

## **Growth Track Two**

### **201: Biblical Foundations for Life**

#### **Session 4: Creation**

**Overview:** At the conclusion of this session students will better understand the role of creation in establishing God as king and ruler of the world. They will be armed with solid evidence that establishes creation—not evolution—as the way the world began.

**Why study the origins of life?**

- 1. It affects your self-worth.**
- 2. It affects your relationships.**
- 3. It affects how you view God.**

**Why did God create?**

- 1. God created for his own sake.**

*Psalms 104:31 NLT May the glory of the Lord last forever! The Lord rejoices in all He has made.*

*Colossians 1:16 NIV All things were created by Him and for Him.*

### **3. God created to express His sovereignty.**

Psalms 89:11 NIV *The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth;  
you founded the world and all that is in it.*

### **4. God created to reveal His character.**

Romans 1:20 NLT *From the time the world was created, people have  
seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly  
see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature.  
So, they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.*

### **5. God created to show His wisdom.**

Proverbs 3:19 NIV *By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations,  
by understanding He set the heavens in place.*

### **How did God create?**

Genesis 1:3 NIV *And God said, "Let there be light," and there was  
light.*

## 1. The Theory of Evolution:

- a. No creator was involved.
- b. Life originated from natural processes, beginning with the first living substance, a single cell, and continuing with the evolution of all species.
- c. It is impossible to prove this theory scientifically.
  - Observation and Experimentation, the hallmarks of scientific research, are impossible to perform.
  - The odds of a single chain of amino acids evolving are  $10^{260}$ .
  - The number of stars in all the galaxies is estimated to be  $10^{80}$ .
  - The odds are better that a tornado would hit a junk yard and the pieces would form a fully functioning Boeing 747.
  - There is no evidence of species-to-species evolution.
- d. Charles Darwin wrote, "Not one change of species into another is on record. We cannot prove that a single species has been changed."
- e. The Bible says God made each animal after its own kind. That fact is easily verified by fossil records as well as modern scientific methodology.

## 2. The Theory of Theistic Evolution:

- a. This theory is attractive to some as an attempt to please both sides of the argument.
- b. The Bible describes God as intimately involved in each aspect and moment of creation.

Psalms 19:1 NCV *The heavens tell the glory of God, and the skies announce what His hands have made.*

Nehemiah 9:6 NIV *You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship You.*

- c. Either the Bible is accurate, or it isn't.

## 3. The Theory of Supernatural Creation:

- a. Science may provide reasonable evidence of the existence of God, but ultimately, it is a matter of faith.

- b. Science provides us with evidence of the Big Bang, but it takes faith to believe God said "Let there be light."
- May 4, 1992, Time Magazine reported that NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer satellite – COBE – had discovered landmark evidence that the universe did in fact begin with the primeval explosion that has become known as the "Big Bang." "If you're religious, it's like looking at God," proclaimed the leader of the research team, George Smoot.
- c. Science may have found evidence of a big beginning, but faith is required to believe Genesis 1:3.
- d. Science shows the intelligent design of the universe, but it takes faith to believe God personally designed it.
- Robert Jastrow, Founder of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies said: "A sound explanation may exist for the explosive birth of our Universe; but if it does, science cannot find out what the explanation is. The scientist's pursuit of the past ends in the moment of creation. This is an exceedingly strange development, unexpected by all but the theologians. They have always accepted the word of the Bible: In the beginning God created heaven and earth... For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

## **When did God create?**

**1. Evolutionists believe the Earth is billions of years old.**

**2. Creationists are divided between the theory of a young Earth and an old Earth. The majority believes in a young Earth.**

- a. The debate centers around the Hebrew word YOM, which can be translated as a “24-hour day”, or an “unspecified period of time.”
- b. Young Earth Creationists believe the earth was created in full working order, and that the dramatic changes brought about by the flood call into question the timelines deduced from radioactive dating, petroleum gas deposits, planet rotations, etc.
- c. Old Earth Creationists believe the planet was created several million years ago, and there was a significant gap between each “day” of Creation.

## **Nine Truths about Creation, Foundational to Our Lives:**

### **1. God created everything out of nothing.**

Hebrews 11:3 NIV *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

Genesis 1:3 NIV *And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*

### **2. God simply spoke, and it happened.**

### **3. Creation was done in proper order.**

- a. Both creationists and evolutionists believe in a well-ordered creation. Evolutionists just believe chaos randomly became order.
- b. Creation is a reminder that our God is an orderly God.
- c. God saw it was good. (For example, each day of creation).

Genesis 1:4 NIV *God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness.*

Genesis 1:10 NIV *God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters He called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.*

#### **4. Man is the crown jewel of creation.**

Genesis 1:27- 28 NCV *So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God He created them. He created them male and female. God blessed them and said, “Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

a. We have a mind, free will, and emotions.

b. We have morality.

Genesis 3:7 NIV *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

c. We are spiritual beings.

Romans 5:11 TLB *Now we rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God –all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins – making us friends of God.*

d. God finished the job.

Genesis 2:1 NIV *God’s work was finished from the time He made the world.*



- e. The world is not a “work in progress”.
- f. It was perfect when first created but became marred by sin.

## **7. God rested on the seventh day.**

*Genesis 2:2-3 NIV By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.*

- a. He rested to give us an example to follow.

*Exodus 20:9-11 NCV Work and get everything done during six days each week, but the seventh day is a day of rest to honor the Lord your God; the reason is that in six days the Lord made everything – the sky, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. On the seventh day He rested.*

- b. He taught us the plan for the ages.

*Hebrews 4:9-11 NIV There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from His own work, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest.*

- c. God rested to teach us that we must enter into His rest.

- d. It is a reminder that our salvation is not based in works.

### **God Now Sustains All that He Made.**

Colossians 1:17 NLT *He existed before everything else began, and He holds all creation together.*

- a. If He can sustain the universe, He can sustain you.

Song of Solomon 2:6 ESV *His left hand is under my head and His right hand embraces me.*

### **How to Praise God as Your Creator:**

#### **1. Recognize creation as an expression of His love.**

Psalms 136:7-9, 25 NCV *He made the sun and the moon. His love continues forever. He made the sun to rule the day. His love continues forever. He made the moon and stars to rule the night. His love continues forever... He gives food to every living creature. His love continues forever.*

## **2. Kneel before Him humbly.**

Psalm 95:6-7 TLB *Come, kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God. We are His sheep, and He is our Shepherd. Oh, that you would hear Him calling you today and come to Him.*

## **3. Praise Him for today.**

Psalm 118:24 NIV *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

## **4. Thank Him for creating you.**

Psalm 139:14 NCV *I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well.*

## **Discussion:**

1. Would you describe your early learning as having come from a creationist or an evolutionist perspective? What impact do you think that might have on your current view?
2. Which of the nine Truths about creation most resonates with you? Why?