

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

Dr. George Wald (Nobel Prize winner in Biology and professor of Biology at Harvard) once said, "There are only two possibilities as to how life arose; one is spontaneous generation arising to evolution, the other is a supernatural creative act of God, there is no third possibility. Spontaneous generation, that life arose from non-living matter, was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others. That leaves us with only one possible conclusion - that life arose as a creative act of God. I choose not to accept that philosophically because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore I choose to believe in something which I know is scientifically impossible..."

Today we are continuing in our series Answers from Genesis. Last week Steve started us out the series well looking at the first few words, "In the beginning, GOD..." Today I want to look at the second part of that verse which says that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

When Pastor Rick Warren wrote his book *The Purpose Driven Life* he began with a quote from an atheist named Bertrand Russell who said "Unless you assume a God, the question of life's purpose is meaningless."

He was right. If there is no God, if this is all just made up, we're just faking it, we're just pretending, we've been conned by a myth. If there is no God, if everything in the world is an accident, if everything is just random chance, there is no rhyme or reason, there is no designer, no creator in the world, if that's true then your life is worthless. Your life doesn't matter. Your life has no significance. There is no purpose to your life. If there is no God and we're all just a result of a random chance, it was a chance that you were born and it'll be a chance that you die, then there is no significance in the world. There is no right or wrong. There is no basis for law. There is no heaven or hell. There is no afterlife. Nothing really matters.

Albert Camu the French atheist philosopher pointed this out. He said the logical extension of atheism is despair.

Fortunately, statistics show that only about two percent of the world's population would deny the existence of God. Only two percent are genuinely atheists. On the whole, we live in a world that believes in some form of God and values life.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light... 26 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." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 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." 29 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. 30 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. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning -- the sixth day.

We see in this scripture 3 fundamental truths about life;

1. God Created Us – we are not just the product of evolution

I did my undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph in Biological Science. All I heard, and all most students will ever hear is the Theory of Evolution, presented as fact.

Malcolm Muggeridge once wrote, "I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the greatest jokes in the history books in the future. Posterity will marvel that so flimsy and dubious and hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has."

The evolutionists seem to know everything about the missing link except the fact that it is missing.

The Theory of Evolution seeks to explain the origin of life on earth through a series of random evolutionary processes. Often this can lead to a problem for them when they read their bible. Over the years there have been many ways that people have tried to reconcile the first chapter of Genesis with the theory of evolution.

The first way that some people try to interpret this chapter is called the Day-Age Theory. Basically they would argue that the word day is not to be taken to mean a literal 24 hour time period. The Hebrew word used can mean a span of time. In this theory each day represents a step in the creation of the world and origin of life on the planet. There is in Genesis 1 an evolutionary pattern. Light comes first, meaning the formation of the galaxy. Water and land comes next. Vegetation comes after that. Some people would argue that the creation of plants on the 3rd day and the creation of the sun and moon on the 4th is a problem, however there are scientists who believe that, from our vantage point, the sun, moon and stars would not have been visible at first due to clouds and atmospheric covering.

The primary thing the Day Age theory does is that it seeks to reconcile the idea of creation with the fact that the earth looks to be much older than a few thousand years. Last week Steve mentioned that the universe is so vast that it takes light 100,000 years just to cross the solar system. The fact that we now have the technology to look deep into space at galaxies very distance raises the question, "if it takes light millions of years to reach us, how is it that we can see them if the earth is only a few thousand years old? It also addresses things like dinosaur bones and asteroid craters and glaciation - the fact that the earth looks to be very old. However, this theory does have it's problems. The major problem with it is that it does not take into account the Sabbath. The whole principle of resting for one day a week comes directly from the creation account.

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 31:17 It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested.' "

It says that God spoke these words directly to Moses. Exodus 33:11 says that God spoke to Moses "face to face, as a man speaks with his friend." If God told Moses that He created the world in 6 days I would argue that to suggest that Moses got that wrong is a huge problem with this theory.

The second way that people interpret the first chapter of Genesis is as a literal Seven Day Creation. That means that what is described is exactly what happened. God created the world from nothingness in six days and then rested on the seventh. They would argue the world looks old because it was created

already aged, just like everything else that was created. The chicken came before the egg. When God made the trees, did they already have growth rings? Yes. Everything we see in this account from Genesis shows that God created everything already mature.

There is another interpretation that is a bridge between the Day Age Theory and the 7 Day Creation. This is called the Gap Theory. This theory holds that between Gen. 1:1 and Gen. 1:2 there was a disaster in which the world was destroyed. Let's read those verses again;

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Before God said 'let there be light' there was something already there. The earth was already created, but was formless, void and dark. On the second day God separates the water, meaning the separation of liquid and gas. Again, it does not say that God created it, only separated it.

Genesis 1:6-8 And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day.

Basically this interpretation says that God created the universe and earth through a long directed process. When the stage was set, When the planets and moon and everything necessary for life was in place, everything was wiped clean. This would explain why the earth looks very old, and also explains the presence of fossils. It also upholds a literal 6 day creation view, simply changing the idea that God created from nothingness to the idea that God created out of what was already present, and actually follows the literal wording more closely.

Whichever of these interpretations you hold, the central message is clear. God created everything. The primary focus of the first chapter of Genesis is not HOW but WHO. The world did not just come into existence on it's own. We are not the product of random chance. God is our creator.

2. God Created Us Last – we are special

According to the evolutionists, man is just an animal. Therefore, he has no inherent worth or value, other than what he or she can contribute to society. If evolution is true, we as a world society should seek to breed and “naturally select” in such a way that the human race will be purified and made strong. All weakness must be eliminated in order to ensure the survival of the species. The weak and sick should be weeded out to free up resources for the strong and healthy.

In this light, Adolph Hitler was a brilliant evolutionist. Kill off the weak and sick and use selective breeding to purify the species – that is what evolution teaches. This is not the type of world I would like to live in.

There was an article that someone passed on to me over Christmas entitled An Atheist Celebrates Christmas which really highlights this point. Basically, in the article he says that even though he does not believe that Jesus is God, the world is a better place today because other people do. The simple premise that God created the world and therefore we are His creation and all people have worth and value is the foundation for the society in which we live. If the Bible is wrong and the world just came about by chance and we are all just the product of a random evolutionary process then everything that our society is built upon is a lie.

The creation account shows that the very last and most special thing God created was us.

Genesis 1:26-27 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." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God created us in His image. Humans are different than anything else God created, they are special because they are created in God's image. What does that mean? It means that we have the ability to choose. We are sentient, or self aware. We are given the ability to decide our future.

Ephesians 1:4-5 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will

We are the reason for creation. God had us in mind before He made it, and He made everything for us. We were not made as just a part of creation, but God created us to be rulers over it. Not to simply be part of creation but to rule over it. We may have been created on the same day as animals, but we are far more than animals. God created us to rule creation and expects us to take care of creation even today.

Notice as well that it says "male and female he created them." God created the sexes. At the moment we are conceived we are either biologically created male or female, that is it. You either have a XX chromosome or an XY. No man is ever born as a woman or vice versa. Male or female you are created.

3. God Created Us To Last – we have infinite value

Genesis 2:7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

God spoke creation into being, but formed us from the dust of the ground and breathed into us. There is something of the divine in all of us, and that is our spirit. All of us have an eternal spirit from God within us. Therefore, all people, regardless of their colour, intelligence or abilities are priceless in the sight of God. Or value comes from who we were created, not what we do. In God's sight it is impossible to be a worthless individual. This is the type of world which I choose to live in!

Psalms 139:14-16 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

This is why we don't believe in abortion for any reason. Because abortion short-circuits God's plan. God thought of you long before your parents did. If you had been aborted then you could not fulfill the purpose that God put you on this planet. God put you here for a reason. God says I don't want My plan, I don't want My purpose short-circuited by anybody else. He made you in His image, He planned you before birth.

Life is sacred. Life is precious. All people have infinite value because;

a. We are created in the image of God – God made us

One of the ways you determine the value of an object is the person who created it. A painting by me is worth far less than a painting by Picasso. A 20\$ bill is worth 20\$, no matter if it is wrinkled or worn. It's value is set by the government that creates that bill. The fact that we are created by God in His image means we have infinite worth.

Psalms 8:5-6 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

b. We are created with value - Jesus died for Us

One of the ways you determine the value of an object is by asking what someone is willing to pay for it. After the super bowl last Sunday someone went into the Patriots locker room and stole the jersey that Tom Brady had been wearing. Why? Because someone would pay money for it. I have never had anyone sneak into my closet and steal my laundry. The fact that Jesus was willing to pay for us with His life means that we have infinite value and worth.

c. We are created to live forever – God wants to spend eternity with us

People are willing to spend more money on things that last. A dishwasher that will last you 10 years is worth more than a dishwasher that will last you 1 year. God created us to live with Him forever.

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

God created us because He wanted us. We are His. Life is sacred. I believe in the sanctity of life. The word sanctity comes from the word 'to sanctify' which means to set apart. It means to make something special, to offer it up to God.

I heard about a musician called Rick Muchow. Before every concert or worship event he would take his guitar and he would pray "God, I want to give You this guitar. I want to use it to play music to You. To make the world a better place." He would sanctify the guitar.

While all life is sacred, we need to embrace the sanctity of life. We do this by receiving Jesus Christ into our hearts. We recognize that God created us special, and that God wants us to be with Him forever, and we dedicate ourselves to Him. God has a plan for your life.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

I see that they have restarted the TV show *MacGyver*? I used to watch the old one with Richard Dean Anderson. It was fun to watch because this guy could make something out of nothing. He could use anything for his purpose. He'd take a lipstick canister and a little carrot juice and some duct tape and make a bomb! He just had this ability. A little bailing wire, a little chewing gum, a little acetone and all of a sudden you've got a rocket ship. He could use anything, ordinary things around him, good or bad, for his own purposes.

God is better than MacGyver! He can take everything in your life – the good stuff, the bad stuff the nasty stuff, the screwy stuff, the bizarre stuff, the hurtful stuff. He can take any of it and because He's God He can use it for good in your life.

God created us. Through Jesus God has redeemed us. Through the Holy Spirit God wants to use us, if we will let Him. He can use anything, even broken mangled fingers, to accomplish His purposes.