

Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:25

MEMORY VERSE

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many pieces of construction paper as the number of children in your class, magazines, catalogues, scissors, and glue.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Creation Collage

Have your students cut pictures from magazines and catalogues that represent the things God created. Have them arrange and glue these pictures to pieces of construction paper.

Explain to your class that today you will be learning about how God created the heavens and the earth.

LESSON TIME!

The book of Genesis is the book of beginnings. It tells about "the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created" (Genesis 2:4). It tells about the beginning of life and the creation of man. We see the beginnings of all human institutions and relationships. We see the introduction of sin into the world, with the terrible effects of its curse on mankind. We also see the beginnings of God's plan to bless the nations through His special people, Israel, and His Son Jesus.

Genesis reveals man's failure in the garden and the sin affecting his relationship with his Creator. Wonderfully, we also begin to see the revelation of who God truly is. We see His character and His name.

We see that He is kind and loving and desires a relationship with people, but also He is a holy God who will judge sin when people refuse to turn away from it.

Also recorded in Genesis are four of the eight covenants (or agreements) that God made with His people. A covenant is when God says that He will do something for a person or people. For example, God will come and tell His people that He will bless them. Their only response needs to be obedience. That is a covenant. Many of God's covenants are one sided, which means that God does something for man with nothing expected in return. That is just how God is, loving and gracious. The covenants we will see in this book are the covenant God made in Eden, the covenant God made with Adam, the covenant God made with Noah, and the covenant God made with Abraham.

Genesis is the first book of the law--one of the first five books in the Bible which are called the "Pentateuch," a Greek word meaning "five volumes." The date of its writing is about 1450-1410 B.C. with Moses as its author.

GENESIS 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Presented to us here is a statement of truth: "In the beginning God..." Everything in this world and in this life begins with God. (Read also Colossians 1:16.) God is eternal, with no beginning or end. Sometimes that is hard for us to imagine because everything we can think of has a beginning. But God does not try to convince us; He just states it as fact. He was there in the beginning, and He created the heavens and the earth. It is up to us to believe what He tells us. One day we will be with Him and see Him face to face; then we will understand these things.

Some people believe that the earth and life slowly came into being over several millions and billions of years. You may even be taught that in school. But the Bible is very clear that God created the heavens and the earth. The beauty of His creation is one of the ways we know that there is a God and that we are to seek Him and worship Him.

If you were to take several different colors of paint and just throw them all onto a canvas with no order or design, there is no way that it would make a very pretty picture. In the same way, the beautiful mountains, the oceans, the forests, and all of the creatures that live in this world could not have just happened. There has to be design. Look again at the painting. If you were to set several paints next to a canvas, the paint will not jump up onto the canvas. It takes a painter or designer to create a beautiful picture. So it takes a designer, the Almighty God, to create this world and everything in it. **God created everything**

Something from Nothing?

Draw two columns on a chalkboard. Title one, “Something from Something” and the other, “Something from Nothing.” Have your class raise their hands and share ideas of things that man has made that would fit into one of the two categories.

Only God makes something from nothing, so the “Something from Nothing” category will be empty. Explain to your class that even though man is creative, he is dependant on God to create “something from nothing” in order to express himself.

GENESIS 1:2

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

We see in verse 2 that the earth at first was formless and empty. God could have created everything all at once because He is almighty, but He chose to use seven days to teach us things about Him. So God created the earth over six days, and He rested on the seventh day. We will look at each day as we continue.

It is interesting to also note that in creation we see the Trinity. The Trinity is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In verse one we see God and in verse two we see the Holy Spirit. Look again at Colossians 1:15-17 to see the role of Jesus in creation. In verse 26 of Genesis 1, God said, "Let us make man in our image." The plural pronoun "us" is used to refer to the three persons who make up the Trinity. We are created in God's image in that we have a spirit, a soul (mind, will, and emotions), and a physical body.

GENESIS 1:3-5

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

On the first day, we see that God created light. God spoke and it was done. It was God's Word that accomplished His purpose. Then we are told that God saw the light, and it was good. This is a good picture of our relationship with the Lord. Our lives were filled with darkness until Jesus came into our hearts and brought light. Jesus said that He is the Light of the World. He is the only hope for this dark world.

God divided the darkness from the light. They could never be joined together or reconciled "for what fellowship has light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14). We need to realize in our lives that "light" and "darkness" can never fellowship together.

GENESIS 1:6-8

Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."

Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.

And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

Here we have the second day, vapor, above and water below. This is interesting because it is talking about a layer of moisture that covered the earth. It seems that the earth's atmosphere was different at creation than it is now. This layer helped the earth to be green and lush with plant life. There was not such a thing as rain until the time of Noah. It appears that at the time of the flood that the Lord removed this firmament and began to use rains as the means for the earth to receive water. We do not know all of the details, but we do know that what God created was good.

GENESIS 1:9-13

Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

So the evening and the morning were the third day.

Here on the third day, we have land and sea and plant life appearing. There are two creative acts which take place: 1) separation of the dry land from the waters which were under the heavens, and 2) the creation of vegetation consisting of two kinds of plant life—the herbs which produce seeds in themselves and the trees which produce seed-bearing fruit. We see that the various species of plant and animal life are determined by divine command from the very beginning. **God created everything.**

GENESIS 1:14-19

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

"and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,

and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Here we have the fourth day; the sun, moon, and stars are made. The luminaries, or bodies of light (stars, etc.), come into existence. Their purpose is threefold. First, they are to separate the day from the night. Even though light has already been divided from darkness, the luminaries are not made mention of ruling over the day and night until this point.

Their presence in the heavens seems to make the distinction between day and night more pronounced. Secondly, the luminaries are to serve as a clock, designating the calendar days and years and regulating the appointed seasons. Thirdly, God has set the sun, stars, and moon in their courses “to give light upon the earth.” Here again, they are described in their relation to earth to give light which is necessary to the growth and health of every creature.

God made two great lights, the sun and the moon. They are great, not in comparison with the earth, but in contrast with the stars, as the amount of light they produce and their affect upon the earth is considered.

In a spiritual application, we see God putting the lights in heaven to serve us; and we have been set in this world to be lights to shine for God. Let us ask ourselves if we are shining as brightly for our Creator as the sun and the moon and stars shine for Him. **God created everything**—us included.

GENESIS 1:20-23

Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens."

So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

On the fifth day; the fish and fowl are created. We have here the account of the creation of living creatures, not spoken of before this time. It is amazing when you think about the variety of what God created. So many types of fish and birds, all having different shapes and colors. They were all declaring the majesty of the Lord. **God created everything.**

The Bible does not say that only a pair of each kind of fish or bird was created. Rather it talks about how they abounded. It seems that there were many in number as well as many in kind. Again, God saw that His creation was good. God blessed them saying, "Be fruitful, and multiply..." The fruitfulness of these animals is a blessing to us still.

GENESIS 1:24-27

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so.

And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

On the sixth day: animals and man are created. In the first part of the sixth day, we again see God speaking forth His Word and life appears. There are three divisions: the cattle, referring to the larger animals; the creeping, referring to the smaller land animals which move either with or without feet; and the beast of the earth, the freely roving wild animals. Again, God saw that what He had created was good. **God created everything.**

Next, we see that man was created. He did not evolve over millions of years or come from a monkey. Man was created because God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."

In the previous parts of creation, God says things like “let the earth bring forth...” This is different in that God says, “Let Us” make man in our image. This shows at the very beginning that man would have a special place in all of creation. He would be given authority over all the other creatures of the earth.

In this verse we see the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) as one present in eternity. See comments on verse 2 above.

GENESIS 1:28-31

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

"Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

As man was created in God’s own image, he was placed in dominion over the earth. It was a privilege and a great responsibility to be placed over God’s creation. Dominion is defined as “to rule, to bear rule.” Man was to enjoy all of God’s creation, but also to rule over and take care of it.

In this section, we have the third part of the sixth day's work, which was not any new creation, but a gracious provision of food for all flesh. The Creator who made both man and beast was sure to take care of them. Man was given herbs and fruits to eat—animals would not be permitted as food until after the flood. (Genesis 9:3).

We also see God's provision for all the beasts of the earth, the birds, and everything that creeps. Then God saw everything that He had made, and He declared that it was very good. We look at creation today and see how beautiful everything is, but that is after the fall of man. Imagine how beautiful the Garden of Eden must have been—all created for man's enjoyment. God is so good to us.

GENESIS 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Here we see that the heavens and the earth are completed. His creation is *very* good. God's work is so perfect that nothing can be added to it or taken from it. At the end of the first six days, God ceased from all works of creation. We see that He rested on the seventh day; it was a rest not from the weariness of the work, but from the completion of His task.

God “sanctified” or “set apart, to make holy” the seventh day, the Sabbath day. Sabbath is defined as “to rest from labor.” For us, the true Sabbath rest remains for those who have fellowship with God in Christ (Hebrews 4:9-10). The earthly Sabbath is a foretaste of that unbroken fellowship which the true believer will have with God in eternity.

In summary, God created the heavens and the earth by design. It did not just happen, as some people who do not want to follow God might want us to believe. God had a plan in creating man. He had a plan in creating you and me. He wants us to have a relationship with Him, bring glory to Him, and help others to see Him in our lives. Always remember that the Lord loves you very much. He gave you life and has also provided eternal life through His Son Jesus. We will be looking more at that as we study in coming weeks.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of life we have received from our Creator, Jesus Christ.