

WHAT GOOD IS GOOD DOCTRINE?

What Good is the Doctrine of Creation?

Introduction: I suspect some of you have wondered, “Since Bro. Mike is only going to preach on eight biblical doctrines in this series, why is one of the eight the doctrine of creation?”

The answer to that question goes back to what we saw two weeks ago when we considered the doctrine of revelation. We saw that God has revealed Himself to mankind in two ways.

1. He has revealed His existence and indescribable power through the things He has made – His creation.
2. He has revealed His character, purposes, standards, actions, and words through breathing out the Holy Scriptures and causing them to be recorded and preserved.
 - a. Now in those Scriptures, what we call the Bible, where does God start in telling us who He is, what He is like, what He has done, and what He has said?
 - b. He started by telling us about His creation of the universe.

God reveals Himself through Show and Tell. What God both shows and tells us about creation is at the heart of His revealing Himself to us. And I would dare to say that if we get the doctrine of creation wrong, we will get a lot of other things about God wrong also.

The doctrine of creation is one of the most foundational doctrines taught in the whole Bible. If you want to be a Timothy-like Bible student and rightly handle the Word of Truth, you must start by rightly handling the doctrine of creation.

So what is it?

The doctrine of creation is this:

God created the universe in six 24 hour days, including every kind of plant and animal and man, less than 10,000 years ago.

Some of you may be saying, “My, that is a pretty narrow statement of the doctrine of creation!”

But my friend, that is exactly what the Bible says. It only seems narrow because we compare it with what evolutionists say. Let me show you specifically in the early pages of Genesis where this teaching concerning creation is expressly stated. And remember,

that every word of the Scriptures has been inspired, breathed out by God so that the entirety of God's Word is true.

- **God created the universe...**

Gen. 1:1 NKJV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- **in six 24 hour days**

Gen. 1:3-5 NKJV 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
4 And God saw the light, that *it was good*; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

When the word "day" is preceded by a number in the Old Testament, it always means a 24 hour period. First day, second day, ...

- **every kind of plant and animal and man**

Gen. 1:11 NKJV 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.

Gen. 1:21 NKJV 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*.

In man's taxonomy, the classification of living things, the scientific classification of family is probably closest to the biblical classification of kind. So God created the canidae kind which was able to diversify into wolves, coyotes, foxes, and dogs.

- **less than 10,000 years ago.**

Genesis 5 records the lifespan of each of the patriarchs from Adam to Lamech, the father of Noah.

Genesis 11 records the lifespan of patriarchs from Shem, the son of Noah to Terah, the father of Abraham.

The rest of Genesis gives us lifespans from Abraham to Joseph.

The rest of the Old Testament lets us trace lifespans after Joseph and correlate them with firm dates in secular history.

Putting all of these together yields an age of the earth at a little more than 6,000 years.

Although there are no proven gaps in this record, even if you allow generously for any possible gaps, the age of the earth cannot be stretched

beyond 10,000 years without abandoning a belief in the inspiration of the biblical text.

So, ...

I. WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION?

A. Because Jesus did!

When the Pharisees asked Jesus about divorce, Jesus referred them back to Genesis 2 which records the first marriage in the Garden of Eden.

Matthew 19:3-5 NKJV 3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?" 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

B. Because the Bible as a whole teaches it.

In Romans, Paul refers to Adam as the man who allowed sin to enter the human race.

In fact, every New Testament author refers to Genesis. And in the New Testament there are at least 60 allusions to Genesis 1-11, the Genesis record of the early earth and the beginnings of mankind and civilization.

C. Because the evidence supports it.

Most people, even many Christians, have bought the establishment line that evolution over billions of years is an undeniable fact. This is not true, and you do not have to take the word of a preacher.

Go online to DissentfromDarwinism.org and see 23 pages of names of scientists who have subscribed to the statement "We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutations and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged."

See on this list men and women with a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Harvard,

Ph.D. in Astrophysics from Princeton,

Ph.D. in Mathematics from John Hopkins,

Ph.D. in Geophysics from Texas A&M.

All of these people are on the first half page of 23 pages. The list includes brilliant scientists with impeccable credentials working at the top positions in their fields of expertise are saying, "We no longer buy into Darwinism. Science does not verify the theory."

Now listen, many of these, probably most of these are not Christians, not Bible believers. They do not subscribe to Biblical Creation.

But I call them to your attention because the greatest impediment to those who are Christians, who want to believe what the Bible says is that folks like those at National Geographic that produce the most beautiful pictures and documentaries about nature that are available, tell us in every other sentence that evolution is a fact.

D. Evolution is not a fact.

Evolution is a theory that is contradicted by a multitude of scientific evidences, which is the reason why all of these scientists have been willing to publicly sign a document and put it on the internet for the world to see that they dissent from Darwinism, not because of their spiritual beliefs, but because of the scientific evidence.

II. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES BELIEVING THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION MAKE TO ME?

A. Believing the doctrine of creation draws me to God.

This was God's intent in creating the universe the way He did.

1. **Everything God created is infinite in its complexity.** There is nothing that is simple and completely understood – nothing.

Pick up a rock. It seems pretty simple. In fact we use the expression, "Dumb as a rock!" But if we really think we understand everything about that rock then we are the ones who are dumb as a rock.

Any rock is complex and ultimately there are things about it not yet fully understood. Even after breaking down any piece of rock to its many composite elements and compounds, ultimately it, like anything else in the universe is composed of atoms, and atoms are a universe all their own of complexity.

A single atom is made of a nucleus and electrons that orbit around the nucleus in revolutions akin to planets revolving around the sun, only the electrons move so fast, that their position cannot be determined at any particular time. We can only know their orbit, not exactly where the electron itself is located. How's that for complexity!

But we have only begun. The nucleus of an atom is made of protons and neutrons which give the atom its mass. All protons are the same as other protons, and the same is true for neutrons and electrons. The protons, neutrons, and electrons of gold are the same as the protons, neutrons, and electrons of iron. It is just that gold has different numbers of those components than iron. Obviously, even the most brilliant scientists have not

figured out how to move those protons and neutrons around to turn iron into gold, so don't waste your time trying.

But that still is far from the end of the complexity.

The proton has three parts, two up quarks and one down quark ... and the gluons which these three quarks exchange, which is how the strong (nuclear) force works to keep them from getting out. And if that is more than you can understand, I join your crowd, but in terms of the complexity of the atoms in a rock, we have only touched the hem of the garment!

2. **This unending complexity causes me to look for the source of the complexity.** How could it get this way? What could have caused it? And when I see that there is no natural explanation that satisfies, it causes me to ask, "Who made it this way?"

It causes me to seek God. It causes me to want to know God. And God has made a promise, repeated several times in His Word,

Deut. 4:29 NKJV But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Folks, believing that there is a God who created the universe and all that is within it in six days will not save you. But believing this will cause you to seek to know God. **And if you will seek Him with all your heart and soul, He promises that He will cause you to find Him.**

Ultimately that means He will cause you to hear the gospel so that you have the opportunity to be saved by trusting in Jesus, God's only Son, who died on the cross for your sins, trusting Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life.

And, believing what the Bible says about creation will answer some of the most penetrating and even disturbing questions that can be asked by or to a Christian believer. For instance,

- B. Believing the doctrine of creation helps me to understand the justice of God in casting unbelievers into hell.**

Often people ask, "How can a just and loving God condemn people to hell who have never heard the name of Jesus or a single word of the Bible or the gospel?"

The answer, given clearly in Romans chapter 1 is that **God has revealed enough of Himself through creation to every person who lives upon the earth to cause them to seek God.** If they seek the Lord with all their heart and soul, God will see to it that they receive more revelation of Himself, ultimately the gospel. Then if they believe the gospel and trust in Christ, they will be saved.

This is what happened to the Ethiopian Eunuch. He sought the Lord although he was raised in a pagan culture. God got him a copy of the scroll of Isaiah. When

he continued to seek the Lord, God sent Phillip to him to explain the gospel. The eunuch believed and was saved.

But those who in spite of God's revelation of Himself through creation do not seek the God who made the universe, whether they come from a culture that worships images of stone or wood or from a culture that worships man as having all the answers and natural law as having all the explanations – if they do not seek the Lord, **they are justly condemned, because God gave them sufficient opportunity to come to know Him, and they refused it.**

Finally,

C. Believing the doctrine of creation helps me understand the world I live in.

1. Once I believe Genesis 1 and 2, I have no doubt about Genesis 3 which explains the number one problem in the world, and that problem is sin, disobedience to God. That chapter even makes the first reference to God's solution to the problem of sin, which is Jesus' death upon the cross.
2. Once I believe Genesis 3, then I can understand the rest of what the Bible tells me about sin which takes the blinders off of me when examining my own culture in which I live. I can understand why adultery, homosexuality, abortion, trafficking, and abuse abound because the Scriptures explain that until we are saved we are slaves to sin. We can only be set free by trusting in Christ as our Lord and Savior.
3. And believing what the Bible says about creation causes me to believe everything in the Bible. So I understand the future of this world in which I live.
 - I know that one day the Lord will call all who have trusted Christ, both living and dead, to rise in the air and be gathered up to heaven.
 - I know those unsaved living at that time will go through the worst days the planet and people have ever endured, and most of them will die during that seven years of tribulation.
 - I know that after those seven years, the Resurrected Lord Jesus will return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to conquer evil and establish His kingdom upon the earth for a thousand years.
 - I know that then God will remake the heavens and the earth and will live with all saved men and women for all eternity on the New Earth, reigning from the New Jerusalem.

And my friend, I can tell you with a certainty, I would not know any of that, if at age 26 I had not come to the place of abandoning my intellectual self-sufficiency and arrogance and believed the testimony of the Scriptures in the first two chapters of God's perfect Word, the doctrine of creation.