

Lesson 1: Creation

History Maker: God

Scripture: Genesis 1:1– 2:4a

Tell the story of Creation.

Lesson Notes

- The aim of this lesson is to establish that God is the creator of everything, He is a person and He is one God.
- Creation was a real event and not a fable.

Who wrote Genesis?

Although the authorship of Genesis is attributed to Moses, some scholars believe that Moses compiled the books of antiquity into one book—Genesis, and at times made a few editorial comments.

They cite the closing signature sentences of the authors as evidence. Every time we see the phrase "*This is the book of the generations of...*", the name used in that phrase is most likely the author of that portion of scripture. (P.J. Wiseman. *New Discoveries About Genesis* ©1936).

For example:

- The Book of God. An eyewitness account of Creation.
- The Book of Adam. Gen. 2:5-5:2
- The Book of Noah. Gen. 5:3-6:9a
- The Book of The Sons of Noah Gen. 10:2-11:10a

Our First Date –4000BC

The date for Creation is estimated at being around 4000 years before Christ was born (or 4000BC). We can work out some of these dates using genealogies provided for us in the Bible and ancient texts. Ussher, an Irish archbishop, tried to work out the date exactly and he came up with the year 4004BC. We are using his dates for our timeline book.

The Spade—Archaeology

Sometimes you might read different dates to what the Bible says for kingdoms and events. This has made some people struggle with the dates that the Bible uses. Recently I read an article on the dating of the Kings of Israel. They had revised Ussher's dates and now had other ones. It said the reason for their revision was correct so far as the spade and archaeology has revealed.

Archaeology is a science dating from the 1800's. It is historic in nature and often the findings are more assumptions based on theory rather than repeatable testing to examine a hypothesis. For this reason, archaeologist's findings are often flawed. Take the city of Nineveh as an example. For many years archaeologists claimed that it did not exist until it was discovered by Austen Henry Layard in 1847.

This therefore begs the question—should we be trying to make the Bible fit the “truth” of archaeology or trust the Bible!

What Does BC Mean?

BC means *before Christ* was born. AD actually stands for a Latin phrase *anno domini* which means *in the year of our Lord*. 1 AD was meant to signify the birth of Christ which they now date from 4-6 BC.

This dating system was not used in the Bible but it has been used for many years and it was developed to reflect that the birth of Christ was a turning point in history.

B.C.E (Before the Common Era) and C.E (Current Era) is a secular dating term that has replaced BC and AD. This has been adopted by some historians who do not wish to use dates that acknowledge the Christian creed.

Stories of Origin

Many believe the world is millions and millions of years old and that the Bible is just a fairy tale or a story to explain how people think things happened, much like the Australian Aboriginal's dreamtime story. They think that you are very silly indeed to believe that life began with God.

Many people don't want to believe God exists at all and they will go to great lengths to look for ways to explain a world without God.

Up until Charles Darwin's theory of the *Origins of Species* became popular, the Bible's account was accepted as absolute truth by many. If the new theory of evolution was true then the following ideas also need to be accepted:

- There needs to be long periods of time (millions and millions of years) for evolution to occur. That's not the timeline of the Bible.
- Man is not created as special in the image of God. He starts from a single cell →fish →land animal→ apeline→ then man.
- Death and fossils occur before man came into being. No original sin existed as death (the punishment) was already happening.

Since Darwin's theory, many explanations have emerged from Christians who try to reconcile this obvious conflict with the biblical account of creation and the theory of evolution. None of these theories adequately answer the above conflicts and they leave us wondering when *does* the Bible story become true?

You do not need to be a fool and ignore science and archaeology to believe in the Bible. You just need to look at the facts with a biblical world view. That is, having a belief that the Bible is the inspired, infallible and authoritative word of God.

For today let's just see what God made and how it was beautiful and good. There was no sin, no death (or fossils). Just his beautiful creation!

Our Date

4000 BC Creation

Questions to Ask



1. When did Creation happen?
2. Who is the creator? Note the use of **us** in Gen. 1:26.
3. On the first three days God creates three realms. What are they? (Heavens, expanse of water and dry land)
4. On the next three days God creates the earth's population for each realm. Who are they? (Stars, fish and birds, animals and man)
5. What does God think of His creation?

Hands Up

Map Work: Draw a map of Eden, the garden and its surrounding lands using the information described in Genesis 2:8-14.

Own Picture: Make a time line picture of the seven days of Creation.

Make a Creation Mini Book: Available from Christian Pre School Printables.

<http://www.christianpreschoolprintables.com/Pages/Creation/CreationMinibook.html>

Game: Play fiddle sticks to illustrate the principle *order to disorder* not *chaos to order*.