

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 2



CREATION

Scripture Text: Genesis, Chapter 1

We term these lessons “fundamental” because an understanding and belief of them is basic to right understanding of other doctrines.

God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – created all things. First, God created inorganic matter; then, organic or living matter – plants and animals. To each He gave the laws which were to govern their existence. Last, He created man in His own image, different from any other being, and gave him dominion over all other living things on earth. After six days of Creation, God looked at His work and saw it was very good.

We should take this seriously. We take our jobs seriously. These things concern our living for eternity.

MEMORY VERSE: *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.—Genesis 1:1*

The Creator

Genesis 1:1-19 The Bible starts at the **beginning** with **God**. The beginning is as far back to a source as one can go. It starts at the beginning with a supreme, all-powerful Being. There must be such a One before there can be an orderly, organized universe. **Created** – He made all things out of nothing. He brought into existence that which did not exist before. Only God can do this. Man can make things by putting them together in different combinations than they were before. But man must have material to start with – material created by God. Read **Hebrews 11:3. The Spirit of God moved**. The Trinity worked together in creation – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Read **John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2; Hebrews 1:10-12** to see that Christ took part in it.

Let there be light: and there was light. God alone can successfully say, “**Let there be ...**” First, God created inorganic matter, that is, things without life. Here is recorded the creation of light, darkness, day, night, and the firmament (sky), and the placing of the clouds, rivers, seas, and dry land. All of this had to be before organic things, or those things with life could not live. The first organic things made were plant life. **It was good.** This is repeated several times. Man works by trial and error. God’s work is perfect. There were no flaws in things as first created. **After his kind** – Each thing was to bring forth after its kind – always produce after itself. Beans produce beans; cattle produce cattle – never otherwise. God laid down laws in creation which are continually operating. Basically, they are as follows: (1) The young of all plants and animals are after their kind. (2) The heavenly bodies move in ordered courses. (3) Man has dominion over the other living things on the earth. (4) Vegetation is for food. If these were recognized by all, we would not have the evolution theory. On the fourth day God created the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon, and stars, and set them moving in their appointed courses in the vast distances of space.

High Forms of Life

Genesis 1:20-31 Then more organic things were made. But now they were of a higher order than the plants. They were animal life. First, God created water animals and birds, then land animals, and last of all, man. **Let us make man** – “Us” is plural. This is the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all had a part in creation. **In our image** – Man was created different from other animals. God was the pattern he was made after. He was made to

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understand godly things, made to be a companion to God. **Dominion** – Rulership over the earth. Man can do many things because of this dominion. Man uses, invents, and manufactures, advances in science, because he has dominion. **God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed ... and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed ... for meat.** All of these creatures God gave to man for food.

Man, created last, was the crowning piece of earth's creation. **It was very good** – The former clause repeated, but this time “very” is added. The great Creator, looking at His finished work, is satisfied. Oh, if only He still could look at His world and say, “It is very good!” Because of sin, He cannot.

Proof of the Truth of the Account

One of the greatest proofs of the truth of this account of creation is the presence of these things. All are here – the world, plant life, animal life, human life, and the heavenly bodies – and all follow the laws stated in this chapter. They had to have a Source. There must be a Power governing them. There must be One Who planned it all. That One must have supreme intelligence. The Bible account is the only explanation which fits all that we know about Creation.

An equally great proof of its truth is the fact that Jesus put His approval upon this account written by Moses. He treated as truth, the writing of Moses (**Luke24:27**). In **John 5:46** Jesus said, **For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me.**

All of God's works are miraculous. Creating something – not making it from things already in existence, but bringing into existence a thing which never before existed. This is the greatest miracle. Do we believe in miracles? Not to believe in them is not to believe in God.

Some facts are stated in this chapter which is so obvious that we may think them commonplace. Yet they are basic truths which we should note and consider as a foundation upon which to build our thinking.. (1) All things were created by God. (2) God created life. (3) Man was made in the image of God as no other animal was. (4) All things were good when created.

JUST A THOUGHT

Unsaved people cannot teach the things of God.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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