

Discipleship Pathway 1

Session 14: Creation

“I’m overwhelmed by what astronomers and other scientists have discovered about space during my lifetime—countless galaxies, incredible distances, phenomena we can barely understand. Yet nothing is as profound as those first words of the Bible: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).-Billy Graham

Read: Genesis 1:1

The origin of all things is found in the very first verse of the Bible. Here we learn two important truths: There is a _____ and there is_____.

Discuss: What were you taught or what did you grow up believing about creation? Was your exposure primarily secular (Big Bang) or spiritual (Creationism)? What do you believe today?

Creation is highly complex, intricate, and orderly. Scripture tells us that by wisdom and understanding God set all things in order.

Read: Proverbs 3:19-20:

“By _____ the Lord founded the earth; by _____ he created the heavens. By his _____ the deep fountains of the earth burst forth, and the dew settles beneath the night sky.”-Proverbs 3:19-20 (NLT)

For the purpose of this study we will be focusing on creation from a _____ perspective. However, even among believers there are differences of opinion regarding not if, but how, God formed the heavens and the earth.

Three of the most popular theories are _____ Earth Creationism, _____ Earth Creationism, and _____ Theory.

Simply explained, those who subscribe to Old Earth Creationism believe that God is the ultimate creator and created everything in six days. However, they interpret the six days of creation to be _____ lengths of time that could encompass thousands if not millions of years.

Young Earth Creationism holds that God is the ultimate creator and created everything in six days. Young Earth Creationist contend that the six days are _____ and that the earth was created within the last 10,000 years.

One final theory that bridges these two lines of thought is known as Gap Theory. This theory contends that there is an _____ gap of time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 that bridges Old Earth Creationism and Young Earth Creationism.

Those who subscribe to Gap Theory believe that God created the heavens and the earth sometime in the _____ past and that because of Satan's rebellion the earth was _____ and God began again in Genesis 1:2 to create what we are experiencing today in six days.

Read: Genesis 1:1-2

Discuss: Take a few moments to discuss your thoughts regarding each of these lines of thought. Do you subscribe to any of these theories?

Although each of these perspectives vary in the timing of creation, each of them hold to the idea that creation is not the product of chance, but rather _____. They each contend that God spoke and the heavens and earth were formed by the authority of His Word.

Read: Colossians 1:16

Let's take a look at each day to see the progress of creation as recorded in Genesis 1.

Read: Genesis 1:3-5

Day 1: God created_____.

Read: Genesis 1:6-8

Day 2: God created the _____.

Read: Genesis 1:9-13

Day 3: God created the land, sea and _____.

Read: Genesis 1:14-19

Day 4: God created the_____, _____, and stars.

Read: Genesis 1:20-23

Day 5: God created the_____and _____.

Read: Genesis 1:24-31

Day 6: God created _____ and _____.

The Fire Bible (NLT) commentary states seven times that what God created was "good" (vv. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). Each part of God's creation was exactly as He intended. God created the world to reflect His glory (i.e., beauty, splendor, wonder) and greatness. It was also His plan for the world to be a place where humankind could experience life and joy. ¹

This week's reading plan: Numbers Ch. 13-25, Proverbs Ch. 14

¹ Genesis 1:10, New Living Translation: *Kingdom Dynamic Commentary*, (Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2002, 4)