

GENESIS STUDY—In the Beginning

Genesis 1

IMPORTANCE OF GENESIS-- Genesis is important to the New Testament. There are at least _____ passages in Genesis either directly quoted or clearly referred to in the New Testament; many of these are quoted more than once, so there are at least _____ quotations or allusions to Genesis in the New Testament.

Jesus declared the importance of believing what Moses wrote: “*For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?*” (John 5:46-47) We can’t say we believe in Jesus if we don’t believe in the Book of Genesis.

1. LAW OF CAUSALITY [First Cause]—“Everything that has a beginning has a cause.”

How does this apply to God?

How does this apply to the Universe?

Arguments for the Existence of a Theistic God

Physical Universe----Acts 17:28, Hebrews 1:10-12

Cosmological argument- “How did all this _____ get here?”

Teleological argument- “How did all this stuff get here so _____?”

What are some things that are too perfect to be accidental?

Human Soul----Romans 2:14, 15, Mark 12:30

Anthropological argument- “How do we know right from wrong?”

Ontological argument- “Where did the idea of a _____ God come from?”

DEFINITION OF GOD—What Kind of God are We Looking For?

Theistic God—Personal God, created all but is distinct from it. Painter to a painting. Creator, Sustainer.

Finite God—mini God beyond the world, limited in power.

A-theism---there is no God.

Pantheism—God is the world, the rocks, the trees, etc., not distinct from creation (monism)

God is _____ and all is God. Opposite of Deism. (Hindu—Eastern/New age)

Panentheism—God is in all but not all, God is the “soul” of the universe. The universe is his body.

God is to the world as the _____ is to the body. (Hindu—Eastern/New Age)

***Polytheism**—many little Gods (Ancient Greeks and Romans).

***Deistic God**—impersonal God, beyond the world. Not involved in the world. Never intervenes.

* Popular in the past but not in the present. **The real struggle today is Theism vs. A-theism**

2. The Bible does NOT go into great detail arguing for God's existence.

Why do you think that is? (Hebrews 11:1-3, Genesis 15:6)

Four "witnesses" of God's existence:

1. Physical Universe (Psalm 19:1-6, Romans 1:20)
2. Human Soul (I Thessalonians 5:23, Genesis 2:7)
3. Christ—Living Word (John 1:18, Hebrews 1:1)
4. Bible—Written Word (Psalm 19:7-11, 2 Timothy 3:16)

Atheist Dilemma--Why does there have to be anything? Why couldn't there just be nothing?

Atheists ridicule us for believing that Someone made something out of nothing while they believe that NO ONE made something out of nothing.

Philosopher Jean Paul-Sarte asked, "there is something instead of nothing. WHY?"
Is it important how you answer that question?

3. Approaches to understanding Genesis 1-11 (and all other parts of Scripture).

Letterism—No _____ meaning

Literalism—Its basically as it says, but there can be symbolism

Allegorical—Totally _____

The best way to "interpret" Genesis (or any scripture) is _____!

4. In verse 1 "God" is "Elohim" [Hb] which is the _____ form of the word "El"!

But in the Bible, this plural subject always takes a _____ verb. What does that imply?

What does this teach us? (vs. 2, 26, Colossians 12:15ff; Matt. 28:19; 1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Cor. 13:14)

5. What about the statement "*the Bible is not a science textbook*" ?

"Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind." —ALBERT EINSTEIN

Yet when the Bible speaks about anything "sciencey" it is always accurate! What does this demonstrate?

What are some things the Bible knew before science knew?

The Second Law of Thermodynamics [entropy—disorder] is a "_____ " of Science and it basically says that all things tend to move from a high state of order to a state of disorder.

How does the Second Law **directly conflict** with evolution?

Does Hebrews 1:11 agree with the Second Law? "*In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain forever. They will wear out like old clothing.*"

6. What is the principle of “first mention”?

Genesis shows us the origins of the universe, order and complexity, the solar system, the atmosphere and hydrosphere, the origin of life, man, marriage, evil, language, government, culture, nations, religion. It is precisely because people have abandoned the truth of Genesis that society is in such disarray

7. According to the New Testament (Luke 24:44-47), who wrote Genesis?

What other books did he write?

8. Was Genesis the first book written? IF not, which one was written first?

9. God “created” is “bara” [Hebrew]

Bara (which is explicit) means to create something out of _____. (ex nihilo)
God “said” He _____ it into existence (fiat)

Monism

Dualism

Pluralism

Christianity?

10. Were these creation “days” real days or is there more time here than meets the eye?

Day Age

Days were long eons of time

Gap

There is a long gap of time between Genesis 1:1-2

Special creation

The days of Genesis 1 are actual normal 24 hr days

Some Christians are old earthers and some are young earthers. Both have merit. However, The Day Age and Gap theories came about as an attempt to provide enough time for the evolutionary process. Evolution needs a really, really long time like trillions of years to even be mathematically reasonable. However, because the universe is old does _____ mean evolution occurred. Evolution has many more problems than just needing an old earth.

How might “*appearance of age*” fit into the creation act?

11. What happened on Days 1-5?

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7

What might the “waters above the firmament” or “waters above the land” imply on Day 2?

How does plants created on day 3 and the sun created on day 4 cause a difficulty for “Day-Agers”?

God created plants on Day 3 and said it was all good. So, does this support marijuana usage?

Does the similarity of the animals created on Day 5 support the evolutionary path?

What else might be implied by their similarity?

What is the difference between microevolution and macroevolution? Can we accept either one?

After the seventh day the phrase “evening and morning” is not repeated? Why? (Hint: Hebrews 4:9-11).

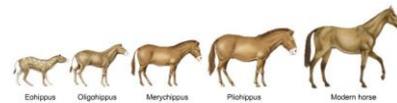
God rested—was He tired?

The fossil record does not support evolution in spite of what textbooks say!

Here are a few issues:

“Cambrian outburst” shows a sudden appearance of life rather than a slow process.

There is an overwhelming lack of “transitional forms”



The layers of the earth’s crust are not found in “age” order but are out of order.

Not only are the geological layers mixed up but fossils appear in wrong layers.

Everything was to reproduce after its own “kind”? Can we equate that with “species?”