creation. Ps. 19:1f Rev. 4:11**
 - 4. To Whom will you look for help? Ps. 121:1-2**
- B. We are God's new creation in Christ. II Co. 5:17 Gal. 6:15 Eph. 2:10 4:24**
- C. God, Who created a beautiful earth, will make an even better dwelling place for us in heaven. Ps. 65:17 48:6-7 Rev. 21-22**

Discussion questions

- 1. Why is creation such an important issue in our day?**
- 2. How do we know that God created all things out of nothing?**
- 3. How does verse 3 reinforce the message that unseen spiritual realities are ultimate? v. 1**
- 4. Can lost people understand creation through studying nature? Why or why not?**
- 5. What are some scientific problems with the theory of evolution?**
- 6. Can we hope to turn people into believers by proving Darwinism is untrue?
What will convince them?**
- 7. What are some ways people have tried to harmonize the scientific data with the Bible?
Where do these fall short?**
- 8. How should a Christian look upon the relationship between science and Scripture?**
- 9. How does belief in creation affect one's worldview?**
- 10. What are some important practical implications of faith in God as Creator?**