

Questions for Lesson 29: The Genesis Creation: Verse-by-Verse

1. What is the purpose of the Genesis record?

Answer: To tell us that God created all things, and that we are specially created in God's image. (Not to give us specific details.)

2. What are some common errors made in comparing the biblical record with the scientific evidence?

- Answer:**
- a) That the Bible is a clock. (See program 18.)
 - b) That the Bible is written scientifically.
 - c) That the Bible is a complete, detailed, technical report.
 - d) That evolution is a "dirty word."
 - e) That true science poses a threat to the Bible.

3. What does "taking the Bible literally" really mean?

Answer: That you look at who wrote it, to whom was it written, why it was written, and how the people it was written to would have understood the words. Many creationists use their denomination's creed as the basis of understanding passages, and that leads to unnecessary conflict.

4. What is the difference between creating something and making something?

Answer: Creating is miraculous and it is from nothing. The Jews understood that *bara* was only used in reference to something God could do, never in reference to what humans could do. Making is natural and is not miraculous. God has used both processes according to Genesis 2:3.

5. How are the words *bara* and *asah* used in reference to man and woman?

Answer: *Bara* is used in reference to the human soul in Genesis 1:27. In Genesis 2:7 the word *yatshir* is used in reference to the human body being formed from the dust of the earth. That word is not a miraculous creation but something a potter would do. The soul is miraculously created. The body is formed from the earth--material that already exists.

6. What do each of the words in Genesis 1:1 mean in Hebrew:

Answer: *Reshith*--beginning, space, time and matter/energy had a beginning. *Elohim*--the God of the Bible, a God of power, wisdom and design was the cause. *Bara* --an act of God which man cannot do was used to affect the cause. *Shamayim* --the heaven--the cosmos. *Erets*--the earth. Each of these statements is testable.

7. In which verses in the Bible do we see the sun and the moon created?

Answer: Verse 1. The word *bara* is used only in verse 1. In verses 14-19, the word *asah* is used, indicating to form or to shape, but not to create. The sun is created in verse 1 and its light reaches the earth by verse 3. You could not see the sun to establish "signs, seasons, days, and years" until verses 14-19. This is taking the Bible super-literally, but the evidence supports this. We would suggest that cloud cover in the

recently formed earth may have been the cause because the earth was too hot for rain to fall (See Gen 2:5) and all the water was in the atmosphere.

8. How long did it take to create the heaven and the earth.

Answer: The Bible does not say. Verse 1 could be in an instant or billions of years.

9. What are some of the human guesses that have been proposed to explain problems people have seen in the biblical record and the fossil record?

Answer: a) The idea that the days are "God-days" not "human-days" and represent long periods of time.

b) The idea that there is a gap between verses 1 and 2 in Genesis 1.

c) The idea that God created the whole cosmos full-grown with the appearance of age.

d) The idea that Genesis describes just the fertile crescent and that much was going on elsewhere in the world.

e) The idea that verses 1 and 2 in Genesis 1 cover the prehistory of the earth and that the creation week covers man and those things he was familiar with. There are others, but (e) works very well with the evidence.

10. If we believe the Bible to be God's Word, there cannot be a contradiction between the Bible and the proper understanding of the fossil record. Why not?

Answer: Because the same God who did the creating told us about it in the Bible.

11. What are the sources of conflict between science and faith in God?

Answer: a) Bad science.

b) Bad theology.