

SABBATH SCHOOL

Level 5 • Unit 3 • Week 3

CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION

OBJECTIVE:

To review the fact that God is the creator and to show that He created from nothing. To learn that God's creation is not yet finished.

BIBLE LESSON:

Let's have a quick review of things you may already know. Genesis 1:1-2 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth [became] without form, and void...." If we believe God's Word, then we believe that in the very beginning God (*Elohim*, which is plural) created. The Bible teaches that the heavens and the earth were created with wisdom (Psalm 104:24), not in a state of chaos and confusion which is what Genesis 1:2 says in the literal Hebrew translation into English. God—Father and Son—worked together to create a perfect, but unfinished, universe.

We also know that Satan messed it up. That was why Genesis 1:2 says the earth had become without form and void, and why God (Father and Son, working together) had to "renew the face of the earth" (Psalm 104:30).

From the book of Job we learn that the earth was created truly beautiful, so beautiful in fact that the morning stars, the angels, sang for joy at the perfect, yet unfinished, creation (Job 38:4-7).

By proceeding slowly through parts of Job, especially chapters 38 and 39, we are able to view what are called the laws of nature. The One who spoke with Job says He designed and made them all! Although poetry, the book of Job, probably the oldest book of the Bible, shows how much "scientific" knowledge the ancients possessed. [The lesson at this point follows *Williams' Complete Bible Commentary*.]

Consider that God told Job about:

- 1.) The suspension of earth in space (Job 26:7).
- 2.) The roundness of the earth (Job 26:10).

- 3.) The revolution of the earth (Job 38:12-14).
- 4.) The motion of the earth within the earth's orbit (Job 26:7; 38:4-7).
- 5.) The circular motion and density of the clouds (Job 26:8; 38:25-26).

Job wisely (and humbly) defers to God's creative genius after listening awhile (Job 42:3) and so should all humans. But especially we who are apparently in the last days when "the glory of the LORD shall be revealed" as Isaiah 40:5 says. In context, Isaiah 40:28 states that "the everlasting God, the LORD, [is] the Creator of the ends of the earth." This chapter also contrasts those who worship the true God with those who worship idols (Isaiah 40:10-11, 18-20, 31). The false science of evolution is idolatry! This prevalent wrong teaching will be discarded when Christ returns. And those now reading God's Word and believing it can profit from the Bible's instruction.

This world is now under Satan's sway, but it won't always be. In (Isaiah 40:23-24) we see a statement showing the shortness of the Beast and his followers' reign. Those individuals worship Satan (perhaps unknowingly), but we worship the true Creator because we are taught to and choose to follow that teaching.

We know and believe that God created all things. But did you know that God's creation is not quite finished? Finished is a funny word. It can mean several related but slightly different things. It can mean totally complete or it can mean finished for awhile. The part of creation that is not quite finished is the creation of character in all the human beings who have ever lived!

Some (hopefully that includes us) are now growing in character. But in order to be given eternal life, any human must be converted from going the way of all flesh (toward decay and death) to going God's way (toward eternal life). Remember, character is knowing the right way and choosing to do it. We must choose and strive for eternal life even though it is a free gift! As the population of the earth swells—as the physical forces God created, set in motion, and now sustains, proceed—God is continuing to selectively call a few here and there into His "small flock."

The earth appears approximately the same to most humans who have ever lived. But finished has a more definite final meaning as well. The "new heavens and new earth" is not just a phrase, but an entire transformation. When the family of God has been completed, when those people being saved have been saved and those choosing to quit the plan have been forgotten, then a non-physical family will have become the fully functioning children of God. The kingdom of which they are a part will have no end, and they will, along with their Father and older Brother Jesus Christ, extend the boundaries of that kingdom beyond the limits of the known and guessed at universe. This is the hope, this is the reality of those who read God's Word with relish and praise Him as the creator.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Two topics to discuss and explain:

- 1.) Why creation is better than evolution.
- 2.) Why creation has a future.

Do: Have a discussion about how the creation might have occurred. Take five or so minutes. Then turn to Ephesians 3:9.

Many people will acknowledge God to be the creator, but it is important also for us to know that Jesus was the Spokesman. That is, He spoke and things happened (Hebrews 1:1-2)! We don't know how God's Spirit works. We just know that it does (Psalm 104:30; 148:1-6; John 1:1-3).

Now, why is it better for what we see to have been created by God, than to exist just by mindless evolution? Our beliefs are based upon the plan of God as demonstrated and explained by and through the Holy Days. The plan of God demands a planner, not chance! If we accept evolution, we do away with God as creator, and thus do away with the plan that He has for mankind, and then ultimately our hope.

Evolution, which could be called "evilution" because of its wrong result, is creation without a creator. It says that things happen, just right eventually, but through chance. (Various mechanisms are suggested and defined by science. To discuss them is not our purpose here.) Without a planning God, things are just chancy and we are left without any defining criteria of good or evil. Anything that happens is good! That idea is absurd and plainly Satanic!

Things that come together meaningfully and make sense are things that were set in motion by God! Since creation (meaning: plan, design and follow-through) is true, we may confidently state that humans also have a purpose! Random chance characterizes evolution, but purpose characterizes creation.

People are valuable even without consulting the Word of God. But when you look at the Bible and understand it, you realize that humans were created to live, learn and be tested now, but more importantly to live, teach and be creative (like God) in the future.

This future is ours if we choose to develop right and proper character. If we fight Satanic pulls and selfish impulses and choose the way of outgoing concern and love, then God helps us to complete the creation of a being to which He will give eternal life. This new being will be us! This new being will be real.

Our part is to voluntarily give up self. But it is God's gift of eternal life that really completes the creation. All flesh is grass and, like the grass of the field, eventually decays. God's creative plan is wonderful eternal life.

MUSIC:

Sing "I Sing the Mighty Power of God," page 52, of the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

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."

family activity

THE POINT:

To review the fact that God is the creator and to show that He created from nothing. To learn that God's creation is not yet finished.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Have a family Bible study and look up the following scriptures. Discuss what you find.

Colossians 1:16-18

Romans 1:20

Psalm 19:1

Psalm 104:30

Genesis 1:26

Isaiah 40:25-31

Psalm 33:6-9

Psalm 104:24

John 1:1-3

2 Corinthians 5:17

Psalm 51:10

Isaiah 65:17

2 Peter 3:13

Spend some time together looking at the United Church of God booklet *Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?* Look at the article topics together and then pick an interesting sidebar to read together. Define any words your child might not know.

MEMORY VERSE:

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."