

Where Did Everything Come From?

Message 1 of 3 in the series: "Origins"

1. God created everything.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1 (NLT)

Day One – Light • Day Two – The Atmosphere • Day Three – Seas, Land, & Vegetation • Day Four – Sun, Moon, & Stars • Day Five – Fish & Birds • Day Six – Animals, Man, & Woman

"Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! ...On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work." Genesis 1:31, 2:2 (NLT)

a. God is amazingly creative.

"He does great things too marvelous to understand." Job 9:10a (NLT)

"The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship." Psalm 19:1 (NLT)

b. God is Creator (distinct from His creation) and Lord over everything He has made.

"...I am the LORD, who made all things. I alone stretched out the heavens. Who was with me when I made the earth?" Isaiah 44:24 (NLT)

"When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Silence! Be still!' Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm... The disciples were absolutely terrified. 'Who is this man?' they asked each other. 'Even the wind and waves obey him!'" Mark 4:39 & 41 (NLT)

Life Application: We can bring all of our problems to the Creator God of the universe because there is no problem He can't handle.

"O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!" Jeremiah 32:17 (NLT)

"Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:28-31 (NLT)

2. God created us in His image.

"Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.' So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it.'" Genesis 1:26-28a (NLT)

a. God created us in His image so we can have a relationship with Him.

"This is what the Lord says: 'Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things...'" Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NLT)

"'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT)

b. God created us on purpose and for a purpose.

"When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place— what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority..." Psalm 8:3-6 (NLT)

c. God created me.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)

Life Application: I am precious to God.

Life Application: Because God created me, I can trust that He knows what's best for me.

"You made me; you created me. Now give me the sense to follow your commands." Psalm 119:73 (NLT)

3. Three more thoughts:

- a. It is foolish to NOT believe we have been created by God.

"Only fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'" Psalm 14:1 (NLT)

- b. There are many people who will actively oppose any discussion about God creating us.

"But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God." Romans 1:18-20 (NLT)

- c. We need to gently instruct those who oppose the truth.

"A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants." 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NLT)

"He has planted eternity in the human heart..." Ecclesiastes 3:11b (NLT)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions:

Read Genesis 1 and then discuss the following questions:

1. If you could ask God one question about the Creation story, what would it be?
2. What do you think it means to be created in God's image? What does this say about us? What does this say about God? (see Psalm 8:3-6)
3. Psalm 139:13-17 tells us that God not only created the world but that He has carefully created each of us. Psalm 138:8 tells us that God has wonderful plans for our lives. How does this make you feel?
4. Why do you think many people reject even discussing the possibility that God created everything? (see Romans 1:18-20)
5. How should Christians present the Biblical view of Creation in an increasingly atheistic culture? (see Paul's advice in 2 Timothy 2:24-26)
6. Discuss the following quotations:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." The Declaration of Independence

"If the thoughts in my mind are just the motions of atoms in my brain, why should I believe anything it tells me – including the fact that it is made of atoms?" J. B. S. Haldane, British-born geneticist and evolutionary biologist generally credited with a central role in the development of neo-Darwinian thinking

"Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our maker, for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care." Psalm 95:6-7 (NLT)

Resources:

The Case for a Creator by Lee Strobel, Zondervan Publishing, 2004.

"Science Increasingly Makes the Case for God: The odds of life existing on another planet grow ever longer. Intelligent design, anyone?" By Eric Metaxas, Wall Street Journal, Dec. 25, 2014.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjGPHF5A6Po>

