

- Q9. What is the work of creation?
A9. **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.**

Scripture References: Genesis Chapter 1; Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:9; Revelations 4:11

- DQ1: What is creation?
DQ2: Who created?
DQ3: How long did creation take?
DQ4: From what was everything created?
DQ5: How did creation come about?
DQ6: What was created?
DQ7: How did creation look to God?

Please read Genesis 1 and continue with the discussion questions below.

- DQ8: What is the meaning of “in the beginning”?
DQ9: What does the fact that there is a beginning suggest?
DQ10: Who was with God in the beginning? (Genesis 1:2; John 1:1-3)
DQ11: The word “separated” is used repeatedly. What were separated? Is there something special about God separating things? If so, explain.
DQ12: When does a day begin? Is it in the evening or in the morning?
DQ13: In the ancient times, what could one do in the evening?
DQ14: In the ancient times, what could one do in the morning?
DQ15: What was the last creation?
DQ16: What did God do after completing creation? (Genesis 2:1-2)
DQ17: What is the difference between creation and invention?

Notes:

Creation is both Biblical and historical. Creation cannot be discussed apart from the Bible. Secular scientists would prefer to refer to the Biblical doctrine of creation as “Creation Theory”

and have made every attempt to mischaracterize creation in accordance with their own futile thinking. Biblically speaking, creation is an iron-clad fact and is beyond dispute.

God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In no uncertain terms, did God decree that they shall die if they ate the fruit of the tree. Yet, the snake managed to dispute God's decree.

Creation, too, is a clear fact and history and beyond dispute. Just like the snake, the sinful nature of man has managed to subject the truth and historicity of creation to vain disputes even though science is woefully inadequate to dispute it. We must not be sucked into the scheme of the devil in thinking that it is fair to dispute the truthfulness of creation.

Biblical creation must satisfy the following elements:

God (Jehovah) alone is creator. There is no other creator than Jehovah God. There is but one creator. Jehovah God alone is true God. Therefore, He alone is creator.

Creation was accomplished in six days. The Bible unmistakably states that God spent 6 days for creation. The Bible repeated six times that one day was from the evening and the morning and stated that God rested on the seventh day. There is no evidence in the Bible to suggest that the lengths of days are not equal and that each of the creation days are not the same as our 24 hour days today. To say that the length of each day may actually be different is without foundation and a meaningless dispute. Man's imaginations can run wild, often leading to danger and destruction. We cannot take mere imaginations of man seriously and must resort to the rock solid foundational truth of the Bible regarding creation.

God created something *ex nihilo* (out of nothing). God did not create the universe from something or from any material. God's creation demands that something is created out of nothing by His sheer knowledge, wisdom, will and power. Science cannot handle the Biblical truth of creation. Science cannot talk about the idea of *ex nihilo*. Science is limited to understanding something, not how something could come from nothing. Creation is properly reserved only to the handy work of Jehovah God.

Creation occurred by the Word of His power. Creation is not an accident but a visible consequence of a carefully planned work of God. Creation appeared by the Word of God and His power instantaneously in an orderly manner. A concept of the theory of evolution has no place in creation. Science is possible because of God's decree but science is the work of the mind of man. God's mind surpasses that of man by far. Science can never give us the knowledge of God and His wondrous works. Science can merely recognize them.

God created all things. There is nothing that is not created by God. There is no exception.

Creation was good in every sense. God looked at His creation and declared it "good" and "very good." Creation satisfied God. That is the meaning of "good."

We have already touched upon "good" in QA8 briefly but it would be beneficial to consider this particular word once again. If creation was good, then where did sin come from?

Consider the following statements:

- Money is not sinful. The love of money is sinful.
- A knife is not sinful. Killing someone with a knife is sinful.
- A capacity to speak is not sinful. Abusive speaking is sinful.
- Internet is not sinful. Misuse of internet is sinful.

God did not create sin. Sin is a consequence of man's desires, thoughts and actions in contravention of and not in accordance with the laws of God. Therefore, sin proceeds from within man. God did not create sin.

¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' (Matthew 7:18-23)

Each of the six elements of creation is critical to the doctrine of creation. To clearly know and understand the doctrine of creation is critical to knowing and understanding the Bible and the redemptive work of God throughout history. God gave us the Bible because He deemed it necessary and appropriate for man to know Him. God's Word never returns empty (Isaiah 55:11; Deuteronomy 29:29; Matthew 5:18; warning: Revelations 22:18-19).

The first few words of the Bible, "In the beginning," should astound us. Think about it! What did happen in the beginning? Can you fathom? Can you grasp the implications of these words? In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. These words are not an explanation but a declaration. God declared the creation into existence. How amazing! The Bible also declares that God created. God's way is not explanatory as much as it is declaratory. An explanation is unnecessary to those who know God, and yet, no amount of explanation provides sufficient understanding to those who do not know God. The church of Christ needs to know and focus more on declaring the Word rather than explaining the Word.

We have already studied who God is. We know that Jehovah is God. If we know God as God, then we will accept creation as declared in the Bible. We will not need any further convincing. If we know God as God, then we also know that creation would be such an effortless work for God. Creation is no challenge for Jehovah.

On the other hand, if one does not know God, then he will seek an explanation that he could understand for what has been declared is not understandable or acceptable. But, explanations will not help him for creation belongs only to God, i.e., creation is His thing alone. The only way creation can be understood is to know God who is the Creator. The only way creation can be accepted is to accept God as God.

“In the beginning” means more than that creation had a beginning. The most significant meaning behind the phrase is that there is a creator God. “In the beginning” is only possible if there is God. Without God, the use of such a phrase is not possible for there cannot be a beginning of anything apart from God eternally exists.

“In the beginning” also means that there will be an end of all things. Everything that has a beginning has an ending. All of God’s creation on this side of the Second Coming or the Return of Jesus will pass and come to an end.

Creation is an exclusive handy work of the triune God. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit actually participated in creating the universe.

According to Genesis chapter one, God did the work of dividing things. How are we do understand it?

First, God separated the light and darkness (v. 4). The separation resulted in the day and night (v.5).

Second, God separated the waters from other waters (v. 6). The separation resulted in the water above the expanse and the water under the expanse (v. 7). As the waters gathered, it became the sky and seas (v. 9-10).

Third, God separated the greater light from the lesser light to govern the day and the night, respectively (14, 16, 18).

The work of separating or dividing in creation has certain significance. To separate or to divide is to differentiate. God carefully carried out His works through separating or dividing reflects an attribute of God.

There is one indispensable attribute of God known as “holiness.” This particular element of creation reflects upon God as a holy God in that He is constantly separating and dividing things. God separated man from other creatures. God also separated His people from those that are not His and from those whom He has chosen and elected from those whom He has not. A great deal of the Old Testament reflects God’s work of separating and dividing, thus reflecting and expressing His holiness. Genesis chapter one is a visual demonstration of God’s attribute of holiness.

Even today, there is a clear separation between those that are in and out of Christ. The Old Testament practices of circumcision and Passover and the New Testament practices of baptism and Lord’s Table separate God’s covenant people from those outside of His covenant. God still desires us to live a life that is separated unto Him. Such a distinctive and distinguished life is the life of holiness unto God. “Holiness” is not some kind of mysterious qualities that we take on. Rather, we are holy because God has separated us for His purposes. It is God’s separating work in our life that makes us holy.

A significant lesson from creation is that God desires a “separate unto” life. God does not desire His people to be undistinguishable from sinfulness of the world. Rather He desires His people to

live a life of the light and the salt in this world. This is holy life. We must deeply search our hearts and remind ourselves that we have been separated by God as His people who must live accordingly.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

God separated the day from the night and when does the day begin? Please read Genesis chapter one carefully. "And there was evening, and there was morning" (v. 5). This particular phrase is repeated six times. Biblically speaking, it is important to note that the beginning of the day is the evening, not the morning. This is why the Jews celebrate their Sabbath from sundown to sundown.

How important is the fact that the day begins with the evening?

To begin the day with the evening is to say that the day begins with rest. We generally think of the morning as the beginning of the day. In the morning, we go to work. We come home in the evening to rest our tired bodies. The Bible has a different pattern of living and lifestyle for His people. God's creation teaches that we begin our day with rest in Him and that we work from our rest, not work into rest. When we can work from rest, we work effectively. Therefore, it is significant to consider whether or not we follow the creation pattern.

God told us to observe the 7th day as Sabbath unto Him and rest. God does not need rest. Jesus said that Sabbath was made for man (Matthew 2:27).

There is yet another surprising teaching regarding the way in which the day is described. Rest is so important that God designed man to rest every day. That is what the evening is for. We will study more about Sabbath later on, however. Rest means (1) cease doing what you have been doing and (2) moving onto a different kind of work. Here a different kind of work means focusing on the relationship with God.

We are to work from rest instead of resting from the tiredness of work. It is through rest that we are restored, however, to carry on the work of the Lord. Jesus Christ said that there is rest in Him (Matthew 11:28). If you do not have rest in Christ Jesus, then you cannot really do the work of God. If you claim to be in Christ Jesus and not experience rest in Him, then it is because you have not turned over the burden over to Jesus Christ as He desires you to do.

Genesis teaches that man was the last creation. What was the reason? We will find the answers to that question when we study QA10 next time.

Finally, we would like to share some thoughts on the theory of evolution. Lately, there are those who talk about what is known as theistic evolution as it is Biblically based. Theistic evolution is in reality an acknowledgment that the classic theory of evolution cannot explain the origin of the universe. So, it says that a deity began a process that evolves to fill the universe. This theory is not Biblical. Here are two reasons:

First, man did not evolve but was carefully and beautifully sculptured by God's hands and His breath of life was given so that he may be a companion of God. The Bible makes no mention of how a monkey may have evolved into man.

Second, we have learned about God's creation and providence. God's providence makes it clear that evolution, which relies upon chances, is a lie.

Creation is undeniably the handy work of God. There is no other answer.