

GOD, CREATION, AND MAN

By
Philip R. Bryan, Ph.D.

CREATION AND THE CREATOR

Genesis 1:1-2:4

I. THE UNMOVED MOVER OF CREATION

1. Philosophy
 - a. Aristotle (“the unmoved mover”)
 - b. Immanuel Kant (Corroborative Arguments for Creation)
 - i. Cosmological Argument
 - ii. Teleological Argument
 - iii. Ontological Argument
 - iv. Moral Argument
 - v. Argument from Congruity
2. Bible-- “in the beginning God created . . .” (1:1)

II. THE MATERIAL OF CREATION

1. Bible “without form and void” (1:2)
2. Logical possibilities
 - a. Self--Pantheism **Ÿ** not creation at all¹
 - b. Pre-existing materials **Ÿ** a type of dualism
 - c. Conclusion **Ÿ** out of nothing (ex nihilo)--See also: Heb. 11:1-3, Job 26:7

Job 26:7 (KJS) **He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, [and] hangeth the earth upon nothing.**

נֹטָה צָפוֹן עַל־תְּהוֹ תִלְהָ אֶרֶץ עַל־בְּלִי־מָה:

Job 26:7 (BHS)

III. THE MEANS OF CREATION

1. Words used: “created,” “made,” “formed” (**יָצַר עָשָׂה בָּרָא**)
2. Divine command: “let there be . . .” (vv. 3, 6, 9, 11, etc.)
3. “Fiat”
4. See also: John 1:1-3, Heb. 1:1-3, Col. 1:15-17

¹The symbol **Ÿ** signifies “therefore:”

IV. THE TIMING OF CREATION

1. “Mediate” or “immediate”? (i.e., with or without time or material between)
2. **Ÿ** Immediate because “ex nihilo” (command without use of pre-existing materials)
3. **Ÿ** Mediate because six “days” (cf. 1:31-2:3)

V. THE PROBLEMS OF CREATION

1. Geological ages? (“day” can mean other than 24 hours, cf. 2:4)
2. “Gap” theory? (Pre-Adamic race?)
 - a. Jer. 4:23
 - b. Isa. 45:18
3. Sequence (light before sun and moon)
4. Fossils (result of flood?)
5. Strata (question of God’s integrity, i.e., would He create a false impression?)
6. **Ÿ** Six 24 hour days
 - a. Others are attempts to reconcile Bible with science)
 - b. Flood can answer most of the problems
 - c. “Evening and morning” **Ÿ** Logical sequence of creation out of chaos
 - d. See also Ex. 20:11

Exod 20:11 (KJS) **For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**

VI. THE WORSHIP OF CREATION

1. Should man worship creation? (this is what man often does!)
2. Should creation worship God, the Creator? (this is that the Bible says in Rev. 4:11)

Thou art worthy, O Lord,
to receive glory and honour and power:
for thou hast created all things,
and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

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CREATION AND THE CREATURE

I. "A LIVING SOUL"

1. The Bible emphasizes that God created all of the living beings on the earth.
2. The expression "living soul" or "souls" (or "life") appears a number of times in the first two chapters of Genesis (e.g., 1:20, 21 24, 30, **2:7!**, 2:19)
3. Both man and animals are said to be "souls."
4. "Breathing in his nostrils the breath of life" shows God's close attention to the creation of man.
5. **Y** The concept of a "soul" is not what makes man different from the rest of the living creatures

II. "IMAGE OF GOD"

1. Man has the distinction of being made "in the image of God and according to His likeness" (Gen. 1:26-27).
2. Both man and woman are called "man" (27).
3. Image is apparently NOT a physical likeness ("God is a Spirit" --John 4:24.)
4. Man's dominion over creation is what makes him in the image of God.
5. Like God, he has a sense of right and wrong and responsibility for his actions.

III. VALUE OF LIFE

1. In general--both man and animal are very important parts of God's creation--everything He created was "good."
2. Gen. 9:3-6 gives instructions about blood and the penalty for taking someone's life.
3. God's reaction to the murder of Abel, indicates His wrath against it (Gen. 4:10-11).
4. No one--man or animal--should be subject to cruelty or torture.
5. The Bible says: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints"--i.e., their lives are very valuable and priceless to God (Psa. 116:15).
6. Man was created just a little lower than the angels (Psa. 8:5).

IV. ATTAINMENT OF MAN'S DESTINY

"8 But now we see not yet all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (Heb. 2:8b-9)

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CREATION AND CIVILIZATION

I. RECOGNITION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MAN AND ANIMAL

1. Although both man and animals are “living beings,” there is a distinct difference between.
2. God created man in “his image,” and gave man dominion over the rest of the creation.
3. Man named the animals--this was just another illustration of his importance.

II. RECOGNITION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN

1. Complementary--Both male and female are required for man to be complete.
 - * That is why “no helper meet for him was found” (2:20).
 - C Adam rejoiced when he first saw Eve: “This is NOW bone of my bone, etc.”(2:23)
 - C Luther said that she was not made from his foot so that he could walk on her, and she was not made from his head so she would boss him, but from his side so that she would be with him, side by side.
 - C Paul says that there are not second class citizens in the Lord’s family (neither male nor female, etc.--Gal. 3:28).
2. Submission--Paul says that in the family there should be submission from all sides (Eph. 5:21) --he mentions several kinds: wife, children, servants, etc.
3. So that there will be order and not chaos, there must be some type of “chain of command.

III. ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

1. God’s Plan in the acts of creation
 - C As He created the world, he had a definite plan in the sequence of the specific acts of creation.
 - C Creation itself is the removal of chaos--the establishment of order.
2. God’s plan in the order in creation
 - C Establishment of the family and home
 - C Government

- C All of these indicate that the Lord created us with the need for some type of order-- not everyone can be the boss.
3. We do not yet see the full completion of this order, but one day we will see it:

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected [the same] in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only [they], but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, [to wit], the redemption of our body. (Rom. 8:19-23)

פְּכוּדַעִיתֵרֶדֶק
'דְּלַכְחַהֲגַטְדַסֵא
ן, מִנְבַשְׁשִׁצוּ

בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרֵא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

Gene 1:1 (BHS)

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כְּדְמוּתֵנוּ וַיְרִדוּ בְדֶגֶת הַיָּם וּבְעוֹף
הַשָּׁמַיִם וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל־הָאָרֶץ וּבְכָל־הָרֶמֶשׂ הָרֹמֵשׂ עַל־הָאָרֶץ

Gene 1:26 (BHS)