



## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

### Course 2, *In the Beginning*, Lesson 4

The Problem: Among the most profound questions we face in life are these: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? Throughout history, philosophers, scientists, and religious leaders have offered diverse and often conflicting answers. Some propose a purely scientific explanation, suggesting that life began with simple organisms that emerged under favorable conditions and gradually evolved into more complex forms. Others argue that life's origins point to intentional design rather than random processes. This study seeks to explore these fundamental questions through the lens of Scripture, examining the evidence for a Creator and the implications of His design for our existence.

Some Christians seek to harmonize the Bible with scientific theories by adopting the view of theistic evolution. According to this perspective, evolution was the mechanism God used to bring the world and its inhabitants into existence. They believe God initially created the simplest forms of life, which then developed over vast periods into the complex life we see today. In this view, the "days" of creation week in Genesis 1 are interpreted as symbolic of long epochs during which evolutionary processes unfolded.

Creationists take the Bible as it reads and accept the Genesis account as a literal explanation of how God created our world and its inhabitants. They argue that if you believe the Bible, you cannot accept the theory of evolution. In fact, they point out that it takes more faith to believe the theory of evolution than it does to believe the Bible.

Our concern is to discover from the Bible how our universe and our world came to exist. We will discover which belief is more consistent with the Bible account, theistic evolution or creationism.

#### Objectives:

- I. Exploring the Bible's Account of the Universe's Origin – Investigate what Scripture reveals about how the universe came into existence.
- II. Tracing the Beginning of Life on Earth – Examine how the world and its earliest inhabitants were formed according to biblical teachings.
- III. Comparing Biblical Teachings with Evolution and Creation – Evaluate whether the Bible supports evolutionary theory or presents a distinct creation narrative.
- IV. Understanding Humanity's Original Design – Study the nature of mankind as originally created, before the introduction of sin.
- V. Recognizing God's Plan for Restoration – Demonstrate how God's ultimate purpose is to restore humanity to the perfection and harmony initially intended.

#### I. THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE

What does the Bible teach about how the universe began? Does it point to a process of naturalistic evolution, or does it affirm a purposeful creation by God?

#### The Word:

1. How were the heavens—with their planets and stars—brought into existence? Psalm 33:6, 9

2. How did God create the angels and other inhabitants of the universe? Psalm 148:1-5; Nehemiah 9:6
3. What role did Christ play in the creation of the universe? Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2

Explanation: Scripture consistently affirms that the universe and all its inhabitants were created by the direct command of God. The heavens, the earth, the angelic hosts, and all living beings came into existence through His spoken word—not through a slow, impersonal process of naturalistic evolution. The Bible also hints at the existence of other realms or worlds, inhabited by beings who remain loyal to their Creator and reflect His glory. Christ Himself is revealed as the divine Agent of creation. *“All things have been created through him and for him”* (Colossians 1:16). His role in bringing the universe into existence affirms His eternal nature and divine authority.

Relevance: If the universe was created by a personal, powerful, and loving God, then your life is not an accident—it is part of a divine design. The One who made the stars also made you, and He calls for your loyalty, not out of fear, but out of love. Have you entrusted your life to the Creator who knows you fully and invites you into His eternal purpose?

## II. THE ORIGIN OF OUR WORLD

How long did it take God to create the earth and humanity? Let’s explore the biblical account of creation week.

The Word:

4. What did God create on each of the first six days of creation week? Genesis 1
  - a. Day 1
  - b. Day 2
  - c. Day 3
  - d. Day 4
  - e. Day 5
  - f. Day 6
5. What did God do on the seventh day? Genesis 2:1-3
6. What phrase does the Bible repeatedly use to indicate that the days of creation were literal 24-hour periods? Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; compare Exodus 27:20-21; Leviticus 24:2-3
7. What later biblical reminder reinforces the literal nature of creation week? Exodus 20:8-11
8. How were man and woman brought into existence? Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7, 21-22
9. From what kind of material did God create our world? Hebrews 11:3

Explanation The Bible presents creation as a series of divine acts carried out over six literal days, followed by a seventh day of rest. The repeated phrase *“evening and morning”* in Genesis 1 is a Hebrew idiom consistently used to describe a 24-hour day. The word *yom* (day), when paired with a number, always refers to a literal day in Old Testament usage (see Genesis 7:11; Exodus 16:1; Leviticus 23:34; Ezekiel 45:21; Haggai 1:1; Zechariah 1:7).

Adam was created on the sixth day and lived 930 years (Genesis 5:5)—a timeline that would be incompatible with symbolic or age-long “days.” The Sabbath commandment in *Exodus 20:8–11* further confirms the literal nature of creation week: God instructed His people to work six days and rest on the seventh, mirroring His own creative rhythm.

Scripture affirms that the world was formed not through gradual processes, but by the direct and miraculous word of God.

Relevance: In six literal days, God created the earth and its first inhabitants. Genesis 1 cannot be stretched to support theories of geological ages or evolutionary development. Instead, it reveals a God of intentionality, power, and beauty—One who speaks worlds into existence and shapes humanity with His own hands. This truth invites awe and trust. The same God who formed the stars and sculpted the first human from dust is the One who knows you, loves you, and calls you to rest in Him. Have you entrusted your life to the Creator who made all things by His word?

### III. EVOLUTION OR CREATION?

As we have seen, the Bible teaches creation, not evolution. The Genesis account cannot be brought into agreement with the so-called facts of science by means of theistic evolution. In fact, evolution is not fact, it is theory. Let us list a few reasons why the evolutionary theory is less credible than the Bible account of creation.

1. The idea that life began by the appearance or creation of the simplest possible organism (protoplasm) is not demonstrable by any scientific method. Such a belief is mere theory! By contrast, the Bible account does not claim to be demonstrable scientifically. We can have confidence in Biblical truth because of the vast amount of evidence. Hence, accepting the Bible and the God of the Bible, we have no difficulty accepting by faith the Genesis account.
2. The idea that life developed gradually from simple to complex forms through evolutionary processes remains a theory and has not been conclusively demonstrated through scientific methods. Creation, as described in the Bible, offers a rational alternative explanation grounded in the belief of a purposeful Creator who designed life in its complexity from the beginning:
  - a. The fossil record, often cited in support of evolutionary theory, has been interpreted differently by Creationists. From a Creationist perspective, the remains preserved in the rocks do not clearly demonstrate a gradual evolutionary process. Instead, they point to a sudden and catastrophic event, such as the biblical Flood, which could explain the rapid burial and preservation of fossils in distinct layers. Creationists posit that the absence of clear transitional forms in the fossil record challenges the idea of a continuous evolutionary chain. For example, the sudden appearance of fully formed species in certain fossil layers aligns with the belief that God created life in its complexity from the beginning. The fossil record, when viewed through the lens of Scripture, provides a compelling testament to the power and purpose of the Creator. As Psalm 19:1 reminds us, "*The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.*"
  - b. Variation in plant and animal life is always within a particular kind or type. They reproduce "after their kind." There is no evidence of new kinds evolving. Cats do not become dogs, rose bushes do not develop into redwood trees, and apes do not become men.
  - c. It has not been conclusively demonstrated that so-called vestigial structures in animal bodies lack purpose at any stage of life. Furthermore, the claim that these structures once served a function in entirely different types of organisms remains speculative and unproven. These features may reflect purposeful design, serving roles that are not yet fully understood or that contribute to the intricate balance of life as originally created by God.
  - d. The chemical similarities between human blood and the blood of certain animals do not conclusively prove a common ancestor. Such claims are speculative and overlook other plausible explanations. For instance, the diets of humans and many animals include similar chemical compounds, making it natural for their bodies to share certain biochemical properties. These similarities reflect a shared design and purpose rather than descent from a common origin, consistent with the belief in an intelligent Creator who designed life with interconnected and functional systems.

3. The Christian Gospel of spiritual restoration and salvation through Christ is quite irrelevant and pointless if theistic evolution is accepted. The Bible teaches the fall of man into sin, necessitating the sacrificial death of the Savior. Evolution teaches the rise and progress of man from primitivism to perfection. There is no need of the death of the Son of God if the evolutionary theory is to be believed. Christianity and evolution are totally incompatible.

Explanation: Here are some statements and perspectives from current creation scientists that align with the Creationist worldview:

1. **Dr. Jason Lisle (Astrophysicist):** Dr. Lisle, who holds a Ph.D. in astrophysics, emphasizes that the universe's complexity and order point to an intelligent Creator. He argues that the laws of physics and mathematics are consistent with a biblical worldview, stating that "the heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1). He has written extensively on how astronomy supports the Genesis account of creation.
2. **Dr. Georgia Purdom (Molecular Geneticist):** Dr. Purdom focuses on the complexity of DNA and cellular processes, which she believes reflect intelligent design. She has stated that "the intricate design of the genetic code is evidence of a Creator who designed life with purpose and precision."
3. **Dr. Andrew Snelling (Geologist):** Dr. Snelling argues that geological evidence, such as the rapid formation of rock layers and the fossil record, supports a young earth and a global Flood as described in the Bible. He has said, "The evidence we see in the rocks aligns with the catastrophic events of the Flood, not slow and gradual processes over millions of years."
4. **Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson (Cell and Developmental Biologist):** Dr. Jeanson has conducted research on genetics and argues that the patterns observed in DNA are consistent with the biblical account of creation. He has stated, "The genetic evidence supports the idea of created kinds, as described in Genesis, rather than common ancestry through evolution."

Relevance: While often presented as scientific fact, the theory of evolution is supported by interpretations of evidence that are influenced by evolutionary assumptions, rather than direct, observable proof of the process. For example, the fossil record is frequently cited as evidence for gradual evolutionary change, yet it lacks the abundance of transitional forms that one might expect if evolution were an indisputable process. In contrast, the Genesis account of creation provides a coherent and purposeful explanation for the origins of life, requiring faith in an all-powerful Creator. This faith is grounded in the observable complexity, order, and design of the natural world, which point to divine authorship.

#### IV. MANKIND IN HIS PERFECT STATE

In his original, sinless condition immediately after creation, mankind was spiritually, intellectually, and physically whole. There was no fallen nature, no inclination toward evil, and no moral or mental flaw. Humanity reflected the image of God in purity and purpose.

The Word:

10. How does the Bible describe man in his earliest state? Hebrews 2:7-8; Genesis 1:26-28
11. What event after the fall into sin indicates that man and woman originally had face to face communion with God? Genesis 3:8-9
12. Was it possible for man to disobey God and die? Did he have the power of choice? Genesis 2:16-17

Explanation: Adam and Eve were created as sinless beings in a perfect world. No sorrow, suffering, or corruption touched their existence. They were given dominion over creation and enjoyed direct, unveiled fellowship with their Creator. Yet they were not automatons—they were endowed with the power of choice. God placed before them a single test—not to trap them, but to invite willing love and trust. He desired obedience born of relationship, not compulsion. The freedom

to choose was essential to genuine love. In this, we see God's deep respect for human dignity: He created thinking, feeling, choosing beings capable of responding to Him with devotion.

Relevance: God still desires love freely given. He does not coerce allegiance or demand robotic compliance. *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"* (John 14:15). True obedience flows from relationship, not fear. When we respond to God's love with our own, we step into the kind of communion humanity was created for—one marked by trust, joy, and freedom. *"Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them"* (John 14:23). *"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love..."* (John 15:10).

## V. THE DIVINE PLAN OF RE-CREATION

The Bible reveals that God's purpose is to restore humanity to the spiritual perfection in which we were originally created. Our Creator is also a Re-Creator. Through His indwelling Spirit, we are being transformed day by day into His likeness. And when Jesus returns, we will receive the final touch of glorification—fully restored to the purity and joy that Adam and Eve once knew.

The Word:

13. What is the "new man" which we are to put on? Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:9-10
14. What does Jesus Christ, referred to as the second Adam, offer to those who believe, according to 1 Corinthians 15:45-49? Compare verses 22-23
15. When will our world again be recreated in its state of Edenic beauty and perfection? Revelation 21:1-5

Explanation Creation and re-creation are both the work of our triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each Person of the Godhead was active in the original creation, and each is intimately involved in the restoration of humanity. God is not the author of evil. He created angels and humans pure and free, placing them in a flawless universe. As we'll explore in a future lesson, evil entered through forces opposed to God's will. The plan of salvation is God's divine blueprint for redeeming the fallen and purging the universe of all corruption. Through Christ, the second Adam, we are invited to exchange the broken image of sin for the renewed image of holiness. The Spirit works within us to shape our character, and when Christ returns, He will complete the work—restoring us fully to the glory we were meant to bear.

Relevance: Christ longs to re-create your life—to restore you to the spiritual image of your Maker. This is not a distant hope; it begins now, as you open your heart to His transforming presence. Are you willing to let Him begin that work in you today? His invitation is not one of pressure, but of love. He desires to make you whole, holy, and ready for the world to come.

### Review Questions

1. True or False
  - a. The Bible teaches evolution.
  - b. God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.
  - c. Evolution is scientific fact.
  - d. The Bible teaches the fall of man, not the theory of evolution.
2. Discuss: If evolution were true, what would be the purpose of Christ's sacrifice for sin? Could God have simply allowed humanity to evolve to a state where sin no longer existed? How does this question challenge the foundation of the Christian message?
3. Further reflection:

- a. Sin as a Moral and Spiritual Problem – Evolutionary theory suggests that humanity is gradually advancing, but Scripture teaches that sin is not a flaw to be outgrown—it is a deep rupture in our relationship with God. Sin is a moral and spiritual rebellion that cannot be resolved through natural development. It requires divine intervention and redemption.
- b. The Necessity of Christ’s Sacrifice – If humanity could evolve beyond sin, then Christ’s death would be unnecessary. But the Bible affirms that sin carries real consequences—separation from God, spiritual death, and judgment. Jesus’ sacrifice was not symbolic; it was essential. Atonement is not achieved through progress, but through the cross.
- c. The Purpose of Redemption – God’s plan is not for humans to gradually ascend into moral perfection, but to be *transformed by grace*. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we are invited into spiritual rebirth—not self-improvement, but new creation. Redemption is not evolutionary—it is revolutionary.
- d. The Christian Message vs. Evolutionary Progress – If evolution alone could solve the problem of sin, it would dismantle the heart of the gospel. Scripture teaches that salvation comes through faith in Christ, not through biological advancement. The message of the cross is that only God can restore what sin has broken—and He does so through Jesus, not through time.