

# Creation Order – By Design

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*Genesis 1:1-19*

## I. **Current Confusion**

- a. There is much confusion suffusing today's culture regarding origins, the environment, morals, life, purpose, and other areas
- b. For example, many scientists today proclaim that the entire universe burst into existence suddenly from nothing
  - i. They cannot explain how nothing can produce something, so they have spent time trying to define and redefine "nothing" so that something can pop out of it
  - ii. So there is necessary confusion as they jump through hoops of theoretical physics and ignoring philosophy when needed
  - iii. In addition, with such a random event as their starting point, they have no way to ascribe purposeful order to it, and yet those who believe such an origin will themselves try to bring about purposeful order in their own lives
  - iv. Is there purpose behind what we see? Do we ourselves have any ultimate purpose?
    1. There cannot be in such a scenario, and some who figure out that much have decided to end their lives because of the futility they imagine
    2. Others ignore the inconsistency so they can live their lives in relative peace
  - v. In essence, those scientists are leading people to believe one thing with their minds, and then live inconsistently with those beliefs in their daily lives
- c. As another example of confusion sown, years ago I sat at a Christmas concert where a minister stated that the Bible makes no real distinction between light and dark with regard to good and evil, and yet many of the Christmas hymns and carols that followed proclaimed the triumph of light over darkness in the coming of Jesus Christ
- d. More confusion appears when we are told that our atmosphere is like no other we have found anywhere, and yet it happened by chance

- i. Other planets and moons either have no atmosphere, or one too harsh, or too thin to support life
  - ii. Ours not only supports life, but has an astounding dynamism to it that carries many benefits
  - iii. How can so many aspects of our existence come about by chance?
- e. Several questions arise surrounding the environment
  - i. Should we be genetically modifying plants?
  - ii. Should we introduce plant species from one part of the world to another part?
  - iii. Are deserts expanding and is there anything we should do about it?
  - iv. Is environmentalism good or bad and what should my role be, or should I care?
- f. With regard to the celestial bodies more confusion arises
  - i. We are told the sun is a somewhat average star among many, and yet it is perfectly sized and has the stability needed for life here. Is that also by chance?
  - ii. We happen to have one moon whereas other planets might have no moon or many moons and there is nothing particularly notable.
    - 1. And yet the moon governs the tides which are vital for life, and it governs the planting and harvesting cycles.
    - 2. Is that by chance too?
  - iii. Are we alone in the universe, or with all those trillions of stars, wouldn't there be life out there somewhere?
- g. All of these statements and questions can be daunting, and as finite beings we have appeared in the midst of history being suddenly confronted by such

## II. **Clarity In Creation**

- a. If you have interacted much with children, or dealt with adults who sometimes act immaturely with each other, you have experienced the situation where, as the responsible adult, you arrive at a scene of discord, you are immediately presented with two views of the situation, and you are called to choose between them
  - i. Each party makes the case for himself and seems to have some grounds for his position

- ii. There may be times when you simply have to ignore both parties and make a decree to move forward
  - 1. E.g. “None of this matters right now. Both of you go to bed and we will start with a new day tomorrow.”
  - 2. Also, at some point you may realize better why God chose to flood the world in Noah’s day
- iii. The other course of action is to try and get to the heart of the matter by going to the crux or to the origin
  - 1. King Solomon went to the crux of the matter with wisdom when there were no other witnesses to reveal the truth about which woman’s child was the living one
  - 2. Jesus was presented with another situation, albeit for His testing, by the Pharisees in Mark 10
    - a. He was asked if it was lawful for a man to divorce his wife, and the Pharisees expected a yes or no answer – Are You on this side or that side?
    - b. Over many years the Jews had come to a place of confusion about matters of marriage and divorce
    - c. Rather than address the Pharisees in their current dispute about such matters and fall to one side or the other according to their paradigms, Jesus takes them back to creation, back to the origin of marriage in order to bring clarity
    - d. By the way, later He will take the people to the crux – the Cross – to resolve all matters
- b. I have mentioned before the term “Creation Order”
  - i. What I mean by that is the order which God made inherent to His creation – that which stems from His design of creation
- c. The value there is that in order to make the best use of a thing, we ought to consider the purpose for which it was designed
  - i. When you buy a new piece of equipment, you can read the manual to understand how that equipment was designed in order to use it most effectively and efficiently
  - ii. The same is true of living in God’s designed creation. When we read His manual, the Bible, we learn the purpose and intended use of His creation, and we can operate according to it to be most effective and efficient

- d. Today I want to look back at the creation account in order to bring clarity to some of the confusion that is out there.

### III. **The First Day**

- a. Genesis 1:1 states, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
  - i. First we understand there was not nothing nothing
    - 1. God pre-existed the heavens and the earth and so was there to do the creation
  - ii. Furthermore, God did not simply shape what had always existed as we learn from Romans 4:17 that God “...calls into being that which does not exist.”
    - 1. So God created all things out of nothing
  - iii. Furthermore, in Colossians 1:16 we read of God the Son, “all things have been created by Him and for Him.”
  - iv. So all of creation has a purpose, and that is to serve God in some way
- b. In Genesis 1:2 we read that the earth was formless and in darkness, but that the Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters
  - i. By mentioning the Spirit, there is anticipation that God will bring order from that which is dark and disordered
  - ii. C.S. Lewis does a masterful job in *The Magician’s Nephew*, the first book in the chronology of the Chronicles of Narnia, as he describes what it might have been like to be a spectator at the time.
  - iii. The characters find themselves in a world that is completely dark such that they cannot see anything, there are no stars in the sky, there is no wind blowing, there are no smells, and no plants underfoot
    - 1. After a time they hear a very faint singing, which gives them the anticipation I am speaking of
    - 2. Singing by the way is quite ordered and purposeful
    - 3. It is that singing which then brings forth stars, and the sun, and all sorts of life
    - 4. The source of the singing is Aslan the lion, who is a Christ figure, and as he sings, the various aspects of the world are formed and become ordered and beautiful

5. It is to note that the two wicked characters hated the singing, but the others thought it supremely beautiful
- c. Back in Genesis, in verses 3 through 5, God speaks light into existence, separates light from darkness, calls the light day, and the darkness night, and saw that it was good
    - i. It is fitting that light was created so early, because it is by light that everything else can be seen.
    - ii. It is by light that we see the beauty and glory and majesty of what has been created
    - iii. This light appeared before the sun, moon, and stars were created and shown on a rotating earth as understood by the terms day and night
    - iv. Job 26:10 states, “He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness.”
      1. That circle has been seen by astronauts millennia later and it testifies to God separating light from darkness in creation
    - v. Modern day scientists see a very uniform background microwave radiation in the universe that many say is a remnant of the Big Bang as they call it
      1. It is my own speculation that the background microwave radiation is the remnant of that initial light God created as it has been red shifted by the expanding universe into the microwave part of the spectrum
    - vi. The whole creation of light and separating it from darkness sets up a rhythm in creation marking days and the passing of time, which has lasting effects today and beyond
      1. It is this 24-hour cycle that God implanted in us as something we call our circadian rhythm
      2. In addition to wake and sleep cycles, this rhythm governs a number of processes in our bodies including energy production, cell repair and more
      3. That rhythm is affected mostly by light and dark, but also by other environmental and physiological factors
      4. Though we have developed other means of creating light and causing darkness, and that is not wrong, we need to understand when our use of them goes beyond

help to interfere with God's design as evidenced in that rhythm

5. According to UCLA Health, "The more years you work a shift schedule, the higher your risk of chronic health issues."
  6. Others are glued to their screens into the night, which glow can interfere with our innate rhythm
  7. Over the years there have been discussions of whether we should still change our clocks twice a year as that forces us to disrupt the settled rhythm stemming from the created order
  8. Farmers typically live more closely aligned with such creation order as they tend to be closer to the basic creation, and they need to stay in sync with the animals for which they care
    - a. The animals do not have watches, but rather operate in some measure according to the rhythm God has given them
- vii. Considering another aspect, light reveals, whereas darkness hides
1. The separation of light from darkness becomes a recurring theme in the Bible as a picture of the difference between good and evil, that they cannot be mixed
  2. Why are so many children afraid of the dark?
    - a. It is because evil hides in darkness, and there is a tie back to creation order that children pick up on but cannot explain
    - b. As adults we may know that in a particular situation there may be nothing to fear in the darkness, but that is because the light of our understanding tells us so
    - c. Even greater, when we have in us the light of Christ, we need not fear the darkness in any helpless way, though perhaps in a cautious way
    - d. So rather than dismiss a child's fears, think of creation and take opportunity to teach the child

about God creating light and darkness, and about the themes of good and evil

- d. With evening and morning we come to the end of the first day
  - i. The Hebrew word for day, when coupled with the clarifying details of evening and morning, means a 24-hour period of time
  - ii. And in the days of creation, God is establishing the recurring rhythm we call weeks
  - iii. I shall get a bit ahead of myself now if I speak too much on how the first day of creation, being necessarily the first day of the week, corresponds to the day of Christ's resurrection, which we might see as the first day of the new creation, but it is worth noting
  - iv. In summary, with the first day we see that it is God who brings all things into existence, order out of disorder, and light out of darkness

#### IV. **The Second Day**

- a. Then on the second day God creates an expanse between the waters above and those below
  - i. Some read that as firmament and speak of something more firm holding up a load of liquid water, but later in verse 20 we are told that birds fly in that expanse
- b. What we see here is God creating the atmosphere, which is not to be trivialized
  - i. The waters above are the clouds, and the waters below are the seas
  - ii. God created the means by which water could be freshened, purified, and moved around to the places where needed
    - 1. These processes God created supernaturally with incredibly thoughtful design, but the system has become so familiar to us that we call them natural processes
    - 2. When there is disorder in these processes, such as drought or flood, that should prompt us to go to God, the designer and seek His mercy, His wisdom, and if needed, His forgiveness
  - iii. God also created a means by which to shade us from the constant rays of the sun which He would create shortly

- iv. He also created the atmosphere in such a way as to have an ozone layer to protect life from getting too much ultraviolet radiation, and he created a cycle by which the ozone is replenished constantly
  - 1. If we are careless to interfere with that design, we will cause harm in large measure
- v. He created the atmosphere voluminous enough that the creatures He would soon create would have enough to breathe without running out of air, and He would create a different process for plants using the air that complements the animals use of it so that there is constant replenishing
- vi. He prepared a place for birds by creating the atmosphere dense enough for them to fly and spacious enough for them to soar
- vii. And He prepared a means by which we might one day make airplanes and fly to distant parts of the earth in order to do His will
  - 1. Such a realization should elicit our praise

V. **The Third Day**

- a. Then on the third day God caused the land to appear, He set boundaries for the seas
- b. He prepared a place suitable for plants and then He created vegetation to cover that place
- c. We read that God created “fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind”
  - i. God has created divisions between kinds which we should not try to cross
  - ii. Cross-pollinating allows for hybridized growth within a kind, but when we seek to manipulate the genetic material of plants, we are claiming we can have plants of our own making that are better than what God has made
  - iii. With God creating plants, there is an inherent denial of evolution and common ancestry here in the realm of plants as from the beginning there were various kinds
  - iv. We also see the reproductive method here whereby there are seeds and fruit with seeds to multiply the plants
  - v. Implied in these statements is the existence of a soil of good quality, ready to receive the seeds and grow the plants

- d. Furthermore, in creating plants, He was preparing means by which animals and people would be able to eat, to appreciate their beauty, and to recycle the air
- e. Such preparing of a place reminds us of Jesus telling His disciples regarding the new creation in John 14:2, "...I go to prepare a place for you."
- f. So God's care in creating all sorts of plants and the places in which He has placed them is all part of His wise design
  - i. So our management of plant life should be done in congruence with His design
    - 1. If we act contrary to His design, whether by purpose or neglect, we can expect negative effects
  - ii. One negative example was the introduction of kudzu primarily into the southern U.S. for the purpose of controlling erosion
    - 1. When growing in areas unchecked by grazing, people later realized that not only does it not control erosion very well, but it also overtakes entire hillsides, killing many of the other plants it covers
  - iii. In an example showing working with God's design in mind, there was an interview on "The World and Everything in It" on April 22, 2025
    - 1. Mary Reichard and Nick Eicher were interviewing Joel Salatin regarding his regenerative farming operation
    - 2. "EICHER: Salatin looks to God's design of the planet for instructions on how to run his farm."
    - 3. "SALATIN: There are principles involved in nature: moving, mobbing, mowing. When you honor all three of those you build soil, you increase pollinators, you increase vegetative diversity, you increase abundance. Everything increases. If you violate one of those, you turn the herbivore which built all the healthy soils on the planet, you turn it into a liability rather than an asset. And in most commercial livestock situations in the world now, they're violating all three of those."
- g. It is worth noting that the difference between stewardship according to God's design and environmentalism is that proper stewardship seeks the glory of God by honoring His design of creation and the

long-term benefit of people, whereas environmentalism denies God and often treats people as the enemy

- i. Do not let environmentalism get smuggled into your thinking as proper stewardship
- ii. And do not let opposition to environmentalism lead to a denial or refusal of proper stewardship

## VI. **The Fourth Day**

- a. On the fourth day God created the sun, moon, and stars for the following purposes:
  - i. They separate the day from the night
  - ii. They are for signs
  - iii. They are for seasons
  - iv. They are for days and years
  - v. And they are to give light on the earth
- b. Having previously created light, God now creates the ongoing long-term sources of light for the earth
  - i. Verse 16 tells us that God made the greater light, the sun, to govern the day, and the lesser light, the moon to govern the night.
  - ii. Psalm 19:6 recounts what we experience of the sun, namely “Its rising is from one end of the heavens, and its circuit to the other end of them; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.”
  - iii. The moon is the brightest object in the night sky and traverses the sky through the night similar to the sun in the day
    1. The stars too, in their immensely vast array, barely gain mention here, but they too shine light on the earth at night
  - iv. So as mentioned before, there is a daily rhythm established by the sun, moon, and stars and though we might wish there were more than 24 hours in a day, or that we could do without sleep, God has set the rhythm and the boundaries
    1. So for us, rather than try to figure out a way around this rhythm, we should rather seek to fit our lives to this rhythm
- c. We are told these heavenly bodies are also for signs
  - i. God created them in preparation as a means by which He can notify the world of significant events

- ii. Millenia later there would be a bright star announcing the birth of the Messiah to the wise men in the east
- iii. The sun would one day stand still at Gibeon and the moon in the valley of Aijalon signaling God's particular favor on Joshua and the Israelites as they battled their enemies
- iv. And then there was that most peculiar darkness that came upon the earth at the time of Jesus' crucifixion which darkness was even recorded by other historians
  - 1. This event, testified to by the Apostles in the Scriptures, was also signified through the exceptional occurrence which interrupted the normal course of these bodies set forth in creation
  - 2. Something incredibly significant was taking place
  - 3. By their very eyes they saw testimony that He who called Himself the light of the world had taken on Himself the sins of the world, and suffered the Father turning away, and died that day
  - 4. Creation at that moment was pointing to that one event
- d. We are also told these bodies are for seasons
  - i. The sun changes position in the sky throughout the year, and with it we have weather changes – seasons
    - 1. In Maine we live according to God's design as we prepare for winter, or get seeds ready for planting at the right time in the spring
  - ii. Somewhat more remarkably, the moon marks seasons
    - 1. Many of us have heard of planting by the moon and studies show evidence that it is indeed beneficial
    - 2. Planting by the phases of the moon can impact soil moisture, root growth, seed germination, and more
    - 3. So understanding God's design and living accordingly can help boost plant growth and yields
  - iii. In addition, the stars and constellations we see in the night sky change with the seasons and so the stars mark the seasons as well
    - 1. Watch Orion in the night sky in the colder months in the northern hemisphere, but by June it has disappeared

- iv. We can either complain about the seasons as they come, which seems to be a favorite pastime in Maine, or we can welcome each season as we notice the indicators in the celestial bodies as well as in other parts of creation around us
  1. In doing the latter, we are acknowledging God's perfect design and praising Him for it
- e. Next we are told these bodies are for days and years
  - i. We have already seen how they mark days
  - ii. They mark years by their longer cycles, such as the one I mentioned with Orion
  - iii. In addition, the change in the sun's location through the year goes in a large cycle, indicating a year has passed
- f. Lastly we are told these bodies are for giving light on the earth
  - i. Implicit here is a divine focus on the earth as unique
  - ii. The vast number of stars exist to give light on the earth, and give glory to God who made them
  - iii. When we ponder whether there is other life among the stars, an often heard argument, even among Christians, is that given the unimaginably huge number of stars, there must be life somewhere out there
    1. Implied in that line of thinking is that life can evolve from non-life and we are simply talking about having enough chances to beat the odds
      - a. However, by establishing our thinking in the Biblical creation account, we are not considering odds, which by the way are essentially zero, but we are considering what God has done
    2. As we look deeper and deeper into space, we are more and more amazed at the glories we find, but remember that God has His focus on the earth
    3. If there is any life out there, it is God who made it, and it would not exist by chance
    4. My personal thought is that by our searching so many stars and planetary systems we will find out what an amazing and unique work God has done with the earth

## VII. **The Rest of the Story**

- a. Rather than continue on with the next days of creation right now, I think you have enough to consider for awhile
- b. Coming back to where we started, I hope you can see how we need to not get caught up in cultural confusion sourced in atheistic or even pagan thinking.
- c. Rather, we need to go back to the creation account to understand what we can of God's design, and then consider how we may work in concert with that design
- d. Of course, since it was mentioned earlier that all things were created for Him, we need have as our goal to get to know Him
  - i. Romans 1:20 states, "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."
  - ii. So meditating on the order and design of creation, we can understand something about God
- e. The rest of the story, as the saying goes, is found by reading and meditating on the Bible