

Foundations Course

3. CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN How our problem began

Reference *Genesis, Chapters 1, 2 and 3*

Genesis is a book of beginnings.

It is not intended to be a book of scientific explanation. See note on page 4.

It is a statement about origins, purpose and the relationship of all things to God.

In the early chapters of Genesis we read of the origins of:

- the physical world (heavens and earth)
- animal and plant life
- the human race
- sin
- the promise of redemption

Genesis Chapter 1 – a general view of creation

1. God makes something formless into a world with form.

- divides light and darkness (*verse 4*)
- divides water and sky (*verse 7*)
- divides waters and dry land (*verse 9*)
- creates vegetation (*verse 11*)

2. God fills in the emptiness.

- creates lights in the sky (*verse 16*)
- creates aquatic animals and birds (*verse 20*)
- creates man (*verse 26*)

3. God rests from his work (*2:2*)

- God rested ('desisted') because he had finished

God created by his word (command). *Hebrews 11:3*
 God created things after their own kind. See notes on page 4.
 God saw that what he created was good.

*“So God created man in his own image,
 in the image of God he created him;
 male and female he created them”. Genesis 1:27*

God created man in his image. Mankind, like God has:

- personality (including intellect, free will, emotions)
- morality (freedom to make moral choices)
- spirituality (only humans have spirituality, i.e. the ability to communicate with God who is a spirit – *John 4:24*)
- creativity (limited)

Our creativity is not like God's in that we cannot create something out of nothing, but we can 'make' things.

We make things in the physical realm using materials provided by the creator.

We make moral choices (this is how we were free to sin).

We make (or originate) personal and emotional choices.

We act most like God when we originate a choice based on the highest good (i.e. lining up with God's will in a given situation).

The ability to make such choices makes us very significant and gives us a grave responsibility.

Animals are not made in this image.

God made man a steward over other parts of creation. A steward is a person trusted to care for another's property (*verse 28*). This infers:

- increase (fruitfulness)
- dominion (responsible rule)

*“Creation is more than our larder, our playground, our sports arena, our theatre of war.
 It is God's handiwork; we depend on creation more than creation depends on us; it should command our respect.”*

George Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury)

God set aside a day from work, a day for the created to celebrate and worship a God who makes all things good. (*Genesis 2:2*)

Genesis Chapter 2 – a more detailed view of creation

- God places man as steward (*verse 15*) with plants for pleasure and food, water, minerals
“In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” 2:9b.
- God commands man to stay away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (a test of obedience and responsibility)
- Adam names the animals
- God makes a suitable helper (*verses 18,21*)
-made of a rib to be alongside, not underfoot or overbearing
-intended as a complementary partnership
- first principles of marriage set down
-leaving and cleaving (*verse 24*)
- man knew no shame (*verse 25*)

To this point man ruled in creation and enjoyed fellowship with God.

Genesis Chapter 3 – the temptation and fall of man

Satan's temptation tactics:

Doubting God's word	-“Did God really say....?” (<i>verse 1</i>)
Lies	-“You will not surely die.” (<i>verse 4</i>)
Appeal to pride	-...you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (<i>verse 5</i>)

“For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world.” 1 John 2:16

This verse shows which parts of our nature Satan appeals to when tempting:

- passions -to do (lust of the flesh)
- possessions -to have (lust of the eyes)
- pride -to be (the pride of life)

He used the same tactics on Jesus in the wilderness. See *Luke 4:1-13*

(For a more detailed treatment of the topic of temptation, see other study notes in this set.)

The results of the fall

- shame 3:7
- fear 3:10
- blame shifting (part of guilt) 3:12
 - Adam blamed the woman and by inference, God 3:13
 - the woman blamed the serpent 3:13
- Satan cursed 3:14
- pain 3:16
- ground cursed – hard toil 3:17
- God covered them 3:21 (Shedding of blood needed to cover sin; the foreoreshadowing of Christ's sacrifice.)
- access to tree of life prevented.
 - spiritual death occurred (separation from God) 3:10
 - physical death in due course 3:19
 - soul damaged *Romans. 1:21-23*
- loss of innocence (knowing evil, where previously had known only good)
- expulsion from Eden.

God's answer to the fall

We have all inherited the nature and tendency to sin.

*"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23*

BUT God had an answer already prepared in Jesus.

*"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation."
Colossians 1:21, 22*

Read also: *1 Peter 1:18-20 and Romans 5:12-17*

God saves the **WHOLE PERSON**:

beginning with the spirit	- SALVATION/REGENERATION
continuing with the soul	- SANCTIFICATION
ending with the body	- RESURRECTION/GLORIFICATION

Additional notes

According to the Oxford Dictionary, science (natural and physical) deals with material phenomena and is based on observation, experiment and induction (reasoning to a conclusion).

No observations, or repeatable experiments can be made of the events of creation. Scientists can only observe and investigate what has already been made, and perhaps theorise about how it happened. Their theories are not provable. There is really no basis for contradiction between science and faith on the matter of origins.

The theory of evolution does not conform to the criteria for true science as described above, and is also at odds with what the Bible teaches.

Examples: BIBLE: God created animals after their own kind.
EVOLUTION: One kind of organism changed into another until we have the diversity of animals that are present in the world now.

BIBLE: God created fruit trees before fish.
EVOLUTION: Fish before trees. (All life comes from the sea.)

BIBLE: Creation by an all-powerful, all-knowing designer.
EVOLUTION: Life forming by random chance.

Adaptation within a species is not the same as evolution. It doesn't contradict scripture.

The theory of evolution has an appeal to man:

- everything is knowable
- cause and effect can be traced back indefinitely
- the fittest survive
- God is eliminated
- panders to man's pride
- removes responsibility to answer to a Holy God.