

Creator of Heaven & Earth

Bible Study

Beth Dial
Kari Pizzini



Jonesboro, Georgia

Creator of Heaven & Earth

Tracing the Implications

Table of Contents

Lesson 1: Confident Cosmogony	1
Lesson 2: Creation's Curse	7
Lesson 3: Creation's Call to Repentance	13
Lesson 4: Creation as Witness	21
Lesson 5: Comfort in Suffering	27
Lesson 6: Cause for Worship	33
Lesson 7: Cure for the Fear of Man	39
Lesson 8: Cure for the Fear of Man	47
Lesson 9: Curse Lifting—Part 1	54
Lesson 10: Curse Lifting--Part 2	62
Creation and Evangelism	70

Creator of Heaven & Earth

Creator of Heaven and Earth

Tracing the Implications

Lesson 1

Confident Cosmogony

This study will trace the truth of God as Creator from Genesis to Revelation. We will follow the mind of the Author as He chooses to remind us many times of His status and ours.

Cosmogony, or **cosmogony**, is any [theory](#) concerning the coming into [existence](#) or origin of the [universe](#), or about how [reality](#) came to be. The word comes from the Greek *κοσμογονία* (or *κοσμογενία*), from *κόσμος* "cosmos, the world", and the root of *γί(γ)νομαι / γέγονα* "to be born, come about". In the specialized context of [space science](#) and [astronomy](#), the term refers to theories of creation of (and study of) the [Solar System](#). Wikipedia

The book of Genesis gives a detailed cosmogony unlike any other. The Big Bang? Evolution? What we will study is not a theory. It is the only dependable account of earth's origins. As these lessons begin, stop and thank God for revealing Himself and His work in His book. Ask for insight into His omnipotence, His dependability, His care for mankind, His care for you.

DAY ONE

1. Memorize Psalm 19:1, 2 for this week. Write it out below to begin.

"When we see the frame of the world to be the work of His power, the order of the world to be the fruit of His wisdom, and the usefulness of the world to be the product of His goodness, we find motives and reasons of worship."
Stephen Charnock p. 207.

2. Discuss the above quote in anticipation of how the Lord will change us together.
3. Genesis was written by human beings. Therefore, we treat it like other human communication, honoring the laws of language. Our goal is to determine the meaning intended by the Author. What kind of literature is this? (Poetry? Historical narrative? A letter? Allegory?) Why is that significant? Who might be the human writers?
4. What does the word "Genesis" mean?
5. Discuss Genesis 1:1 1)
6. Read Genesis 1 from the pages at the back of this lesson and record your initial impressions.



DAY TWO

1. Now mark the following repetitions. Add any you can find. What is the significance of each?
 - a. God, with yellow triangle.

- b. "Let there be..." in orange.
 - c. Numbers in large red numerals in the margin.
 - d. Time phrases with green "clock".
 - e. References to speaking in blue ("said", "called")
 - f. Word "saw" with sketch of an eye.
 - g. Word "good" in purple.
 - h. "After their kind" in brown.
 - i. Other repetitions you may have found.
2. From the exercise above, does it seem likely that the "days" of Genesis 1 are literal 24-hour days or symbolic of ages representing millions of years? How does Exodus 20:11 help?
3. Research the Hebrew word BARA, "created" from v. 1. You may go to <http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/> for help. Put in the word "create" or BARA to search.

4. Diagram 1:1, 2. *What or who is the main subject of the thought? What action does the subject do? What or who is the object of the action? How have the parts of thought been modified by a word or phrase (adjectives or adverbs)? What are the relationships among the various parts of the thought (prepositions and conjunctions)?* (McQuilken)

5. Read 1:1, 2 again. See what you can find out about the meaning of “*without form and void.*” Search the word “TOHUW” and “BOHUW” at the site given in #3.

6. The evolutionist must interpret the fossil record as occurring over millions of years.
The secrets of evolution are death and time—the deaths of enormous numbers of lifeforms that were imperfectly adapted to the environment; and time for a long succession of small mutations that were by accident adaptive, time for the slow accumulation of patterns of favorable mutations. Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*, 1980, p. 30.
 - a. What is a fossil?

 - b. What is the source of death according to the following?
 - 1) Romans 5:12

 - 2) I Corinthians 15:20-22

7. The implications of 1:2 have been used to create a compromise with evolutionists in what is known as “The Gap Theory.” Read the article by that title printed at the end of this lesson, and summarize your findings below.

DAY THREE

1. List the days of creation and what was created on each day below. Are there any contradictions to the order postulated by evolutionists?
2. Scientists have observed what is called the Anthropic Principle: **Life SEEMS to have been created for man.** Discuss how God had man in mind in each day’s addition, noting briefly some of your favorite examples.
3. Genesis 2 is the recap with more detail of 1:26-28. Read Chapter from your text and write out your impressions.
4. Read 2:1-3 again. Does the language in any way suggest an ongoing process? Write out words or phrases that communicate otherwise.
5. The first verse of this chapter is an expression of the First Law of Thermodynamics: **The total quantity of energy in the universe is constant even though it frequently changes form—energy can be transformed into matter and matter into energy, but**

the total quantity remains constant. Neither energy nor mass can be created or destroyed. Write out 2:1 and a statement explaining the connection.

- Human beings are far from just molecules and matter, but knowing a bit about the complexity of our bodies is awe-inspiring. Enjoy the following.

Dazzling Design in Miniature

First published:
Creation 20(1):6
December 1997



by [Werner Gitt](#)

The cells of the human body can produce at least 100,000 different types of proteins, all with a unique function. The information to make each of these complicated molecular machines is stored on the well-known molecule, DNA. We think that we have done very well with human technology, packing information very densely on to computer hard drives, chips and CD-ROM disks. However, these all store information on the surface, whereas DNA stores it in three dimensions. It is by far the densest information storage mechanism known in the universe.

Let's look at the amount of information that could be contained in a pinhead volume of DNA. If all this information were written into paperback books, it would make a pile of such books 500 times higher than from here to the moon! The design of such an incredible system of information storage indicates a vastly intelligent Designer. In addition, there is the information itself, which is stored on DNA, and transmitted from generation to generation of living things. There are no laws of science that support the idea that life, with all its information, could have come from non-living chemicals.

- God's creation of man was intensely personal, and therefore has personal implications. What three verbs show what God did in 1:27 and 2:7?
- What else from 2:18-25 happened on this same day? List the events and briefly discuss them in light of God's intimate involvement.

Conclusion: God made the earth in its finished state as "very good." No struggle for existence, no disorder, no overcoming by mutation, no gradual improving of the species, no fossil bones, not billions of dead animals. Nothing that was NOT good.

Creator of Heaven & Earth

Creation's Curse

Lesson 2



Some of the most fascinating instances of design are seen in symbiotic ('living together') relationships between different species, such as that which exists between goby fish and shrimp. They live together in a hole which is dug and maintained by the blind shrimp. The shrimp continuously keeps the entrance to the hole clear of debris by using its front claws in a bulldozer-like fashion, trusting the goby to keep guard at the entrance.

The shrimp always keeps one feeler (antenna) on the fish. If danger approaches in the form of a hungry predator, the goby signals the shrimp with a flick of its tail, and both scurry down the hole at lightning speed until the coast is clear...

Weston, Paula., Creations crustaceans, *Creation* 23(3):14, 2001.

Lesson 1 reminded us that God, in His infinite power, generosity, wisdom, created out of nothing, a world in which man could joyfully thrive, God's creative genius was in no way limited. He drew from His infinite resources to make a place for man. He could have chosen anything He wanted. THIS is the shape of the earth because He wanted it this way. THIS is the way man breathes because He wanted it this way. THIS is the distance from the sun because He wanted it this way. THIS is a seed-bearing tree because He wanted it this way. His plan was for man to enjoy the details, live a life of worship, with perfect symbiosis between each other and Himself. Today's lesson traces why that did not happen.

DAY ONE

1. Memorize Psalm 19:3, 4 for this week. Write it out below to begin.

2. God created the earth as a masterpiece, then did what with it?
 - a. Genesis 1:28.
 - b. Genesis 2:15
 - c. Genesis 2:20a
 - d. Summarize the original plan with symbiosis in mind.
3. Genesis 2 is a recapitulation of Chapter 1 with more detail. Read 2:9-14.
 - a. What natural resources are mentioned?
 - b. How was God preparing man for his future?
4. Discuss the creation of woman from 2:18-25. What is God's two-word definition of her role repeated in 2:18 and 20? What does it mean?
 - a. How do evolutionists explain the sexes?
 - b. How does this passage address the issue of homosexuality? (Look up 5:2)
5. Two trees were a part of God's creation, the likes of which we have not seen. God gave man all that bounty and beauty, with one restriction. Read and ponder Genesis 2:16, 17 in light of God's provisions.
6. List the things in Genesis 3:6 that God created, how they were to be considered, and how they were misused.

7. God had apparently made the woman's body to nurture and carry children. What is the significance of the curse due to her sin? 3:16?

8. The fall of man produced what scientists have recognized as a law of nature, the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics. It states that all systems, matter and energy, are becoming less complex with time, all processes are winding down. This is a law of increased entropy. Entropy is the measure of the total disorder, randomness, or chaos of a system. The effect of increased entropy is increased disorder. This is in direct opposition to the evolutionary theory, which demands that matter move forward, adding complexity in millions of subsequent steps toward converting energy into proper forms. (Demands gradual organization by natural processes into its present state of high complexity and ability). Discuss the implications to God's creation when the curse of sin was pronounced to Adam. 3:17-19.

9. God's goodness, wisdom, and power had been ignored, rebelled against. He could have utterly destroyed His creation in a moment. Man was separated from God and from each other. What hope does He announce in Genesis 3:15?

DAY TWO

1. In light of man's sin, compare Genesis 2:9a and 3:6.

2. How did God's creation become a blessing in 3:21?

3. Why was man restricted from the Garden of Eden? 3:22-24.

4. From the moment of man's sin creation began its decline.
5. Genesis 5 records the genealogy of Adam down to Noah.

What does the name "Noah" mean?	
What prophecy did Lamech, his father give in choosing his name?	
What was fresh on Lamech's mind?	

6. What is God's perspective toward His creation as expressed in Genesis 6:6?
 - Was God surprised by the wickedness of man? (Open Theism—p. 76)
 - Had He known the outcome before He made man?
 - Is God at a loss for options?
 - Is God looking back and saying "If only I had known"?
 - Does God have emotions about His creation?
7. According to 6:5, why did he view His creation with regret?
8. Discuss the use of the word "heart" in these two verses. What are evil intentions? How do they disrupt unity with God and man? Stop and pray now for the "thoughts and intents" of your own heart, and those you love.
9. List the phrases from 6:11-13a that describe the extent of man's rebellion against his compassionate Creator.

10. What is the opposite of “violence” in Verse 11? We are reminded of the Beatitudes, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.” Someone has said that the opposite of each beatitude is misery. In connection with the theme of this lesson, fill in the chart below showing how relationships can be affected by living them out or failing to.

BEATITUDE	POSITIVE EFFECTS	NEGATIVE MISERIES
Blessed are the poor in spirit		
Blessed are those who mourn		
Blessed are the gentle		
Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness		
Blessed are the merciful		
Blessed are the pure in heart		
Blessed are the peacemakers		
Blessed are the insulted		

Matthew 5:3-10

DAY THREE

1. What did God determine to do according to 6:7a? What is included?

2. Genesis 6:17 is daunting. Verses 6 and 13 are general announcements of the annihilation.
 - a. How does God refer to Himself in v. 17? Why is it significant?

 - b. Verse 17 is the first time Noah heard the specific method God would use. The word for “flood” in 6:17a is MABBUL in Hebrew. It is not from any other Hebrew root, but may be related to the Assyrian, NABALU, “to destroy”. What two words define the MABBUL by which God would “blot out” His creation as described in 6:17?

 - c. Discuss how in v. 17 God communicates the universality of the judgment.

3. Evolution is based on the principle of uniformitarianism , the theory that the present is the key to the past, that things as we see them are as they have always been. Therefore they interpret our world with no recognition of a global flood and Genesis as a local flood, if even true. If you have time, read the entire account and list at least 10 proofs of the universal nature of the flood. Otherwise, go online and look for at least 10 arguments for a global flood.

4. How old was Adam when he died? Genesis 5:5 Adam's offspring: Seth: Enos:
Mahalaleel, Isaac? (Genesis 35:28) Moses? (Deut. 34:7) How old was Joshua?
(Joshua 24:29) Why did the decline in ages occur?

5. What was the creation world view of God's people by the time of Exodus 32:4?

Oh, my friends, theirs was unity, but a false unity. Let's commit ourselves to the "God of peace", symbiotically with God and man all our days. "Peace on earth, good will toward man."

Creator of Heaven & Earth

CREATION'S CALL TO REPENTANCE

Lesson 3



The building of the Pyramids of Egypt remains a mystery to the modern mind. Could ancient man have been more intelligent than we credit him? It is estimated that 20,000-30,000 workers built the pyramid at Giza over a period of 80 years. How were the tons of limestone blocks shaped and put in place? They were polished by hand, it seems, then some were possibly pushed by ramps into place. Another possibility could be the use of kites! "An Egyptian hieroglyph shows men holding ropes linked to something like a 'giant bird' in the sky. This has prompted the suggestion that purpose-built kites may have been used... To test this, aeronautics experts rigged up a pulley system connecting a ...430-sq.-ft. 'para-foil' sail to a ...15-ft obelisk in an endeavour to raise the stone from horizontal to vertical, using only the wind. Although the ..10-12 mph wind was only around half as strong as that calculated to be necessary, the 3.5-tonne column was lifted to the vertical in just 40 seconds." *New Scientist*, 27 October 2001, p. 43.

God's universal flood demonstrated forever His aversion to sin. However, it did not eradicate the sin which separates man from Him. God in His infinite mercy creates sensitivity to sin and provides a way back through repentance.

DAY ONE

1. Memorize Psalm 19:5, 6 for this week. Begin by writing them out below.

2. To better sense the need for repentance before her Creator, from your previous knowledge of the Bible, name some of Israel's sins that demanded repentance. Begin with self-sufficiency as we have seen above. In the second column show how knowing the Creator should help man avoid that sin. (You will add to this chart as we open more Scriptures).

SINS OF GOD'S PEOPLE	HOW THE SIN INSULTS THE CREATOR

Do you see yourself? Stop now and repent of things that may have come to your mind.

3. Repentance is indeed an attitude. God's law, however, demanded explicit action on the basis of faith. Summarize the connection regarding atonement and the use of God's creation as described in Leviticus 16 at the back of this lesson.
 - a. What does "atonement" mean? How many times is it used in this chapter?
 - b. Mark the "presence of the Lord", "appear", "before the LORD", "for the LORD in the passage. How many are there? What effect should those references have?
 - c. Now mark the word "holy". How many times do you see it? The God of the Old Testament is sometimes accused of being petulant and violent. Is He? Answer that by considering the following.
 - 1) What connection with God as Creator is in v. 2?
 - 2) How does it relate to God's holiness?
 - d. Mark the references to offences to God and list them below. Put them on the chart in Day 1's homework.
 - e. What was to be their attitude according to v. 29 and 31? Mark those. What was to be the atmosphere according to 16:31a?

2. What did God create in response to man's self-sufficiency in Genesis 11:1-9?

DAY TWO

1. Nehemiah 6 adds another call to the Creator. Let's look at the context.
 - a. What is the intended accomplishment for Israel as recorded in Nehemiah?
 - b. What were some of their sins? Add them to your chart.

- c. Scan Nehemiah 8 to understand what has set them up for what is said in 9:6.
 - d. What would have been the first thing read from the scrolls?
 - e. What words in 8:8-11 indicate the people's response?
 - f. What is the first thing said in the prayer of repentance in 9:6?
2. The book of Job shows him vacillating between resisting God and submission to Him in his sufferings (Note 9:18). What does he say to himself and his friends in 9:2; 5-10 when tempted to be embittered in suffering? (Note that sin on your chart.)
3. The prophets were God's messengers whose sole assignment was to call His people to avoid the judgments God promised because of their sin. Isaiah 48:11-13 is a call to Israel to repent. Before we look at the verses, lay the critical groundwork of the context.
- a. What were they guilty of, according to 48:1:1, 4a, 5, 8d? Add these to Question 2 of Day 1 .
 - b. How does God's call to repentance take shape in 48:11-13, building to the crescendo of His creatorship?
4. Note Jeremiah 23:23, 24 as another example.
- a. To whom is this passage speaking? V. 9
 - b. What are their sins according to v. 13?

- c. So how is the truth of v. 23, 24 used to convict the hearers?

DAY THREE

1. Hosea spoke to the Northern Kingdom (Israel) in light of the threat of Assyrian domination. Fifty years of his life were devoted to pleading for repentance.
 - a. Scan and review the book to note how Hosea's ministry was unique among the prophets.
 - b. What were some of the sins that Hosea addressed? 4:1b.
 - c. What was the problem according to Hosea 8:14?
2. The prophet Amos took God's message to Judah during a period of prosperity.
 - a. Look over the book and see what some of her sins were, e.g. 3:15-4:1. List them on your chart.
 - b. Notice the ways God addressed them to call them to their spiritual senses.
 - 1) Amos 4:11b, 12-13
 - 2) Amos 5:8
 - 3) Amos 9
 - a. Read Amos 9:1-5 and summarize God's warning to Israel.

- b. Circle the word “will” or “shall” in these verses.
 - c. How many are there?

 - d. Circle the word “will” in 9:8-10. How many are there?
 - e. What is the point of the author in 9:8-10?

 - f. So how are verses and 5 and 6 significant to both messages?
3. Read or scan the Book of Jonah. Show from the entire book how God as Creator should have brought Jonah himself to repentance. In your answer, note the significance of 1:9, 10. Note Jonah’s sins on the chart from Day 1.

Look back to the chart, and prayerfully consider your own heart before God. Read our memory Psalm 19, and pray the prayer of 13-14.

Leviticus 16

¹Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the LORD and died.

²The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

³Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

⁴He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments) Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on.

⁵He shall take from the congregation of the sons of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.

⁶Then Aaron shall offer the bull for the sin offering which is for himself, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household.

⁷He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

⁸Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat.

⁹Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the LORD fell, and make it a sin offering.

¹⁰But the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.

¹¹Then Aaron shall offer the bull of the sin offering which is for himself and make atonement for himself and for his household, and he shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering which is for himself.

¹²He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring it inside the veil.

¹³He shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the ark of the testimony, otherwise he will die.

¹⁴Moreover, he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; also in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

¹⁵Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat.

¹⁶He shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities.

¹⁷"When he goes in to make atonement in the holy place, no one shall be in the tent of meeting until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household and for all the assembly of Israel.

¹⁸"Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides.

¹⁹"With his finger he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times and cleanse it, and from the impurities of the sons of Israel consecrate it.

²⁰"When he finishes atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the live goat.

²¹"Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who stands in readiness.

²²"The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

²³"Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there.

²⁴"He shall bathe his body with water in a holy place and put on his clothes, and come forth and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people.

²⁵"Then he shall offer up in smoke the fat of the sin offering on the altar.

²⁶"The one who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water; then afterward he shall come into the camp.

²⁷"But the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall be taken outside the camp, and they shall burn their hides, their flesh, and their refuse in the fire.

²⁸"Then the one who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water, then afterward he shall come into the camp.

²⁹"This shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you; ³⁰for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

³¹"It is to be a sabbath of solemn rest for you, that you may humble your souls; it is a permanent statute.

³²"So the priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest in his father's place shall make atonement: he shall thus put on the linen garments, the holy garments,

³³and make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar. He shall also make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

³⁴"Now you shall have this as a permanent statute, to make atonement for the sons of Israel for all their sins once every year." And just as the LORD had commanded Moses, so he did.

4. List some of the most powerful forces in nature. Choose one of these and see if you can find some interesting facts about the extent of their power. For example, a single bolt of lightning lasts around 1/10,000 of a second, can heat the surrounding air to as high as five times that of the surface temperature of the sun and can contain several hundred million volts. Yet in Job 38:35 God asks of Job, when speaking of Himself as the Creator as compared to Job, *“Can you send forth lightnings that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'?”*

5. What does the way man was created tell us about God?

Romans 2:14-15

Matthew 7:11

Genesis 1:27

6. Is the knowledge that creation gives us of God sufficient for salvation?

John 14:6

Romans 10:9, 13

7. How does the witness of creation prepare a person for the gospel message?

DAY TWO

1. In the book of Acts we can see that it was Paul's custom on his missionary journeys to first visit the Jewish synagogue in order to show the Jews from the scriptures that Jesus was their Messiah. In the following two passages from the book of Acts, Paul is speaking primarily to Gentiles. How does his approach differ? How does he describe God?

Acts 14:8-18

Acts 17:22-32

2. In both passages in Acts, Paul emphasized how God differed from idols, from false gods. Why do you think he might have placed emphasis on this? Complete the chart below comparing God to idols by listing brief phrases from the passages listed.

	WHAT IDOLS ARE LIKE	WHAT GOD IS LIKE
Acts 17:22-32		
Jeremiah 51:15-19		

Isaiah 40:18-25, 28		
Jeremiah 10:1-16		

3. How does the witness of creation prepare a person for the gospel message? (This is the same as question 7 from Day One.) Why might Paul have chosen creation as an approach to telling people about Christ?

DAY THREE

1. How has much of mankind responded to their Creator?

Romans 1:18-23, 25

John 1:10

2. Read 2 Peter 3:3-9. Can you list any reason(s) that someone would reject the fact that God created the world?

3. Read the summary statement entitled "Creation and Evangelism." Summarize briefly below and see if you can list any creative ways to share the gospel using a creation related topic as your approach. If you prefer, list one of the ideas provided that you would like to try or if you have done this in the past, consider sharing it with the Bible study group.

Creator of Heaven & Earth

Tracing the Implications

Lesson 5 - Comfort in Suffering

Kari Pizzini



Controlled burning or wildfire? The U.S. Geological Survey website states that according to the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, “one of the simplest and least expensive practices to improve poor quality grassland is prescribed burning.” The response of grass and plant life to a fire significantly depends on the moisture conditions and the stage of growth of the plant. Controlled burning is used to remove older growth and decay, to reduce the seeds of weeds, to control insects, to control disease and to fertilize by releasing minerals in the soil. Not only can fire be used beneficially, but there are plants which **require** the high temperatures generated by fire in order to germinate. The fire poppy is one example. Its growth can help provide a protection from rapid soil erosion after the ground cover has been burnt. For a variety of reasons, other plants grow more rapidly in the years following a fire, including the Ponderosa Pine and a number of prairie grasses. Does this not picture how God uses the “controlled burning” of suffering to cause growth and to make us better reflect the image in which we were created?

DAY ONE

1. Work on memorizing Psalm 19:8. Write it out below for practice.

2. Read Isaiah 40:12-26. List below descriptions of God as the Creator.

3. Take a brief look back at the end of Isaiah 39 and the beginning of Isaiah 40. What is the context? Now read Isaiah 40:27. What is Israel's complaint?

4. Is Israel's complaint valid according to Isaiah 40:26-31? How is the comfort given to Israel related to God being the Creator?

5. The fact that God is powerful is not always a comfort. Read Psalm 94:9. From the context, is this a message of comfort or of warning? When would this truth be a warning and how could this same truth be a comfort?

6. Are our personal circumstances hidden from God or disregarded by Him?

1 Peter 5:7

Matthew 6:30

Psalm 103:13-14

Phil. 4:13

7. Reread Isaiah 40:28-29. Connect those verses with your answer to question 6 above by naming at least one way in which you can find comfort in the fact that God is the Creator.

DAY TWO

1. Complete the following chart based on Jeremiah 32.

Where was Jeremiah? vs. 2	
What was Jeremiah told to do? vs. 6-8, 14	
How does Jeremiah address God when he prays about what he was instructed to do? vs. 17a	
What does Jeremiah says is true about God based on the fact that he is the creator? vs. 17b	
What concern does Jeremiah express to God? vs. 25	
What is God's answer? v. 27-28, 44	

2. If you have the resources look up the meaning for the word "difficult" in Jeremiah 32:17 and 32:27.

3. What did Jesus have to say about what is possible for God?

Luke 18:24-27

Mark 14:35-36

5. How can the truth that nothing is too difficult for God be a comfort to you in your own personal suffering?

6. How are we to view suffering based on the fact that God is our Creator?

Isaiah 45:7

Romans 8:28

1 Peter 4:19

DAY THREE

1. In addition to being comforted by the power and strength of our Creator, we are comforted by his character. Begin today's study by reading Jeremiah 33:19-21, 25-26. Give a short description of each covenant that is mentioned.

- a) Day and Night - vs. 20, 25 (See also Gen. 1:14-19 and Gen 8:22)

- b) Davidic Covenant - vs. 21, 26 (See also 2 Samuel 7:8-16)

- c) Priesthood - vs. 21 (See also Numbers 25:12-13)

2. What does the Jeremiah passage tell us about the character of God? How is this related to His being the Creator? How is this comforting to those who are suffering?

3. What do the following verses tell us about our Creator?

Psalm 50:10-12

Acts 17:24-25a

4. How is the answer to question 3 comforting to those who are suffering?

Phil. 4:19

Creator of Heaven & Earth

Tracing the Implications

Cause for Worship

Lesson 6



Childbirth is so common it is easy to overlook the fact that a baby thrives in a total water world for nine months--a world that is *utterly impossible* for any person to live in immediately after their very first breath. That feat is accomplished by the baby possessing--only in the womb--blood vessels with a different *arrangement* and *structure* than an adult's...

The reality of fetal to newborn circulatory changes is this: structures *indispensable* for life in the womb are *incompatible* with life out of it, and at birth all structures are *rapidly reversed*, resulting in the *opposite* effect on survival. In either case, if the offspring dies, evolution ends. Darwin wrote, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down." Consider it broken...

Acts and Facts, "Made in His Image: Baby's First Breath", Randy J. Guliuzza, P.E., M.D.

Do you remember the moment? You heard it, your baby's first gasp, and everything changed in one second. You may not have been thinking of the structure of blood vessels. You may not have been thinking of the pulmonary system. A very tiny person's biography outside the womb began, and you may have worshipped more purely than ever before.

Do you thank Him for the following proofs that all humankind should worship Him? Genesis 2:7, Daniel 5:23b; Acts 17:5.

The purpose of Lesson 6 is to trace God's reminders of His creation work that were a call to His people to worship. Join them as you study.



DAY ONE

1. Begin memorizing Psalm 19:9, 10. Write it out below. Write out a statement of worship from the verses.

2. Read the quote below and write a summary of its meaning. What changes do you need to make in light of it?

“Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His Beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose – and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin”.

Worship is often used in the Bible as a call to God during **special occasions**. Note the following, and how God as creator gives special significance to the circumstances.

3. I Kings 8:23, 27
 - a. What is the occasion for this prayer? 8:22

 - b. Where is the first reference (8:23) to God’s presence filling all creation placed in the prayer? What significance does it give to the rest of the verse?

4. The occasion of Psalm 24:1, 2, "A Psalm of David", is said to be when David brought the ark to Jerusalem (II SAMUEL 6).
 - a. What is the significance of the fact of this verse on that occasion? What was the message of the ark to portray to God's people and to a watching world of unbelievers?
 - b. Someone has said, "Morality is the Christian's participation in the created order." What kind of worshippers does He desire, according to vss. 3 and 4?
 - 1) What is a recurring theme?
 - 2) Discuss these verses in light of the connection between ethics and the creation as referred to in the above quote.
5. Psalm 92:4b, 5
 - a. What is the superscription for this Psalm giving the occasion? What are the implications?
 - b. We do not worship on the Sabbath, but what are some implications for us?

2. Psalm 95 is another call to joy. Read 95:1, 5, 6 and note the connection between joy and God as Creator.

DAY THREE

1. Psalm 136 is a Psalm of praise, “only praise, and can only be enjoyed by a devoutly grateful heart.” Read 136:1-9 and discuss the repeated praise in connection with created works. *Dear Lord, please let us often rehearse the truth of this psalm and believe it when things look otherwise.*
2. Psalm 148:3-5, 9, 13 - List the created beings or objects in Psalm 148.
 - a. Try to give a specific of some of them.
 - b. Briefly research one or two of them to admire their design. Be ready to share at least one of these at your table time.
 - c. What is the last verse of the last Psalm?

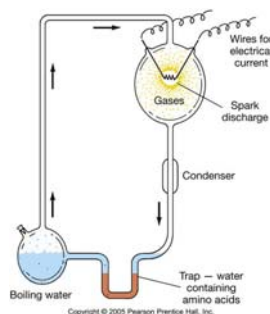
Creator of Heaven & Earth

Tracing the Implications

Cure for the Fear of Man

Lesson 7

Stanley
Miller



One of our young people just studied the famous Stanley Miller-Harold Urey spark chamber experiment in his biology class to supposedly prove that life could have come from early earth gases and a spark from the sun or lightning. The experiment, conducted in 1953, although quite brilliant, is known by evolutionists to be faulty; however, it is still included in textbooks, citing the production of amino acids, the “building blocks of life,” as “practically making life in a test tube.” Proteins in living cells are made of just certain kinds of amino acids, those that are “short” (alpha) and “left-handed.” The students are not told, among many problems, that the amino acids produced in the experiment were both “long” (beta, gamma, delta) and short and both “left-handed” and “right-handed” forms. Just one right-handed or long amino acid inserted into a chain of short, left-handed amino acids would prevent the coiling and folding necessary for proper protein function, so actually what was produced was a “seething brew of potent poison” that would destroy any hope for chemical evolution of life (*Creation, Facts of Life*, Gary Parker, p.23). Researchers are no closer to explaining how the first living cell came from a soup of inert chemicals than when the assertion was first made.

However, peer pressure, both in students and professors, leads many to silence, even though the establishment’s arguments are feeble. Our lesson this week addresses how God the Creator drives away the fear of what others think of us and smashes intimidation. In his most helpful book, [When People Are Big and God Is Small](#), Edward Welch identifies the problem of people pleasing and its cure. He suggests studying creation Psalms for help in this paralyzing threat to every man and woman. That is what we will do in this lesson, along with some faith-building references to the Creator to bolster our resolve.

Many of the characteristics of the fear of man used in this lesson come from the book mentioned above. We will use them in our exercises in an attempt to make the truth usable.

Let’s begin with the prayer that we will not allow others to “quietly” take God’s place in our lives.

DAY ONE

1. Review Psalm 19:9, 10, and add v. 11 for this week.

Now let's read the following creation Psalms and identify the fear of God that unfetters us from the fear of man. Characteristics of the fear of man (FOM) will be **emboldened in blue**.

Psalm 8

2. First, read Psalm 8 in its entirety. Note your initial impressions of how it enlarges your view of God.
 - a. What are the first and last verses of Psalm 8? How do they help us not to give man more importance than God?
 - b. We will consider a couple of characteristics of the fear of man in each Psalm. Try to address the following characteristics in light of the verse given or others you may see.
 - 1) **Pride, v. 1**
 - 2) **Sense of worth only if overly-committed, busy. v. 6**

- c. Still from Psalm 8, what references to creation do you see? How do they help enlarge God in our thinking in the application to the fear of man?

Psalm 19

3. Read Psalm 19 in its entirety and note the meditations of God.
 - a. Trace the theme of “speech”, “words”, communication, and show how that theme connects with being excessively dependent on people.
 - b. Apply the following characteristics of the fear of man to these verses.
 - 1) **Blaming those who sinned against me for my own sinful responses.** Psalm 19:12, 13.
 - 2) **Overly sensitive reactions.** Psalm 19:17a.
 - 3) **Avoiding people, isolation for protection.** Psalm 19:7b

- c. What references to creation do you see in Psalm 19? How do they help us know God better and love Him more deeply?

DAY TWO

Psalm 29

1. Read Psalm 29 in its entirety and note your initial impressions on how it applies to worshiping God more than fearing people.
 - a. How many times is God's "voice" referred to? Whose voice is more important to you than His?
 - b. Apply the text directly to the following characteristics of the problem in Question 1.
 - 1) **Demanding the attention/acceptance of others.** Psalm 29:1, 2
 - 2) **Constant worrying if people like us or not.** Psalm 29:11.
 - c. What references to creation are in the Psalm, and how do they change our perspective?

Psalm 65

2. Read Psalm 65 in its entirety and respond to the work and worth of God.
 - a. Apply the Psalm to our “codependency” tendencies.
 - 1) **Expecting others to meet our “needs”**. Psalm 65:4, 13.

 - 2) **Pride in not needing others**. Psalm 65:2b.
 - b. How is creation mentioned in the Psalm? How does it drive us to new motivations?

Psalm 104

3. Read Psalm 104 and discuss how our view of ourselves must be crafted by our view of God.
 - a. Apply the Psalm to our pursuits of peace through people.
 - 1) **Low self-esteem, thinking we deserve better than people give us**. Psalm 104:1.

 - 2) **Our joy being dependent on those around us**. Psalm 104:33, 34.

- b. What references to creation help us think of God's presence and power in Psalm 104?

DAY THREE

The answer to fear is faith, fearing God, acknowledging His rightful place. He often cites His creative work to bolster our faith. Enjoy as many of the following as you have time for. We can do some during table work. The frequency of reference is another manifestation of how God wants us to love and regularly revere Him as Creator.

1. Exodus 4:1-7, 10, 11. What was the occasion to be feared? How does the Creator show Moses whom to fear?
2. Deuteronomy 10:12-14, 20, 21. What was the occasion they might have feared? What commands are given? Why does God have the right to "require" (v. 12) these things of Israel (v. 14)?
3. Exodus 14:20, 21, 29, 31
4. Deuteronomy 4: 28, 31, 32

13. I Timothy 6:13-16

14. Hebrews 11:3

15. Hebrews 11:9, 10

Oh, how insidious the fear of man, the ease with which we gain our joy solely from other people, willing to sin to protect ourselves, our relationships, those we love. May we learn the higher motivation of worshiping the King of Kings. There is no comparison in self-made idols and our Creator.

If you have ever walked among giant redwoods, you will never be overwhelmed by the size of a dogwood tree. Or if you have been through a hurricane, a spring rain is nothing to fear. If you have been in the presence of the almighty God, everything that once controlled you suddenly has less power.

When People Are Big and God is Small, Ed Welch, p. 119.

5. Keeping your answers to the last three questions in mind, note the following descriptions of Jesus. How is he identified?

Hebrews 1:2, 10	
Hebrews 2:10a	
John 1:1-3, esp. vs. 3	
John 1:10	
Colossians 1:15-16	
Colossians 2:9	

6. Genesis 2:7 says that when God formed man from the dust of the ground he “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Note the phrases in the Scriptures below that specifically describe Jesus as the possessor and giver of life, both physical and spiritual.

John 5:21

John 5:26

John 11:25

Rom. 1:4

7. Try to fill in the following blank for each verse listed below. Because God is the giver of life, I can or should _____.

2 Cor. 1:8-10

Rom 4:19-21

Col. 1:16

1 John 5:11-13

Can you think of other statements which could fill in this blank? List a few below.

DAY TWO

Psalm 103:2-3 - “Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.”

1. How is Christ described in the following verses? How does this relate to Christ as Creator and the Giver of life?

Matt 8:16-17

Matt 4:23-24

2. Take a few minutes to skim through either the book of Matthew or Mark, jotting down the types of miracles done by Christ throughout his earthly ministry.

(i.e. *Matthew 4:24* - they brought to him all who were ill, taken with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them; *Matthew 8:2-4* healing a leper)

3. What do many of these miracles have in common? What is or are the main type(s) of miracle recorded in scripture and what does this tell us about Christ?

4. I Corinthians 12 includes healing in its list of spiritual gifts and Matthew 10 tells us that Jesus gave his disciples authority to heal every kind of disease and sickness. How does this differ from the healing ministry of Christ? See Acts 3:12-16.

5. List some of the types of Christ's miracles other than healing. What do they tell us about Christ?

6. Why might so many of Christ's miracles have had to do with healing?
 - A) Consider the purpose of Christ's ministry on earth
 - Luke 19:10

 - Mark 10:45

 - Mark 1:38

 - B) Consider the purpose of miracles
 - John 5:36

John 10:38

Mark 2:9-11

C) Consider what miracles of healing picture

Matthew 9:11-13

DAY THREE

Being our healer is one of the natural implications of Christ being our Creator. But according to the New Testament, what does God being our Creator have to do with . . .

1. **Marriage?**

Matthew 19:3-6

Ephesians 5:22-33

2. **Worry?**

Matthew 6:25-30

3. **Spiritual Growth/Maturity?**

2 Corinthians 5:17

Colossians 3:10

Ephesians 1:3-4

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 4:22-24

Creator of Heaven & Earth

Tracing the Implications

Curse Lifting—Part 1

Lesson 9

DAY ONE

1. Write out Psalm 19:12 by memory from last week and begin memorizing 19:13 for this week by writing it below as well.

Lessons 1-8 have documented and applied the truth of God's creation, past action with present application. We live in the "creation groaning" period, and are strengthened by considering the work of His hands. The last two lessons will primarily have to do with God's creative design in the future. We can believe the future promises regarding nature as firmly as we can believe "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." Many will seem strange to us, but we must handle the whole counsel of God as authoritative and attempt to interpret it carefully. These truths also affect our present faith, bolstering us in the "groaning". Stop and consider some of yours now.

2. First, let's review. Write a summary of Genesis 1-11, including the purpose for God's creation of man, His mandate for man, man's response and the repercussions.
3. You must have included in answering question #2 God's desire for His glory through man on the earth He created. His plan was to do that through a nation from Abraham's loins,

chosen to be the witness nation to all mankind. They consequently sinned against Him, but He has not to this day abandoned His promises to them. The headwaters of eschatology are given in the Abrahamic Covenant given first in Genesis 12:1-3. How is creation involved in the promises given to Abraham?

4. Some believe that God is finished with the nation of Israel. Was the covenant conditional?
 - a. Immediately. Genesis 17:14

 - b. Ultimately. Genesis 17:7, 8

5. Ethnic Israel is primarily rejecting Christ during our lifetime but that will one day be reversed. It will come only by great pain, unlike any other era in history (Matthew 24:21). This is called The Tribulation, and God will do phenomenal things through His creation. But let's begin by remembering the nation God names as His focus during this period of time. What is it called in Jeremiah 30:7?

6. Israel is not the only target of God's wrath. Who is, according to Isaiah 13:9?

7. Therefore, we want to keep in mind God's view of man's rejection of His covenant which ultimately led to rejection of Christ. That is the issue in our world. How does the verse above describe the way in which God is coming, and therefore views our sin?

DAY TWO

Now we want to see how God utilizes His creation to call His creatures to repentance and worship. This will not be a full study of the Tribulation. There are God-ordained horrors we will not mention. But we will extract the specific references to the use of what He has made.

1. What references of creation and wrath are referred to in Revelation 6:8?
2. What cosmic changes will occur? Revelation 6:12-14
3. Note God's promise against Gog (uncertain derivation, but nothing like the following has ever happened in Israel) in Ezekiel 38:19, 20, 22. What purpose is given in 38:23?
4. The Ezekiel passage above may be describing the same events of Revelation 8:7. What are the results, according to that passage?
5. What part of God's creation is used to affect the seas, according to Revelation 8:8, 9? (Note: For Dr. Henry Morris' fascinating commentary on these verses, go to www.icr.org. Go to Search, Bible, and put in the reference).

12. There's more. The "bowl judgments" of Revelation 16 bring us into the final war of the Tribulation, Armageddon. Very briefly fill in the chart below to view the misery.

Reference	Creation's Curse
16:1, 2	
16:3, 4	
16:8, 9	
16:10	
16:12-14	
16:18-21	

13. We have traced these happenings sequentially as the Bible gives them. Look over them again, and try to imagine and summarize the condition of the world as the residual effect of each curse remains.

The song of survivors reminds us the God who reigns. Enjoy it now.

Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations.

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE THEE, For Thy righteous acts have been revealed.

because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

⁵The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

⁶Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Satan Freed, Doomed

⁷When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

⁸and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

⁹And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

¹⁰And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Judgment at the Throne of God

¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

¹²And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire This is the second death, the lake of fire.

¹⁵And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Creator of Heaven & Earth

Tracing the Implications

Curse Lifting--Part 2

Lesson 10

Last week's lesson promised the unleashing of God's wrath to come, using His creation against His creation to show hatred of sin. Then we saw the promise of Christ's kingdom of 1000 years on His created globe. This week's lesson will give more details regarding that earthly kingdom. Then we'll study the eternal kingdom and how God ultimately will totally lift the curse on man forever through Christ.

This future kingdom of God will have two distinct phases. The first phase is the millennial kingdom of Christ, and the second phase is the eternal state. The millennial (Messianic) kingdom is declared to be a thousand years in length (Revelation 20:4-6). The fact that this number is repeated six times in this passage indicates that this figure is to be understood literally. The second phase of the future kingdom of God is eternal (22:5).

Understanding End Times Prophecy, Paul N. Benware

DAY ONE

1. Begin memorizing Psalm 19:14, writing it out below. Write out as much of the entire Psalm as you can, and enjoy Creator God.

We studied an overview of the Millennium from Revelation 20 last week, but there is much in the prophets regarding that period of time. We'll look for the way creation shows up in future things, the purposes of the earthly kingdom, and the reasons for the geographical changes.

Once more we must be reminded that this is not a comprehensive study of the end times, but a reminder of God's glorious right to do with His creation as He pleases. That includes you. Thank Him now, and submit the most difficult things on your "list" to His providential hand.

2. We will encounter many details that make it becomes clear that Israel is the “apple of God’s eye” on into the Millennium. As a transition verse from the Tribulation to the further study of the Millennium, note Zechariah 14:4, 5 to see how God changes His creation as a part of the final war against His own. What is the reason given in v. 5?

3. Note the prominence of Jerusalem in Isaiah 2:1-3 (repeated almost word for word in Micah 4:1-3). Be sure to discuss the geographical changes that are mentioned in this passage, and the reasons for those changes.

4. The significance of Israel is due to the One who reigns during this earthly kingdom that leads into the eternal. Worship Him according to Gabriel’s prophecy in Luke 1:32, 33. How will He reign according to Isaiah 11:1-5?

5. So as Christ reigns, let’s see what some of His choices are for a way of life for this thousand year reign. According to Isaiah 27:12, 13 and Matthew 24:31, a great movement will occur. What is it? What is the significance of Isaiah being quoted in Matthew? Who is speaking? Also note Isaiah 11:11, 12.

- e. What does God do in 47:13? Why does He have that right? Is it just His work in hearts? What promise is He fulfilling?

DAY TWO

Along with the basics above, the prophets add interesting details that include changes as creation is redeemed. We will look at some of them now. Keep in mind that worship of reigning King Jesus is the focus. Note how the following fit and enhance that.

1. How are the nations instructed and directed by creation's changes in Zechariah 14:16, 17?
2. What will implement travel according to Isaiah 19:23? Note also Isaiah 49:11-13.
3. What will not be a factor to those who travel on foot, a pleasure to children, a wonder to all? Isaiah 11:6-8.
4. What will the weather be like for worship according to Isaiah 4:5, 6?

5. How will the crops be affected by the changes in creation? Amos 9:13-15.

DAY THREE

1. The most specific information we have about the ending of the earth as we know it is found in II Peter 3:10-13. Discuss that.
2. At last it is time to study all things made new, creation restored and glorified, where we are graciously welcomed forever because we were graciously redeemed. Revelation 21 and 22 are printed for you below. We will still have questions, but we have just the information God chooses to give us. Read, pray, observe, make notes, check commentaries, and tell Him "Thank You".

Revelation 21

The New Heaven and Earth

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

⁴and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

⁵And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new " And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

⁶Then He said to me, "It is done I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

⁷"He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

⁸"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

⁹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

The New Jerusalem

¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

¹¹having the glory of God Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

¹²It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

¹³There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.

¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and

its wall.

¹⁶The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

¹⁷And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.

¹⁸The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

¹⁹The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

²⁰the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

²²I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

²³And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

²⁵In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;

²⁶and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;

²⁷and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22

The River and the Tree of Life

¹Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

²in the middle of its street On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

³There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

⁴they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

⁵And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

⁶And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.

⁷"And behold, I am coming quickly Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

⁹But he said to me, "Do not do that I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

The Final Message

¹⁰And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

¹¹"Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."

¹²"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

¹³"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

¹⁵Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

¹⁶"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come " And let the one who hears say, "Come " And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

¹⁸I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly " Amen Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Creation and Evangelism

In our study of the book of Genesis, we delight not only in finding that the theory of evolution can be refuted, but more so in seeing that God's Word is reliable and trustworthy. Our desire should be for others to see this as well. Creation evangelism is using creationism as a tool in sharing the gospel message. The story of creation and the events that follow in the early chapters of Genesis serve as effective preparation for the presentation of Jesus Christ as Savior. They do so because they establish foundational truths about who God is and about his relationship with man. They are also effective because these truths can be presented in highly interesting ways.

A world of order and design testifies to the fact that there is a creator. The Creator God described in Genesis is powerful, eternal, wise, holy and just. Reading the story of creation and the fall of man not only allows us to see what God is like, but it sets him in contrast to sinners in a fallen world. The fact that our world is designed for the benefit of mankind shows us that God is also compassionate and caring. From the beginning we see him extend grace to mankind. He offers Cain an opportunity to repent. He provides for Noah and his family. There is already hope of provision for us.

Once we establish that God is holy and righteous and that man has a sin problem, we can more naturally discuss Christ as a mediator and a redeemer and can better explain why he is able to help us. We know that when the apostle Paul traveled to an area he went first to the Jewish synagogues and from the Scriptures explained how Jesus was their promised Messiah. But, with Gentiles he sometimes used creation in his approach to the gospel. When Paul healed a man in Lystra, the people thought that he and Barnabas were gods. He responded by saying

"Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." (Acts 14:15-17 NIV)

Paul does something similar in Athens. In Acts chapter 17 he sees an altar to an unknown god and then reveals this god as the true God who created the world. Paul first established foundational truths about God and his relationship to mankind, and then went on to tell of the death and resurrection of Christ.

The study of creationism shows the Bible to be historically and scientifically accurate. This may be the first step in leading people to faith in the Bible as God's Word. A creation approach to evangelism also has the advantage of appealing to all different ages and different types of people. Consider the almost universal attraction of young children to dinosaurs. And, even the brightest minds are challenged with topics like DNA or why distant stars can be seen in a young universe. According to Dr. John Morris (2004) in an article entitled "Can Children Benefit from Creation Thinking",

"Entry polls taken on universities often show that over 50% of incoming freshmen believe in some form of creation, even if they've never heard any creation facts before, but that number typically decreases throughout college and graduate school. And, even though a high number of practicing scientists believe in some form of creation, almost no university professors do."

It is clear that evolutionary thinking predominates in higher education. Perhaps using a creation approach to evangelism would be particularly effective with college students or even professors.

When setting out to use creation as a way to tell others about Christ, there are a couple of issues to keep in mind. The goal is not to simply refute evolution and win the debate. This is important to remember because there is no place for ugliness and unkindness. We should respect the intelligence of others, and be concerned with maintaining our integrity. It is best to guard against insistence or dogmatism when we are speaking of any issue that is not a direct teaching of Scripture. We can discuss some very interesting theories, but cannot always insist on their certainty.

Only reliable sources of information should be referenced. Any scientific arguments used should be current, and we should exercise caution when using material that may be beyond our understanding. Arguments that are unsubstantiated or doubtful should be avoided. For suggestions on this, the Answers in Genesis website has posted a list entitled "Arguments we think creationists should NOT use" ([Arguments 2005](#)). It is good to keep in mind that as interesting as the issues may be, we hope to use them to share the gospel message.

Evangelism through creation can be done in a variety of ways. With children, almost any contact with nature can lead to discussion about the God who made everything. This could be at a visit to a zoo or aquarium, after watching a nature video or even when talking about a cut that is healing. With adults, we might find ourselves in the midst of or initiate a conversation on moral absolutes. This gives the opportunity to discuss how standards come from a creator God. Churches can hold seminars or invite guest speakers that will deal with creation related topics and follow them with a gospel message. Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis suggests (2005) that pocket-sized copies of the New Testament given out to unbelievers should include the first eleven chapters of Genesis.

As individuals, we can share summary statements from our bible study, newsletters or internet articles with others. A creationist magazine, such as *Creation* put out by Answers in Genesis, can be purchased as a gift for others, or we can ask for permission to leave one in an office or waiting room. We can invite people to museums or nature centers and look for ways to begin conversations about creation. The topics that have interested us in relation to the study of origins probably will interest others as well.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."
(Colossians 1:15-20 NIV)

~Kari Pizzini

Works Cited

- (2005). Arguments we think creationists should NOT use. Retrieved February 9, 2005 from www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/faq/dont_use.asp.
- Ham, Ken. (2005). Creation Evangelism (Part II of Relevance of Creation). *Creation Ex Nihilo*, 6(2): Special Liftout Section November 1983. Retrieved February 9, 2005 from www.answersingenesis.org/docs/3372.asp.
- Morris, John D. (2004). Can Children Benefit from Creation Thinking? BTG No. 148b April 2001. Retrieved February 9, 2005 from www.icr.org/pubs/btg-b/btg-148b.htm.