

To Glorify and Enjoy God

LESSON 9: GLORIFYING AND ENJOYING THE GOD WHO MADE ALL THINGS

Intro:

SCIENTIFIC THEORIES:

Steady-State Theory: the universe is self-existent and _____. It is a closed _____ and mechanistic that will sustain itself and continue forever.

Expanding-Universe Theory: As we move back in time they theorize a point of _____ that subsequently exploded so the universe continues to expand out of the blast.

Copernicus put forth a heliocentric view, Rome _____ him.

Scripture & Scientific Evidence: we could _____ either one or both at any point in time.

“What God reveals in nature can never contradict what he reveals in Scripture, and what he reveals in Scripture can never contradict what he reveals in nature. He is the author of both forms of revelation, and God does not contradict himself.” **R.C. Sproul**⁶⁰

BIG IDEA: God was pleased to make _____ from _____.

WSC 8: How does God execute his decrees?

Answer: God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

WLC 14: How does God execute his decrees?

A. God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will.

- The Catechisms move to how these eternal _____ are _____.
- They are executed in two ways: _____ and _____.

Creation in General

WSC 9: What is the work of creation.?

Answer: The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

WLC 15: What is the work of creation?

A: The work of creation is that wherein God did in the beginning, by the word of his power, make of nothing the world, and all things therein, for himself, within the space of six days, and all very good.

⁶⁰ Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 120-1.

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1. It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good.

- Unlike creation _____, God does not need creation to be content.
- They apparently took _____ among themselves to make these eternal _____.
- The overall purpose of _____ was to manifest the _____ of the Trinity.⁶¹
- The Standards affirm creation *ex nihilo*, out of _____. No prior materials.
- God first created the necessary _____, & then used them to form _____ items.
- The “all things” is clarified to that which we can see, and can’t see, that is not God.
- Lastly, it affirms that as created, the all things were very _____. Matter is not _____.

“Hence theologians have distinguished between the *creatio prima* or first creation of the elementary substance of things *ex nihilo*, and the *creatio secunda* or second creation or combination of the elements and the formation of things, and their mutual adjustments in the system of the universe.” **A.A Hodge**⁶²

“Since God the Father has eternally loved his Son, it is entirely characteristic of him to turn and create others that he might also love them. ... The fountain of love brimmed over. ... He has always enjoyed showering his love on his Son, and in creating he rejoices to shower it on children he loves through the Son.” **Michael Reeves**⁶³

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **Genesis 1**

- See God’s _____ thru creation. He speaks creation into being. Everything _____.
- We see God _____ in creation, not part of creation. Transcendent & _____.
- We see God exercising _____: speaking light into being.
- _____: “*And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*”
- The 6 days are tied to evening and morning, indicating a 24-hour period.
- God _____ environments by separating one thing from another, and named them.
- Then God _____ those environments with someone or something to rule them.

⁶¹ For more see *Creation: A Witness to the Wonder of God* by Mark Futato.

⁶² Hodge, pp. 82.

⁶³ Reeves, pp. 42-43.

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“The Word goes out in the power of the hovering Spirit so that on God’s Breath his Word is heard: “Let there be light!”” **Michael Reeves**⁶⁴

Day	Separate	Name	Fill
Day 1	Light from Darkness	Day and Night	
Day 2	The Waters via expanse	Heaven (expanse)	
Day 3	Water from land	Earth and Seas	Vegetation on the earth
Day 4	Day and Night		Sun and stars (rule)
Day 5			Sea creatures
Day 6			Livestock, creeping things, and beasts of the earth Man (to subdue and rule)

“God was both the efficient cause and the sufficient cause because he alone had the power to bring something out of nothing.” **R.C. Sproul**⁶⁵

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

- Implies the _____ of the 7th Day was a _____ for humanity to rest too.
- Affirms God as _____ of everything that isn’t _____.
- Affirms God created everything in 6 days, and rested on the 7th as a _____ for us.

OTHER EVANGELICAL OPTIONS

Day-Age Theory- the Hebrew word for “day” can refer to an _____ period of time, like in the Day of the Lord. Some also point to 2 Peter 3:8 as though the 1,000 years is like a day to God can mean each of these days is a 1,000 years (or more).

Framework Hypothesis⁶⁶- argues that the _____ form of Gen. 1-3 differs from the rest of Genesis. Believed it to be poetry and therefore not historical narrative but metaphor and symbol.

Analogical Day Theory- God is establishing the _____ for the rest of ordinary time, but this does not necessitate they be literal 24-hour days approximately 6,000 years ago.

¹²I made the earth
and created man on it;
it was my hands that stretched out the heavens,
and I commanded all their host. **Isaiah 45**
¹³ My hand laid the foundation of the earth,
and my right hand spread out the heavens;

⁶⁴ Reeves, pp. 50.

⁶⁵ Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 116.

⁶⁶ Godfrey, W. Robert. *God’s Pattern for Creation: A Covenantal Reading of Genesis 1*. Phillipsburg, P&R. 2003.

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when I call to them,
they stand forth together. **Isaiah 48**

Thus says the LORD:

“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is the place of my rest?

²All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things came to be,
declares the LORD. **Isaiah 66**

- This is the testimony of God through the prophet _____.
- He made it, and _____ man (humanity) as a part of it.
- He speaks of His _____ to exhibit His power as the greatest artist.
- We also see His Lordship revealed thru “_____” and “_____” (authority).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **John 1**

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **Colossians 1**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **Hebrews 1**

- These all reveal the role of the _____ in creation, as taught in the Standards.
- Jesus is in authority over creation as the _____. Paul expanded on all things.
- “*in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible*”: _____ all things that are not God.
- He _____ over all things that are not God.
- Father, Son and Spirit made all things _____ & _____ the Son (Firstborn?).
- Everything holds together in the Son, _____ creation. This rules out _____.

“To provide a beautiful bride for his Son, the eternal Father created an entire universe, and in it a world which previously had no existence whatsoever as the nursery and home in which the bride would be reared.” **Douglas Kelly**⁶⁷

⁶⁷ Kelly, Douglas. *Creation and Change: Genesis 1:1-2:4 in the Light of Changing Scientific Paradigms*. Geanies House, Mentor. 1997, pp. 53.

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“The very nature of the triune God is to be effusive, ebullient and bountiful; the Father rejoices to have another beside him, and he finds his very self in pouring out his love. Creation is about the spreading, the diffusion, the outward explosion of that love.” **Michael Reeves**⁶⁸

(see Ps. 136:4-9!)

³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. **Hebrews 11**

- The first affirmation in the Hall of Faith is about _____.
- Faith is _____ that God made everything from nothing.
- Creation is *ex nihilo*, out of _____. What is was not made of seen things.

“Apparent discrepancies in established truths can have their ground only in imperfect knowledge. God requires us to both believe and to learn. He imposes on us at present the necessity of humility and patience.” **A.A. Hodge**⁶⁹

Creation of Humanity (and Angels)

WSC 10: How did God create man?

Answer: God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

WLC 16: How did God create angels?

A: God created all the angels spirits, immortal, holy, excelling in knowledge, mighty in power, to execute his commandments, and to praise his name, yet subject to change.

WLC 17: How did God create man?

A. After God had made all other creatures, he created man male and female; formed the body of the man of the dust of the ground, and the woman of the rib of the man, endued them with living, reasonable, and immortal souls; make them after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it, and dominion over the creatures; yet subject to fall.

2. After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after his own image; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it: and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

- Oddly, only the Larger Catechism mentions the creation of _____.
- They are spiritual beings who don't _____ & _____ great knowledge & power.
- They were made to _____ God by “executing his commands”, and _____ God.

⁶⁸ Reeves, pp. 56.

⁶⁹ Hodge, pp. 83.

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- They are “subject to change” as we note in the foreordaining some to _____.
- The apex of creation was _____: man & woman made in the image of God.
- He made them body and soul/spirit with the capacity for _____ & _____.
- The law of God was written on their _____ (Rom. 2:15) & they were able to _____.
- We were made to enjoy _____ with God, and to have _____.

²⁶Then 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.”

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

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

“Christianity does not demean the body or the physical dimension of life.” **R.C. Sproul**⁷⁰

“God made Adam a king, whose dominion was the earth, and Eve a queen, with both king and queen fully manifesting and displaying the image of God.” **R.C. Sproul**⁷¹

How does all this help you to glorify and enjoy God?

“And not only is God’s joyful, abundant, spreading goodness the very reason for creation; the love and goodness of the triune God is the source of all love and goodness.” **Michael Reeves**⁷²

⁷⁰ Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 130.

⁷¹ Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 133.

⁷² Reeves, pp. 62.