

Ten Basics To Know About Creation #2

Introduction. The Big Bang and materialistic philosophies simply cannot be explained within the realm of physics as we know it. The sudden emergence of matter, space, time and energy points to the need for some kind of transcendence. Science is driving us to the conclusion that the world is much more complicated than can be explained by scientists. It is only through the supernatural that we can understand the mystery of existence.

The Bible unanimously states that everything in the Universe, and in fact, the Universe itself, has come into being through the design, purpose, and deliberate acts of a supernatural Creator. That is why we are spending our time trying to better understand some of the most confusing questions surrounding creation.

I. **Global Flood**

- A. Scripture is clear about the historic reality of a global Flood in Noah's day. Genesis 7:19-20 specifically says that all of the earth was covered as the waters rose 15 cubits above the mountains. All air-breathing land animals and people that were outside the ark died (Genesis 7:21-23).
- B. Today, many people unfortunately do not accept the biblical account of a worldwide Flood because they have been taught that most rocks and fossils were deposited over millions of years. Until the 1800s, most westerners believed what the Bible records about the earth's recent creation and the global Flood. The secular idea of millions of years did not gain extensive popularity until the 1830s, under the influence of a man named Charles Lyell.
- C. Based on how slowly many rock layers seem to form today, Lyell rejected the Bible's claims and declared that the earth's many rock layers must have been laid down slowly over millions of years. Such unique conditions of the Flood are the only way to explain worldwide fossil-bearing layers thousands of feet deep. Lyell never witnessed the actual formation of the earlier rocks to see whether they could be laid by a unique, one-time global Flood unlike anything we observe today. Lyell's claim was based on his own preconceptions, not his observations.
- D. In contrast, modern geologists observe that most new sediment layers are deposited rapidly in catastrophic events. Yet Lyell's idea took hold in Western universities and spread throughout the Western world. Sadly, many Christians simply tried to add this idea to the Bible.
 1. Some Christians have tried to put millions of years of rock formations before the global Flood to explain the bulk of the layers that contain fossils.

2. However, the problem is that the Flood waters would have ripped up a number of these old rock layers and laid down new ones! So this compromise not only fails to explain the rock layers but also dishonors the clear claims of scripture.

II. ***Dinosaurs On The Ark***

- A. Dinosaurs are used more than any other animal to persuade people to believe in millions of years and evolution. Yet God clearly claims that He created the land animals on the sixth day along with man (Genesis 1:24-25). In light of who God is and His eyewitness testimony, we should not be ashamed to build our understanding of dinosaurs upon His word, even if most people disagree. Dinosaurs make perfect sense in light of the biblical history of creation and the Flood.
- B. There are thousands of dinosaur names, so some skeptics ask, "How could two of every kind of dinosaur fit on the ark?" The Bible states that two of every kind of land animal and seven of some went onto the ark (Genesis 7:14-15). It does not say two of every species went onto the ark but "kinds." There are thousands of species of dinosaurs, but there are only about 50 families of dinosaurs. And since the biblical kind is thought to correspond to the family level in most cases, there would have been only about 100 dinosaurs on the ark -- not thousands.
- C. Even though some dinosaurs grew to be large creatures, the average size was only about the size of a large sheep or bison. Even the largest dinosaurs were small when hatched. The Lord may have selected younger (and therefore smaller) representatives of some of the larger kinds, so there was plenty of room for all of the dinosaur kinds aboard the ark.
- D. If dinosaurs sailed on the ark, where are they today? Different animal species become extinct every day for various reasons. After the Flood, the environment and habitat were drastically changed. Many dinosaurs may not have been as suited to the post-Flood world because of these changes. Interestingly, it appears that some of the dinosaur kinds that did survive a long time after the Flood became known as dragons (cf. "behemoth" in Job 40:15-24 and "leviathan" in Job 41:1-34). Dragon legends abound all over the world!

III. ***One Race***

- A. Have you ever been "people watching" in a shopping mall and noticed how different people look? So many shapes, colors, and sizes! If all people descended from Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:20; 1 Corinthians 15:45), why do we look so different?

- B. The Bible gives us the answers. Although Adam and Eve are often shown to be fair-skinned and blond, this was unlikely. To derive all the different skin shades from one couple, Adam and Eve likely were middle-brown in color. If Adam and Eve had a mixture of "light color" genes and "dark color" genes, then their descendants could have a wide range of skin color from very light to very dark, with most people somewhere between (as seen in the world today). Adam and Eve likely possessed genetic variation for eye shape, nose shape, and other distinguishing characteristics.
- C. As people migrated from Babel in Genesis 11:9, different groups became isolated from others and likely married only within their language group. Each group carried a set of physical characteristics as determined by their genes. As they intermarried, certain characteristics would begin to dominate due to the group's small pool of genes. Over time, different people groups displayed distinct physical characteristics. For example, Asians typically have almond-shaped eyes, dark hair, and middle-brown skin, whereas Europeans have round eyes and fair-colored hair and skin.
- D. The term "race" is often used to classify people based almost solely on physical characteristics. According to evolutionary ideas, these so-called races descended from different ancestors separated by location and time. However, based on biblical history, the term "race" must be incorrect. We are all one race ("one blood" in Acts 17:26). We are human race, descended from two ancestors, Adam and Eve.

IV. ***Suffering And Death***

- A. Why do people suffer? Why do people die? Is this not a horrible world in which we live? These questions vex not only the unbeliever but the believer too. In Genesis 1-3, we are told of the beginning of everything -- God created everything in six ordinary days. We read of a perfect creation in which there was no death. God looked at His creation and called it "very good" (Genesis 1:31).
- B. So where did death come from? Death came as a direct result of Adam's disobedience (Genesis 2:17; 3:17-19). Adam knew there was a consequence to his actions. When he took of the fruit and ate, death entered God's perfect creation (1 Corinthians 15:21).
- C. Our world is broken, marred by death and suffering. We must understand that sin is what broke God's perfect creation. The suffering in this world is the first Adam's fault, the consequence of his disobedience to a holy God. We are all sinners because we too rebel against God's command (Romans 5:12). No one is innocent (Romans 3:10-12, 23).

D. The good news is that the last Adam, Jesus Christ, came to earth to be the offering for our sins. He defeated death by His resurrection. By His sacrifice for us, He has made a way for us to inhabit eternity with Him. Further, He promised to those who place their faith in and obey Him that in the future there will be no more death, tears, or suffering (Revelation 21:3-4).

V. ***The Gospel***

- A. A turning point in history occurred when God promised Abraham that in his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:3; cf. 3:15). The bottom line of this reference is the work of the Messiah, the promised descendant of Abraham. He lived a perfect life, died on a cross, and rose again, offering life to all who believe in and obey Him (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 3:16, 19).
- B. This gospel must be the focus of every Christian's work. The ultimate goal of our service to God is not simply winning debates but proclaiming the gospel. The scientific aspects of creation are important, but are secondary in importance to the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- C. Christians can use arguments to help break down "strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5), but the end result must be to fill the void with the truth that leads to salvation. Just knowledge of facts will not save anyone. The power is not in any human reasoning but in God's word and Christ's work (John 14:6). No other name, no amount of persuasiveness, and no eloquence can save anyone. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found only in Christ (Colossians 2:3).
- D. Christians are told to be ready always to give an answer (1 Peter 3:15). Answers to technical questions can show how the Bible is relevant, encourage confidence in God's word, and strengthen believers, but these answers are only a step in evangelizing the lost. Christians must study to show themselves approved, rightly handling the word of God (2 Timothy 2:15). Do not be ashamed to give the true message of the gospel to anyone.

Conclusion. A largely unknown secret is that many scientists are now driven to faith in God by their own work. We live in a technological culture where many people believe science trumps all other forms of knowledge. When students learn about Darwinism, they are convinced that science and faith are at odds. But it is wrong and foolish to stray from God's word just because men disagree.

Science has discredited the "mystery religion" of Darwinism. Darwinians end up sounding like Scientologists in order to cling to their "mystery religion." Francis Crick, winner of the Nobel Prize for his co-

discovery of DNA, hypothesized that highly intelligent extraterrestrials sent living cells to Earth on an unmanned spaceship, a theory he set forth in his 1981 book, "Life Itself." Harvard population biologist Richard Lewontin said that Darwinians are committed to coming up with preposterous theories that exclude God. "We cannot," Lewontin said, "allow a divine foot in the door."