

# Biblical View of Creation

By Patricia Nason

## Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

### Assignment One

Read the comments and Scriptures related to **Time and Creation** in the section **It's in the Book**. Also read Exodus 20:9-11. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: Using the words from the Bible, can you describe a day? Is there a distinction between night and day? Why were the words "there was evening and there was morning, the first [or second, etc.] day" used?

### Assignment Two

Read the comments and Scriptures related to **Order of Creation** in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following question: How do the events proposed by evolutionists differ from the order of creation found in the Bible?

### Assignment Three

Read the comments and Scriptures related to **The Creation of Man** in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: What did God notice about what He created? (See verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, and 25). After He completed the creation of man and looked on all that He had made, He added a descriptor to what He observed (v.31). What was that adverb? Why did God make this declaration?

### Scripture to Memorize

*"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'" Genesis 1:26*

### Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit - by the end of this session, disciples will contrast the creation story in Genesis with the evolutionary account of cosmology and describe God's design for mankind.

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Patricia is a wife, mother of five children, and grandmother of nineteen. She has taught science in public school and science teachers at Texas A&M University (where she received her PhD), UNC-Charlotte, SFA, and at the Institute for Creation Research. She has been teaching director of Community Bible Study in Nacogdoches, Texas. Her walk with Christ is a story of His faithfulness and everlasting love toward her and her family.

## It's in the Book

30 minutes

### Real-Life Scenario

A discussion ensued among your friends about creation and evolution. Thomas asserted the biblical account of creation is consistent with evolution. Stephen insisted well-educated scientists who use the scientific method to prove evolution can't be wrong. Sophia declared, "It doesn't make any difference which you believe. Belief in creation is for religious and spiritual life. Evolution is for day-to-day understanding of things as they are. It is rational to believe evolution explains how the universe and all that is in it came into existence."

When asked to discuss what you believe, would you agree or disagree with your friends? Why?

### Time and Creation

**Read** Genesis 1 out loud.

#### Studying the Passage

**Verse 1. In the beginning.** The Bible opens with the words "In the beginning." The book of Genesis, which means "origin," provides insight concerning the beginning of everything, especially the beginning of the universe and life itself.

One of the processes of evolution is time. From the perspective of evolution, billions of years were required to bring the universe into existence as we know it today. Ancient religions also believed in some form of cosmology based on chaos developing into order over vast periods of time.

**Verses 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31. day.** The best way to study the Hebrew word for "day" is to allow Scripture to interpret Scripture. The Hebrew word for day, *yom*, is used 181 times with an ordinal number, as it is in Genesis 1. Every time, *yom* refers to a specific number of days based on twenty-four hour periods. (The only exception is Hosea 6:2, a passage yet to be fulfilled.) Therefore, the Bible's use of *yom* indicates that God completed creation in six literal twenty-four hour periods.

#### Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now report on words used to describe each day of creation.

#### Discussion Questions

If you wrote the story of creation, how might long periods of time be expressed? Why do the Scriptures describe this period of time as "evening and morning"?

## The Order of Creation

Evolutionists say the Big Bang was followed by a period of expansion and cooling. This caused the basic elements to form. Then the elements formed the galaxies and eventually the Earth (about 9.5 billion years ago). Life was produced in the following order: single-celled organisms followed by cells that used photosynthesis, eukaryotic cells, single-celled organism, multi-celled animals, fish, insects, plants with woody stems (trees), amphibians and reptiles, warm-blooded animals, birds, flowering plants, mammals, grasses, whales, monkeys, apes, orangutans, gorillas, humans.

### Studying the Passage

**Verses 3–25. Then God said . . . and it was so.** This was the process God used to create. The order of creation found in Genesis 1 is different from the order proposed by evolutionists.

**Verses 3–5.** Day 1: Creation of Light. On the first day God created light, which is a form of energy that includes visible light, heat, radio waves, infrared lights and so on. The Hebrew word for “light” means “day,” or “daylight.” God separated the day from the night. That is, He separated the dark from the light. When God used the word day (*yom*) for the first time, He defined it as light—distinguishing it from the darkness which was called “night.”

**Verses 6–8.** Day 2: Creation of the Firmament. God then created the heavens which, according to the biblical description, is an expanse between two layers of water - an area above the waters on the earth. The Hebrew word means “space” and is used 18 times in the Old Testament, seven times during the creation week.

**Verses 9–13.** Day 3: Creation of Seas, Earth, and Plants. As God gathered together the waters below the firmament, He spoke and dry land appeared. He called the waters “seas,” using a plural term. When God commanded grass, herbs and fruit trees to emerge, they did.

**Verses 14–19.** Day 4: Creation of the Heavenly Bodies. When God said, “Let there be lights,” He was referring to the heavenly bodies. The Hebrew word means “*luminaries or light givers.*” Heavenly bodies such as the moon and planets reflect light while others such as the sun and the stars produce light. God proclaimed that these light givers would help man distinguish time and seasons.

**Verses 20–23.** Day 5: Creation of Water Animals and Birds. God created all kinds of marine life (mollusks, reptiles, fish, etc.) and birds. The word “living” (Hebrew *nephesh*) appears for the first time. The word is used to refer to the soul of man as well as to animals. In the account of creation, plants do not have souls or consciousness as men and animals do. At the same time, only mankind has a spiritual soul that is eternal.

**Verse 21. created.** The Hebrew word for “created” is *bara*. The word means God shaped and formed the animals. The Hebrew term is also used in Genesis 1:1 and when God made man in Genesis 1:27.

**Verses 24–25.** Day 6: Land Animals. God “made” (Hebrew *asah*), rather than created, the land animals. The basic materials to bring forth the land animals were already in place, so God rearranged those elements to make the land animals. God’s final act of creation was mankind.

### **Assignment Two Feedback**

The person who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can report on comparisons of the order of evolution to the biblical order of creation.

### **Discussion Question**

When God created the plants, He also commanded them to produce “after their kind with seed in them” (vv.11-12). Similar words are used in verse 21 (two times) and verse 24 (two times). How might you use this fact of creation as an argument against the evolution of one kind to another kind (i.e., cats to dogs, apes to humans)?

## **The Creation of Man**

### **Studying the Passage**

**Verse 26. Us.** This term refers to the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who were all present at creation. **Our image.** This expression means mankind was to be “made” (*asah*) and “created” (*bara*) in God’s “likeness.” God made man uniquely different from animals by giving him a moral consciousness, along with the ability to reason, understand emotions, appreciate beauty and worship and love God. **have dominion.** God said He created man to *rule* over the animals.

**Verse 28. Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.** God did not mean for man to destroy what God had given him. According to Genesis 2:15, man was to cultivate and care for creation. God gave him every green plant for food with one restriction: He forbade man to eat of “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:17).

### **Assignment Three Feedback**

The person who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now bring a report.

### **Discussion Question**

What are the implications of mankind being God’s image bearers (i.e., created in God’s image)?

## **Heart and Hands**

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below and then be ready to share that with the group.

### **Since Last Week**

5 minutes

Give the group this update: "In our last session I made a commitment to . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue, I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . ."

### **Grace-Filled Accountability**

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

### **Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service**

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

### **Prayer**

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

## At Home: Nail It Down

Unique in all creation, mankind was and is created in the image of God. *Image* and *likeness* mean the same thing. Those terms are used in Genesis 5:3 and Genesis 9:6.

People who reject being created in the image of God tend to worship false images. To discover more about false images, read the following Scriptures. Record the likeness each represents:

Leviticus 26:1

Deuteronomy 4:16

2 Kings 11:18

Psalms 106:20

Jeremiah 10:14

Habakkuk 2:18

Numbers 33:52

Judges 18:20

Chronicles 28:2

Isaiah 42:8

Ezekiel 8:12

Romans 1:23

Would you say that giving honor to false images only happened in ancient times? Or would you say that people today can be tempted to do the same thing? Why?

What does it look like to be created in God's image? What qualities are apparent? Read Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24 and James 3:8-10 for guidance.

Do you desire to bear the image of God? Do you desire to become more and more transformed into His likeness?

- This week, keep a record of how you are God's image bearer in your home and among others. Also, note opportunities you missed and plan to give attention to in the future.
- Consider whether your thoughts, words, and deeds around others reflect your relationship to the Creator. Are you filled with awe over His brilliance and grandeur? At the same time, do you relate to Him with warmth and intimacy?
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach you what it means to be created in God's image. Pray that the Spirit will transform you into the image of Jesus Christ. Pray that the Spirit will empower you and will give you the ability to bring great glory to Christ.

### Follow-Up Question

*Do you see yourself as the product of blind evolutionary chance or as a special creation of God, made in His image?*

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.