

UNIT 2: God's Creating Work

Section 3: Genesis 1:1

A Book Review From:
The Battle for the Beginning
John MacArthur

INTRODUCTION:

- Q1: Roughly how old is the Universe?*
Q2: Which came first, the chicken or the egg?
Q3: How did the Grand Canyon get formed ?

The Biblicalist sees that all is necessary for an understanding of beginnings is provided in Genesis 1:1 –
Time: In the Beginning, **Agent:** God, **Action:** Created, **Object:** The Heavens and the Earth

The Naturalist's formula of the origin of the universe: NOBODY times NOTHING equals EVERYTHING

- ✦ What was the first cause that caused everything else?
- ✦ Where did matter and energy come from?
- ✦ Who designed the many complex and interdependent organisms and sophisticated ecosystems we observe?
- ✦ Naturalism is utterly incapable of answering these questions!
- ✦ They must conclude that humanity is a freak accident w/o any real purpose or importance

1. Evolution is degrading to humanity

- ✦ We are nothing more than protoplasm waiting to become manure
- ✦ People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) controversial founder says, "There is no rational basis for saying that a human being has special rights... A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy..."
- ✦ More upset over 6 billion chickens killed for food than 6 million Jews in the Holocaust
- ✦ Some advocate human extinction (won't harm any other species anymore...)

2. Evolution is hostile to reason

- ✦ In place of God as Creator, evolutionist has substituted chance
- ✦ Everything is the way it is simply by luck of the draw
- ✦ Chance is elevated to the role of the creator
- ✦ Evolutionist's holy trinity: Matter, Time, and Chance
- ✦ If everything happens by chance, ultimately nothing has real purpose or meaning... eliminates rationality.
- ✦ HUGE PROBLEM: Chance is NOT a force [deification of chance] pure pagan religion
- ✦ Mathematical probability
- ✦ Flipping a coin (50-50 chance)
- ✦ But chance is not a force that can actually flip a coin
- ✦ Chance determines nothing, it merely is a way of measuring what actually does happen
- ✦ There are no uncaused events. Every effect is determined by some cause!
- ✦ Head/Tail determined by: force of flip, distance to ground, type of ground surface, etc
- ✦ What may appear to be totally random to us, nonetheless is definitely determined by something (you may not be able to gauge it yourself)
- ✦ Every watch has a watchmaker.
- ✦ Every building, a builder; Every structure, an architect; Every arrangement, a plan; Every plan, a designer; Every design, a purpose!
- ✦ CHANCE IS NOTHING, it simply does not exist!
- ✦ **Once again**, man's attempt to eliminate responsibility for sin to Our Creator

George Wald [Harvard professor, Nobel laureate]

"One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet here we are—as a result, I believe of spontaneous generation. Time is in fact the hero of the plot. The time with which we have to deal is of the order of 2 billion years. What we regard as impossible on the basis of human experience is meaningless here. Given so much time, the 'impossible' become possible, the possible probable, and the probable virtually certain. One has only to wait: time itself performs the miracles."

3. Evolution is against Science (observation of what we experience) [Colson]

- A. Staggering “coincidences” that make Earth fit for life- shows intelligent design! Anthropic Principle
- B. No missing links have been found...
- C. Irreducible complexity of living things can be explained only by intelligent design!
 - ✦ Ill) fish evolving a lung... would drown!

4. Evolution is antithetical to the truth God has revealed

- ✦ Herbert Spencer- five ultimate scientific ideas: “time, force, action, space, matter”
- ✦ Evolution does not account for any of these ideas origins...
- ✦ **Gen 1:1** “In the beginning (time), God (force) Created (action) the heavens (space) and the earth (matter).
- ✦ Either you believe what God says in **Gen 1:1** or not! Starting place for Biblical worldview!
- ✦ SHOW CREATION SCRIPTURES SHEET!
- ✦ **Hebrews 11:3** “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

Four Questions Dealt With:

1. Was the earth shaped by constancy or by catastrophe?

A. Uniformitarianism

- 1. Def'n- Theory that natural and geological phenomena are for the most part results of forces that have operated continuously w/ uniformity, w/o interruption, over billions and billions of years
- 2. Sedimentary Rock strata- natural, slow settling of particles in water over several million years
- 3. Grand Canyon- natural flow of Colorado River carved the immense chasm over millions of years w/ steady (through constantly decreasing) stream

B. Catastrophism

- 1. Def'n- View that dramatic geological changes have occurred in sudden, violent, and unusual events
- 2. Sedimentary rock strata- sudden flood which produced large thick layer of sediment in few hours
- 3. For living creature to become fossilized (rather than decay and turn to dust), it must be buried immediately under a great weight of sediment.
 - ✦ Every inhabited continent contains large fossil beds where millions of fossilized species are found together in large concentrations. [as if by massive flooding]
 - ✦ Fossils of sea creatures are even found on many of the world's highest mountain tops
- 4. Vasquez Rocks, San Andreas Fault, Grand Canyon
 - ✦ **Gen 7:11** “all the fountains of the deep were broken up.”
 - ✦ Massive shards of rock jutting out of the ground
- 5. Providence Canyon
 - ✦ 1800 whole area was flat farmland (cleared trees out)
 - ✦ Erosion in 1846 by heavy rain (crevices developed)
 - ✦ 1940s building had to be moved
 - ✦ Today its features are indistinguishable from canyons geologists claim took billions of years to form.
- 6. Mt. Saint Helens eruption [May 18, 1980] in Washington
 - ✦ Equiv. 20 million tons of TNT
 - ✦ 400 km² of forest destroyed in 6 min
 - ✦ changed the face of the mountain, digging out depths of earth and rock
 - ✦ left formations not unlike the Grand Canyon
 - ✦ Recent studies of Mt Saint Helens → if attempts to date structures were made on the basis of uniformitarian theory- millions of years of formation time would be the answer
- 7. Scripture expressly condemns uniformitarianism
 - ✦ **2 Peter 3:4-7** “and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.’ For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

→BIBLE TELLS US: Everything shaped by 2 events: Creation and Worldwide Flood

2. Which came first the chicken or the egg?

1. The answer: The CHICKEN... **Gen 1:21** God created “every winged bird after its kind”
2. God created a mature universe (appearance of age)
 - ✦ Trees made w/ mature fruit
 - ✦ Adam and Eve were made mature [w/o any growth, history, or experience]
 - ✦ If all this was scientifically studied... they would extrapolate that these things were old, when in fact they were just created (trees rings, man’s speech, canyons, etc)
3. When Jesus performed miracles the marks of age and maturity were present
 - ✦ Water to Wine, Multiplied fish and bread (ready to eat)

3. Is the Universe young or old?

- ✦ Genealogical Record → 4004 BC
- ✦ Even w/ gaps allowed, can’t be older than 10,000 BC
- ✦ OBJECTION: Day-Age Theory... each day is an eon or long period of time
 - ✦ Day 3- plant life; day 4- sun; day 5- birds; day 6- insects
 - ✦ Interdependence prevents eons from being able to pass by
- ✦ God simply spoke and brought forth out of nothing everything we see! Allow the unchanging, authoritative Word of God to inform our understanding, and let science bow the knee to Scripture!

4. Is General Revelation equal to Special Revelation?

- ✦ Answer: NO!
- ✦ **Matthew 24:35** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”
- ✦ **Rom 1:19-20** “because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power, and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”
- ✦ **READ Psalm 19:1-14.... Awesome!**
- ✦ Natural revelation is sufficient to condemn sinners, but not to save them. Scripture converts the soul, making wise the simple, enlightens the eyes, and endures forever!
- ✦ Scripture is the rule by which we measure science, not vice versa!