

Lesson No. 4

What Does the Bible Say About the Origin and Preservation of the World and Man?

1. How was the world made?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- *(a, b) **Genesis 1:1.** In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth.
- (b) **Genesis 1:3.** Then God **said, Let there be** light; and there was light. (See also Gen. 1:6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24.)
- (b) **Hebrews 11:3.** By faith we understand that the worlds were framed **by the word of God**, so that the things which are seen were **not made of things which are visible**.
- (c) **Exodus 20:11.** For **in six days** the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.
- (c) **Genesis 1:5.** So the **evening** and the **morning** were the **first day**. (See also Genesis 1:8, 13, 19, 23, 31, and Genesis 2:1,2.)

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) All things were made by God.
- (B) He created them, calling them into existence out of nothing by His almighty Word.
- (C) He did this in six natural and consecutive days.

2. What did God create on the respective days?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Genesis 1. (Read the whole chapter.)

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

God observed the following order in the work of creation:

First day: the earth in darkness and chaos; the light.

Second day: the firmament, or sky.

Third day: the arrangement of dry land and water; plant life.

Fourth day: the heavenly bodies.

Fifth day: fishes and sea animals; birds.

Sixth day: land animals; man.

3. How did God create man?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- *(a b) **Genesis 2:7.** And the LORD God **formed man of the dust of the ground**, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being.
- (b) **Matthew 16:26.** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own **soul**? Or what will a man give in exchange for his **soul**?
- (c) **Matthew 10:28.** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- (d) **Genesis 2:18-25.** (The creation of woman. Read these passages.)
- (e f g) **Genesis 1:26,27.** Then God said, Let Us make man **in Our image, according to Our likeness**; let them **have dominion over** the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over **all the earth** and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man **in His own image; in the image of God** He created him; male and female He created them.
- (f) **Colossians 3:10.** (You) have put on the new man who is renewed in **knowledge according to the image of Him who created him**.
- (f) **Ephesians 4:24.** Put on the new man which was created **according to God, in true righteousness and holiness**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) God especially formed the body of one male (Adam) of the dust of the earth.
- (B) He gave man a rational soul.
- (C) After the Fall, the human body became mortal, but the human soul remained immortal.
- (D) He made one woman (Eve) of a rib taken from Adam.
- (E) He placed man as ruler over all the earth.
- (F) Man was created in God's image, consisting in blissful knowledge of God and in perfect righteousness and holiness.
- (G) Man is the foremost of all the creatures.

4. How does God preserve His creatures?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **Hebrews 1:3.** (He upholds) all things **by the word of His power.**
- (b) **Genesis 1:28.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, **Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth.** (See also Gen. 1:11, 22.)
- (c) **Genesis 8:22.** While the earth remains, **Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.** (See also Gen. 1:29, 30 and Gen. 9:3.)
- (c) **Psalms 145:15,16.** The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and **You give them their food** in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- (d) **Psalms 91:10.** **No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;**
- (d) **Genesis 50:20.** But as for you, you meant evil against me; but **God meant it for good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) God preserves all things by His almighty Word.
- (B) He endows His creatures with the ability to reproduce after their kind.
- (C) He provides them with the necessities of life. (Providence.)
- (D) He guards and protects us from all evil.
(The Bible ascribes the work of creation and preservation especially to God the Father.)

5. What do we owe our heavenly Father for all this?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **Genesis 32:10.** I am **not worthy of the least of all the mercies** and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant.
- (b) **Psalms 139:14.** **I will praise You**, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.
- * (b) **Psalms 118:1.** Oh, **give thanks** to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.
- (c) **1 Peter 5:7.** **Cast all your care upon Him**, for He cares for you.
- (d) **1 Corinthians 7:35.** And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that **you may serve the Lord** without distraction.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) We should acknowledge our utter unworthiness as far as all God's benefits toward us are concerned.
- (B) We should praise and thank Him for having so wonderfully made and so graciously preserved us.
- (C) We should trust in Him, confidently believing that He will provide for us and keep us also in the future.
- (D) We should gladly serve Him all our days.

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 4

MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (*). **The First Article (without the Explanation).** See Catechism.



READ Genesis, chapters 22-28.

Work Sheet No. 4

1.

How does the theory of evolution compare with the Bible account of creation-

- (A) As to time?
-
- (B) As to method?.....
-
- (C) As to the various "kinds," or species?.....
-
- (D) As to the soul of man?
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2.

(Complete these sentences.)

- (A) God made and still preserves all things by His.....
- (B) The two parts of man are and
- (C) The divine image consists of, and of
- and

3.

(Check the correct answer.)

God provides us with food and clothing-

- (A) Because we work for them.
- (B) Because we are good.
- (C) Because He is gracious.

4.

- (A) Quote one or more table prayers which you may know.....
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- (B) Why should we regularly and sincerely use such prayers at table?.....
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