

2008

What You Need to Know About Creation

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/will_know

Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "What You Need to Know About Creation" (2008). . 41.
https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/will_know/41

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Willmington School of the Bible at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CREATION

Today there is much discussion and scientific research in regard to the origin (big bang?), size and shape of our universe. Here is the Divine Author's account:

A. Who created the universe?

1. According to David, the Father created all things. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork"*(Psa. 19:1).
2. However, John declares the Son did it. *"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men"*(John 1:3-4).
3. Finally, in other passages, the Holy Spirit is said to have performed the initial act of creation. *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters"*(Gen. 1:1, 2).
4. What are we to believe? The answer is, of course, that all three persons in the Trinity had a part. As an illustration let us consider an important executive who determines to build a spacious and expensive home. He, thus, employs an architect to design the necessary plans for this home. The architect then secures a competent contractor to follow his blueprints. In this illustration the executive is the Father, the architect is the Son, and the contractor is the Holy Spirit. The following verses then refer to the work of this Divine Contractor. *"Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth"*(Psa. 104:30). *"By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent"*(Job 26:13). *"The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life"*(Job 33:4).

B. How many heavens are there? The word heaven in Genesis 1:1 is plural in the Hebrew. Actually there are three heavens mentioned in the Bible and in the beginning God created all three.

1. First heaven—home of the birds and clouds—*"The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it"*(Dan. 4:12). *"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"*(Matt. 6:26).

2. Second heaven—home of the sun, moon, and stars—*"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork"* (Psa. 19:1).
 3. Third heaven—home of the angels and departed saints—*"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven"*(2 Cor. 12:2).
- C. Did something horrible take place between the first and second verse in the Bible? Many believe something terrible indeed occurred, and that something was the fall of Satan. The following arguments have been offered to support this:
1. The phrase in Genesis 1:2—*"without form and void"*—(Hebrew: *tohu wabohu*), appears elsewhere in Isa. 34:11; 45:18; and Jer. 4:23 and speaks of judgment. However, in other passages it simply means space (see Job 26:7; Deut. 32:10; Job 6:18; 12:24; Psa. 107:40).
 2. The verb translated "was" in Gen. 1:2 (Hebrew: *hayetha*) should be translated "became." Scriptural evidence, however, would deny this. The Hebrew verb *hayetha* is found 264 times in the Pentateuch, and of these, in 258 instances the word is correctly translated "was." See, for example, Jonah 3:3. There is a difference between the verbs *bara* ("created," Gen. 1:1) and *asah* ("made," Gen. 1:7). But, to the contrary, these verbs are used synonymously. Note:

"And God created [bara] the great sea monsters" (1:21).
"And God made [asah] the beast of the earth" (1:25).
"Let us make [asah] man in our image" (1:27).
"So God created [bara] man in his own image" (1:27).
 3. Gen. 1:2 says *"darkness was upon the face of the deep,"* and darkness is a symbol of evil. This is not always the case, as seen in Psa. 104:20: *"Thou makest darkness, and it is night, wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth."*
- D. How old is creation and man? Some scientists would confidently tell us its origin
1. Population statistics—If man appeared over one million years ago, the present world population would be thousands of times greater than it actually is. In fact, our entire galaxy could not provide the needed space for so many. The present world population is around 6 billion. Assuming the average life span to be 70 years and the average generation length to be 35 years, then starting with one family, the present world population would result in about 30 doublings. These doublings would carry us back in history from today to around 3500 B.C. This date is suggested by

several creationist scientists to mark the time of the flood. Thus, the creation model dovetails beautifully with known world population statistics. But what of the evolutionary model? Dr. Henry Morris writes, "Now, if the first man appeared one million years ago, and these very conservative growth rates applied during that period, the world population would be at present 10 (27,000 zeros following) people. However, no more than 10 (with 100 zeros) people could be crammed into the known universe."

(Scientific Creationism, Master Books, 1974, p. 154)

2. The amount of helium—⁴ in the atmosphere—this suggests that our atmosphere is less than 15,000 years old.
 3. The absence of meteorite dust—some 15 million tons of nickel meteorite dust settle to earth each year. If the earth has indeed existed for five billion years, then there should now be a layer of this dust at least 200 feet thick all over the planet. Of course, no such layer is found.
 4. The decay of earth's magnetic field—this field, it has been shown, has a half-life of 1,400 years. This means it is weakened by 50 percent every 14 centuries. It also means the magnetic field was twice as strong 1,400 years ago as it is now, four times as strong 2,800 years ago, and so on. Only 7,000 years ago it must have been 32 times as strong. It is very doubtful that it could have been much stronger than this.
 5. The imbalance of carbon-14 and carbon-12—it can be shown that it would take a period of 30,000 years to attain an equilibrium between these two. However, at present C-14 still exceeds C-12 by some 50 percent.
- E. Are the days of Genesis 1 really literal 24-hour days? There is strong scholarly and scriptural evidence that the days are indeed literal.
1. The use of a numerical adjective with the word "day" in Genesis 1 would limit it to a normal day.
 2. The natural reading of the Genesis account would suggest it.
 3. Moses believed it—see Exod. 20:11; 31:17.
 4. Edward Young (outstanding Hebrew scholar) believed it.
 5. Benjamin Warfield (one of the great Orthodox theologians of all time) believed it.
 6. Departmental professors of Oriental language in nine leading universities were once asked the following question by a research scholar: "Do you consider that the Hebrew word "Yom" [day] as used in Genesis 1

accompanied by a numeral should properly be translated as (a) a day, as commonly understood, (b) an age, or (c) either a day or an age without preference?" The nine universities polled were Oxford, Cambridge, London, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Toronto, McGill, and Manitoba. Of these, seven universities responded that it should be translated as a day as commonly understood.

7. As indicated by the genealogies found in Genesis 5 and 11—if evolution is correct and man is really a million years old, then we would be forced to allow a 50,000 year gap between each name in these two chapters. Furthermore, if life itself is nearly five billion years old, then each day in Genesis 1 would have to stand for approximately 700 million years.
- F. How vast is our universe? It is so vast that it takes a beam of light (which travels some 700 million miles per hour) over 100,000 years just to cover the distance across our galaxy called the Milky Way. But our galaxy is only one among many billions in the known universe. To illustrate the size of our universe, consider the following examples:
1. Paper tack model
 - Let us say the thickness of a sheet of paper represents the distance from the earth to the sun (some 93 million miles).
 - To represent the distance to the nearest star we would need a stack of paper 71 feet high.
 - To cover the diameter of our Milky Way galaxy would require a stack 310 miles high.
 - To reach the edge of the known universe would demand a pile of paper sheets 31 million miles high.
 2. Orange and grain of sand model
 - Here an orange would represent the sun.
 - A grain of sand is the earth, circling the orange at a distance of 30 feet.
 - Pluto, the most remote planet in our solar system, is another grain of sand, circling the orange at ten city blocks away.
 - Alpha Centauri, the nearest star, is 1,300 miles away from the orange.
 3. Hollow sun illustration
 - If the sun were hollow, 1.3 million earths could fit inside.
 - A star named Antares, if hollow, could hold 64 million of our suns.
 - In the constellation of Hercules there is a star which could contain 100 million stars like Antares.
 - The largest known star, Epsilon, could easily swallow up several million stars the size of the one in Hercules.

- G. How minute is our universe? Simply stated, it is as unbelievably small as it is big. Consider the following:
1. All material in the universe consists of atoms. Atoms in turn are made up of three "building blocks," which are protons, neutrons (which two go to make up the center of an atom called the nucleus), and electrons (which circle the nucleus as our earth does the sun).
 2. On the tip of a ballpoint pen are so many atoms that if they were carried by an army, marching four abreast, an atom to a man, it would take over 20,000 years for a march-past.
 3. It would take 25 trillion protons laid side by side to span a linear inch.
 4. There are as many protons in a cubic inch of copper as there are drops of water in the oceans of the world or grains of sand on the seashores of our earth.
 5. The size of an electron is to a dust speck as the dust speck is to the entire earth.
 6. The space between an electron and the nucleus is 10,000 times as great as the size of that nucleus. For example, if the outer shell of electrons in an atom were the size of the Houston Astrodome, the nucleus would be the size of a ping-pong ball in the center of that stadium.
 7. Question: If most of the atom is empty space, why does a table top offer so much resistance when you push at it with your finger?
Answer: The surface of the table, like the tip of one's finger, consists of a wall of electrons, belonging to the outermost layer of atoms in both objects. Both the speed and force attraction of these electrons thus prohibit your finger from going through the table as a fast-moving bicycle wheel would prevent you from placing your finger through the spokes.
- H. How much energy exists within our universe?
1. The protons and neutrons within the nucleus of an atom are held together with a density of one billion tons per cubic inch. This is around 40 pounds of energy between each proton.
 2. This energy force is stronger than regular gravitational forces by a factor of one followed by 38 zeros. How big is this number? It is over 100 trillion times larger than the number of all the grains of sand on earth's seashores.

3. German physicist Otto Gail has calculated that a single drop of gasoline, if totally utilized in an automobile, would be sufficient for 400 journeys around the world (a trip involving ten million miles).
 4. Albert Einstein estimated the total amount of energy released from one ounce of water could easily lift 200 million tons of steel one mile above the earth.
 5. The various stars and galaxies were created by the conversion of energy into mass. It has been determined that the amount of energy used in the creation of only one gram of matter (1/450th of a pound) is equal to 2.5 times the amount of energy generated by Niagara Falls in one entire day. This would be ten million kilowatts.
- I. How complex is our universe? Here we refer to life itself. The wonders of the atom and the glory of the galaxies are but drab Tinkertoys when compared to the miracle of living organisms.

1.

In light of all the above, surely we can join in with the apostle Paul, as he offers up his great tribute of praise to our glorious Creator:

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen"
(Rom. 11:33-36).

Copyright © 2008 by Dr. H. L. Willmington